

St Joseph's Journal

Faith
Learning
Respect



Message from the Head

Exam season is in full swing and the atmosphere within our year 11 and 13 cohort – as well as some year 12 – is inspirational and fantastic to see after the past two years. Students have been revising hard in lessons and with supported guidance in their independent learning resulting in confident young people ready to showcase their ability and skills.

At present our sporting achievements continue across a range of year groups, Duke of Edinburgh and World Challenge students are training hard for their expeditions as well as many of our students participating in enrichment activities. We encourage all our young people to have a go at least one activity.

It is also very important to recognise the hard work and dedication of our staff, particularly in this exam season, for giving so much of their valuable time and energy to our school. We are very proud that Mr Young, Mrs Musgrave, Miss Lumley and Mrs Phippen are finalists for different awards in the first Bishop Chadwick Celebration Awards – well done!

Have a wonderful, restful half term break to all. Mr. Mitchell.

3rd Place Overall @ South Tyneside Athletics Championships

The Year 8,9 & 10 South Tyneside Athletics Championships took place at Monkton stadium, Jarrow On **Thursday 12th May**. This is the first time the championships have taken place since 2019 so it was nice to see students from across South Tyneside come together and compete at a local level again.

This event provides an opportunity for South Tyneside student to come together and complete in many an athletic disciplines including sprint and middle distance races, throwing and jumping events. The event culminated in 4 x100m relay.

Whitburn Academy finished worthy winners in the team event with St Joseph's finishing a credible 3rd.

St Joseph's had a large number of individual event winners. These students will move forward and represent South Tyneside at the Durham County championships to be held at Monkton on Saturday 11th June.



Spirituality, faith and RE

The amazing story of St. Joseph of Cupertino

Over the past two weeks many of our students have been taking their GCSEs/A-Level exams so I thought in this edition we would reflect upon the story of an amazing 17th Century Italian monk.

St. Joseph of Cupertino was desperate to become a monk when he was growing up. He would go to church daily, pray about it and ask the priests in his village what he could do to become one of them. When he was old enough he sat the exam for his seminary but sadly he didn't pass it. He never gave up though and legend says he tried to pass it nearly 20 times, each time not successfully. Whilst St. Joseph of Cupertino was devoted to the calling, he just couldn't read or write very well. The Bishop of Cupertino agreed to give St. Joseph of Cupertino one last chance, impressed by his devotion and refusal to give in. The morning of his final exam, as the monks came to call him in St. Joseph started to levitate in the air miraculously. Impressed by this miracle, the Bishop took this as a sign that God really had chosen Joseph to this calling and he accepted him for ordination immediately.

So what should we take away from this amazing man's story? God has made each and everyone of you amazing, unique and talented. Try your best and never give up. God bless you all. Amen.



Year 9 RE: The digital religion project

This half-term in RE students in year 9 have been taking part in a new module called 'the digital religion project' which examines the place of religion on the internet and social media. Students have examined Pope Francis' beliefs and teachings about how we use social media, we explored the new 'Saint of the internet' aka Blessed Carlo Acutis and we heard from Preacher Robert Madu who explored the impact things like Facebook and Instagram are having upon our mental health, our faith and our relationships with God.

We even explored the new age phenomenon of Buddhist monasteries and some Christian churches who have built Artificially intelligent robots to address the priest and monk shortage they are facing.

Then students were asked in groups to create their own Digital Religion app on any religion of their choice. We had an amazing range of entries from 'Holy Chat' and 'Monk run' to 'Bible challenge' and 'Halal hopping'. Students were amazing in their creativity and were assessed through a speaking and listening presentation to their peers.

Finally, after looking at why social media can be an exciting portal of evangelization for Catholics we ended by studying the Amish movement who renounce technology in order to ensure the purity of their relationship with their families and with God.



Spirituality, faith and RE



Emmaus Youth Village

Year 7 Students attended the Emmaus Youth Village retreat this month to finally get away from their busy lives and spend time together with their peers. After not being able to gather on retreat for the past few years, students felt the need to be outdoors to share in faith, fellowship and games once again. This was a long time coming and students were very excited to take part on this retreat with new friends they made in their new school. One student commented, “I will never take for granted the freedom to be able to spend time with like-minded young people that can share their life journey with me”. Long may this freedom continue!

Pentecost Sunday - The Birthday of the Church

The Feast of Pentecost is around the corner and this year the RE department have commemorated this wonderful feast by drawing flames of fire and creating a story skit on how Jesus’ followers would have behaved after immediately receiving the Holy Spirit. Some students expressed the Apostles speaking various languages, others jumped up and down, while others expressed the Apostles’ enthusiasm by shouting the name of Jesus and even singing! Re teacher, Mr. Young and Chaplain Adam began to act out how the Holy Spirit would have touched their lives by shouting, singing, dancing and laughing. It was very engaging and funny. Students enjoyed the lesson and learned that the Holy Spirit can make us go beyond our comfort zone. The Holy Spirit can make us look silly in the eyes of man but completely perfect in the eyes of God. May we continue to allow the Holy Spirit to touch our lives so that we can set the world on fire with the message of the Gospels. We must be bold, brave and must live in the spirit of Christ! Amen



Staff reflections

Cuthbert reflection

I would like to say well done and thank you to every student and member of staff in Cuthbert House. This is the longest consecutive time that you have been in school for the past three years and you have done extremely well.

Everyone has shown excellent resilience since our return, especially year 7 who have joined a new school and had to learn different routines and rules, to year 8 and 9 who have come out of the bubbles and adapted to the new school day. I am very pleased with the hard work that year 10 and 11 have put in for their mocks and GCSE's and I would like to wish them the best of luck for getting their results. Good luck also to the Duke of Edinburgh students on their expeditions, I know how challenging it can be from my time at school and thank you to the Sports Leaders who have helped run competitions throughout the year.

I would like to say well done to every individual who has represented the school over the last 9 months, whether this would be school sports in which we have had some superb individual and team performances to the Maths challenge and Spelling Bee. Lastly I would like to encourage students to continue to learn new things and challenge themselves at extra-curricular clubs, the new skills you will learn will be extremely beneficial in the years to come. I hope you all have a lovely half term break and we have a rewarding last seven weeks on the lead up to the Summer Holiday.

Mr Leask and Miss Johnson

Dunstan House

A huge well done to the whole Dunstan House team and welcome to Mr Rudd!

As Mrs Berry introduced FLAME in our House assembly I could think of endless examples from so many of our wonderful students.

I hope all of our year 7's attending the Youth Village fully embrace the opportunity to develop their FAITH in a new and exciting environment. Year 11 stand out in their ongoing dedication to LEARNING during the challenges of their final GCSE preparation and examinations – keep up the hard work!

I appreciate organising placements has been challenging for year 10 students as work places continue to recover from lockdown restrictions – it is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the positive ATTITUDES I see in school and gain an insight into life beyond school.

I continue to enjoy working with you all and the MUTUAL RESPECT shown in school creates a strong and positive community for us all.

Finally in our final half term of the year we will have a wonderful opportunity in sports day to further ENRICHMENT in school, whether you are an athlete or not seize the opportunity to get involved and perhaps try something new!

Mrs Hardy and Mr Rudd

Staff reflections

Aidan House

Thank you Aidan House, for all your hard work and dedication this term.

We are at our busiest time in school with mock exam practice and formal exams in year 11, which often makes these few weeks feel hard stressful.

As we look forward to our week of rest and celebration for the Queens Jubilee, I hope you can reflect on all the positives of the past term and set goals to make even more progress.

I hope we all return refreshed and renewed for our final summer term.

Mrs Cobain and Mrs McVay

Bed House

Bede House have had such a positive year so far since our return back to school full time after Covid. We have had a couple of turbulent years but we have 'bounced back' and Mrs Coyles and Mr Baxendale are so proud of everyone's efforts. Our Y10 students worked hard in their recent mocks and now our Y11 students are undertaking their final exams. Their time at St Joseph's has gone so quickly and we can't believe it is exam time already and we wish them every success!

Year 10 Maths Mocks

Our Year 10 pupils have just completed their mock assessments. This took the form of 2 past papers from the 2020 exam series, with the 'not yet taught' content removed. There were 120 marks available to all students regardless of their tier. This is the equivalent to half the marks that will be available next summer when they sit their GCSEs. The assessments were each 1 hour long.

Having looked at the marks pupils gained, in foundation the pupils clearly showed better knowledge on the non calculator paper, with the vast majority of pupils gaining higher marks on this paper than the calculator one. Those following the higher tier did come across some tricky grade 8 and topics. Their scores did not show as clear a preference to one assessment or the other.

These assessments have given the pupils and staff a good understanding of what learning has stuck and those topics which need further work in order for the pupils to confidently tackle them in their next assessments.

Mrs Whyte

Message for year 13

We would like to wish year 13 students a wonderful half term. Students have had guidance on balancing revision with making sure they have some 'me time' and enjoy social activities. Of course healthy eating and maintaining good sleep hygiene is of the upmost important - save those takeaways for when your exams over! We wish you luck as you approach the final hurdle of sixth form life, make sure you show the world what you can do! Can't wait to see you all again at the prom.

Mrs Curry.

Recognition corner

Recognition where it is due!

If you have ever picked up a referees whistle and tried to officiate a game of football you will know how hard it can be! Your aim is to apply the rules of the game in order to safeguard player safety and ensure the game is played fairly and in the correct spirit. As PE teacher we are often expected to officiate home football fixtures but also coach/manage our own teams. This is an extremely challenging position to be placed in. That's why its fantastic when you discover that we have a number of fully qualified, extremely capable and competent student match officials in school who are willing to lend their support to our PE departments extracurricular school sport provision.

Over this academic year a number of KS4/KS5 students have stepped forward and provided that support to their PE department and we just wanted to say a BIG THANK YOU!

Year 10

Thompson Nyrienda

Year 11

Mathew Neale

Aaron Stassenburg

Year 12



The Northumbria Uni, North East Partnership SCITT were recently visited by Ofsted.

As a partnership school, we were chosen to be part of the process, with inspectors meeting with the Head, Charlene Hawkins, Alicia Berry and James Burns to understand how we provide a comprehensive teacher training experience for the trainees placed with us.

The inspectors interviewed the trainee currently on placement with St Joseph's Academy and observed lessons within the PE department.

We are pleased to say that the partnership received a rating of Outstanding and proud to say we played a part in this.

www.nepscitt.co.uk



We are a proud partnership school of the
North East Partnership SCITT



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North East
Partnership SCITT
EXCELLENCE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP



Young Women Leader's Programme

In September our Y10 pupils began two PSHE programmes, one for the girls and one for the boys. The girls Young Women Leader's Programme began with workshops for the whole year group to be involved in. The reason behind the YWLP was to empower our young women by building their confidence, empowering them to help themselves and others as well as taking them out of their comfort zones. Girls outperform boys in all key stages at school, yet this does not transfer to the workplace. From the whole year group, a smaller group of 'Influencers' was created. This group of empowered young women have taken part in workshops as well as delivering a workshop themselves. Here is Ashton's article about the Year 7 workshop event:

Our year 10 female empowerment influencers recently carried out a workshop with the y7 girls, talking about and developing knowledge on things such as confidence and courage. The Influencers each took the role of designing and presenting a short workshop about one key word which people may struggle with and discussing ways in which we can all get over these struggles and realising we all struggle with the same things. These included confidence, fear of failure and empowerment.

The session was run in small groups and each group took part in different workshops with the influencers. The aim of the session was to empower the younger girls in the school and create a safe space for girls to talk about any concerns they have. The best part was when one of the girls said 'I want to be an influencer when I am in Year 10.'



Josef Craig came visit!



On Tuesday 26th April, we were honoured to welcome Josef Craig back to school to unveil a fantastic new art installation in our PE department.

10 years on from Josef's outstanding success at the London 2012 Paralympics, where he took gold in the S7 400m free-style in a world record time, he returned to school to celebrate his success and reminisce of his time as a student here.

The idea behind the artwork was a collaboration between the PE and Art departments to showcase the amazing work the

students in our school are capable of, alongside inspiring the students in our PE lessons to challenge adversity and be accepting of diversity! The role models chosen have all fought for something and we believe should be looked up to for who they are as well as celebrated for what they have achieved. We knew we wanted Josef to feature in the piece as he has proven what we can achieve if we work hard and have the ambition to aim high.

The project started back in September and was completed by artists in KS4 & 5 using a mixture of inks and acrylics to give a textured finish. They studied different artists styles for inspiration.

We invited some of the year 8 students to watch the reveal, and they were impressed with the painting and keen to hear Josef's story. Following this, Josef spent some time with our Leadership Academy students who interviewed him for a project they are completing. They asked some really interesting questions. Including how he started swimming, how he maintained motivation when times were tough and how he managed his anxiety levels when under pressure to perform.

Josef is such an inspiration and the students were very thankful of the time he spent with them. He kindly showed them the gold medal he won in London and they couldn't believe how heavy it was!



Celebrating student success!



At St Joseph's Academy we always love to hear and celebrate all of our students success within and outside of the academy.

Mollie Bennett in Year 9 will be competing at the British Acrobatic Gymnastics Championships on the weekend of 14/15 May. Alongside Mollie was another St Joseph's student Ella Ward in Year 10

Both girls won the Northern England regional qualifiers in their respective grades and will now represent Northern England in the national finals.

Ella competes in Women's Groups Grade 5 and Mollie in Women's

Groups Grade 4.

Mollie came 7th at the British championships! We are so proud of her - she was fantastic!



Student reflection

In this terms project, we had to build castles and learn how William kept control and what different ways he did this. Many ways he did this is included... The feudal System, the Domesday book and most importantly Castles!! Castles were a huge influence on how William the Conqueror kept control and how he ruled England. So, we were given the project to design our own Castle and this is how I done that and how that exact project made me learn more about how William kept control.

Firstly, I needed an idea of what this Castle was going to look like so I searched up a few reference pictures that I could get ideas from. After finding the pictures, I was ready to build the Castle.

Secondly -after much thinking-, I decided the base would be made out of lollypop sticks so I ordered them and made the base of my Castle. After 2 days of making the base, I left the base to dry off so I could work on it the next day.

Thirdly, after the Castle base had dried, I worked on building the shape of the castle and the actual structure of it. Then after working on the structure over a few days, it dried ready for the next stage.

Following on, I glued cardboard to the structure to cover up the lollypop sticks and then it started looking like an actual Castle! Eventually, the cardboard dried and I used a bigger piece of cardboard and covered the upper part of the castle and made a roof.

Finally, after everything has dried and is Sturdy, I searched up many stone wall prints, and soon, after many picks, I decided on one -printed it out- and stuck it upon my castle to have a realistic look to it (I did same for the roof) and added a door, windows and other details and the castle was finally complete.

This project helped a lot and helped me learn about William the Conqueror and how he ruled England and this made me ready for forward tests or key tasks on it. Also, researching on my lap book -I also made that goes with the castle about other ways William kept control and many other facts and ideas- was a great influence as I had to research most of that information and, while doing that, I was learning more about the way England was controlled by William the Conqueror and many other interesting things.

By Hartegh Sunner Year 7



Year 7

Norman Castle History Projects

It is with great pleasure that the History Department can showcase the hard work and enthusiasm Year 7 students have put into their Norman Castle Homework Project.

Students were set the task to research the features of Norman Castles and to design their own as part of their journey through Norman England.



Catherine Bikku



Emily Sinclair and Olivia Hewitt



Heidi Innes

These weeks in History

26/05/1927 – The last ever Ford Model T car was produced. An invention that revolutionised the world, it was the last of 16.5 million cars in this model made. Students in year 9 and GCSE study the role of the Model T in the 1920s economic boom in America.

6/6/1944 D-Day. Arguably the most famous day in military history, when the allied forces landed in France to drive Nazi Germany back. Nothing was left to chance, the right moon and tidal conditions were chosen, tin foil and dummy parachutes were dropped to confuse the Germans – even the people looking after the Bayeux Tapestry had been tipped off so it was safely away from the fighting! D-Day is studied as part of year 9 History at St Joseph's, with students analysing its successes and failures.

Over half term, the Queen celebrates her Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service as Queen! An incredible achievement, she ascended to the throne at 25 years old and becomes the first British Monarch to reign for 70 years. There will be a number of different events across the country to celebrate, including the lighting of Platinum Jubilee beacons. A beacon chain, once used for communication, is now a symbol of unity across countries and borders. Over 1500 beacons will be lit!

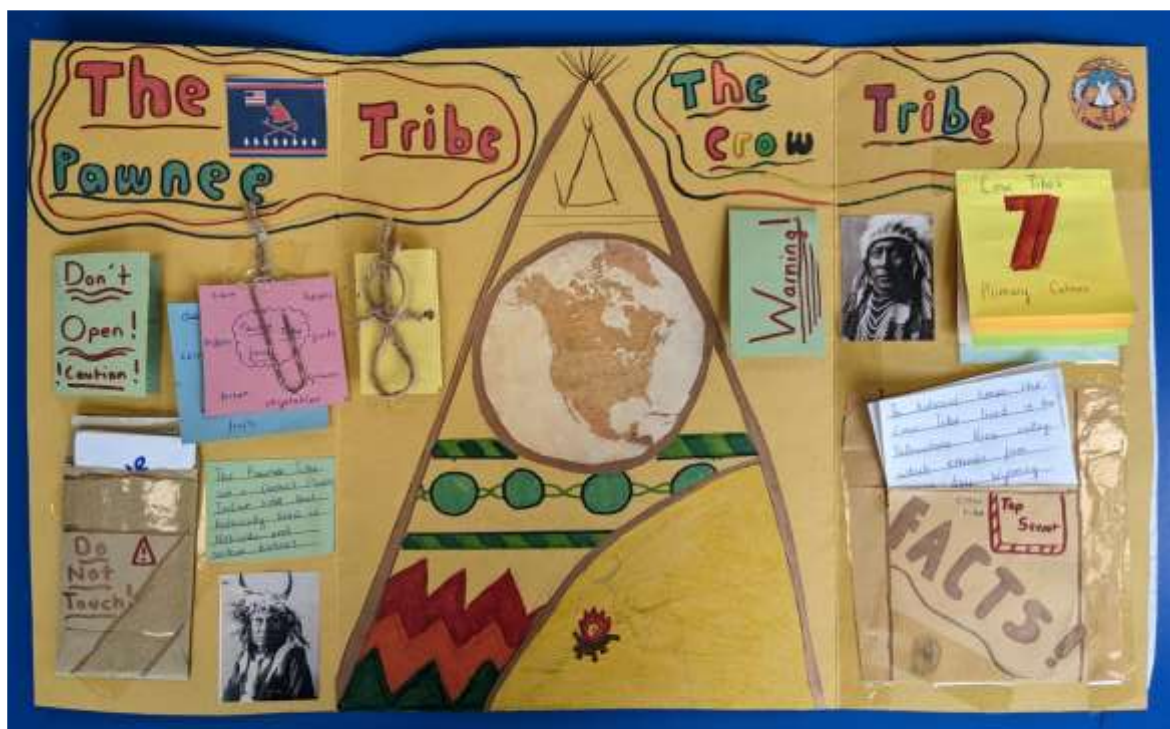
Year 8 Native American Lapbook History Project

It is also with enormous pleasure that we can showcase the creativity and resourcefulness that Year 8 students have put into their Native American Lapbooks.

Students were tasked with researching a Native American tribe, such as the Cheyenne, Cherokee or Pawnee tribe, to extend their knowledge beyond the classroom, and create a 'lapbook' to illustrate their work.



"We both contributed towards our History project about the Native American tribes. We researched a lot about the Pawnee and Crow tribes and how they lived their lives. We enjoyed working on the project together. We learnt a lot about working as a team and the research helped us in our lessons since we have been learning about the Sioux tribe in class. This also helped as we know what life was like for other tribes on the Plains". Adam Downie and Andrew Hope



Saints Hair and Beauty

On Monday we're taking our Yr 12 students to Blackpool to the National Finals of the Association of Hairdressers and Therapists Annual Hair & Beauty Competition where Millie McDonald secured herself a place following coming 1st in the regional heats. She's doing 1920s make-up, and we wish her loads of luck.

Following setting up our 'Saints' H&B Facebook page (Mrs Whyte) our salon seems to really be taking off, we've put together a price list for Hairdressing and are in the process of doing the same for Beauty too. Our students have come on in leaps and bounds since starting their journey with us in September and we wish them the very best in working towards completing their 1st year of Hair & Beauty with 'Saints' @ St. Josephs.

Saints Salon are opening the beauty treatments to staff to be able to come and have a treatment by year 12 students, this is to help their confidants and to be able to welcome family and friends into the salon.

We have opened the diary and would be very grateful, if staff would come and have a treat. This will take place all day on a Tuesdays every week and Wednesday mornings every other week.



Staff review

My hair was thoroughly dried and styled perfectly. I was impressed with the salon products that were used too.

Congratulations to all involved with Saints Salon, I hope you'll have me back for another treatment soon.

Mrs Phippen

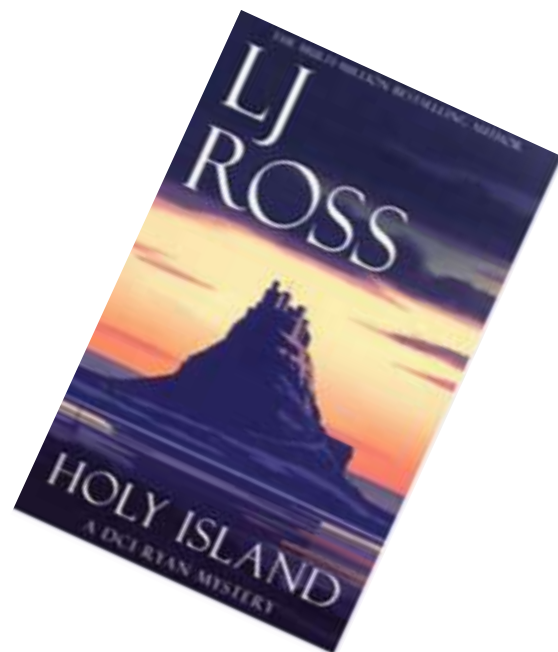
Book Club

St Joseph's Reading Recommendations

Here at St Joseph's we have a strong reading community and encourage all of our students to read for pleasure. This is something we would like to extend to our wider community and through our book recommendations we hope to share our love of reading with you and encourage you to take some time out to lose yourself in a good book.

Our first recommendation is a series of books by the local author LJ Ross. The DCI Ryan Mysteries are set in and around Northumberland and Newcastle, and are fast-paced mystery and murder novels peppered with a bit of romance and humour. The debut novel is set on the historic Holy Island otherwise known as Lindisfarne, "Holy Island" is a gripping novel that introduces Detective Chief Inspector Ryan. Ryan has retreated to Holy Island to recover from a tragic case that had a particularly bad effect on his psyche. A few days into his sabbatical, the tranquillity is broken when the body of a young woman is discovered abandoned on the ruins of the nearby monastery buildings.

St back, relax and enjoy!



Can You See Me - by Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott

This was one of the texts our Y7 reading groups looked at in September. Tally is starting secondary school and she's anxious about lots of things. Acclimatising to new surroundings and learning the ways of different teachers is tough. Plus there's the boy who calls her names, and her friends from primary school who she's always depended on before have started talking about things that just don't interest her (like boys) and cautioning her when her behaviour is embarrassing.


Tally knows she's different: she's autistic, meaning she sees and feels everything differently to her friends and family. Now, as she enters this new stage in her life, she is painfully aware of the way she is perceived and feeling an almost unbearable pressure to try to fit in. But what exactly are the rules for being "normal"?


Written in collaboration with young blogger Libby, who is herself autistic, this is a powerful and highly relatable story about fitting in and being yourself. Tally's diary entries give an authentic insight into one girl's perspective of being autistic, and smashing a host of common assumptions and stereotypes about autism as we see Tally's potent sense of humour and her deep empathy. Most powerful of all is Tally's ultimate realisation that autism is not something that needs to be hidden.

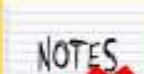



Supporting your child's revision and study at home





1  Encourage your child to create and then follow a timetable for their revision so that they can manage their work and time more effectively.

2  Encourage your child to use high impact retrieval activities for revision, such as making flash cards, self quizzing, creating Cornell notes pages, and completing knowledge dumps. These strategies help students to retain knowledge more effectively.

3  Remind your child that simply reading over notes, or reading a revision guide, has been proven to be less effective for revision than the retrieval activities listed above.

4  Help your child to find a suitable space for revision, a quiet space where they can focus on their work and have space for their materials.

5  Encourage your child to leave their mobile phone in another part of the house whilst they are revising to avoid distractions. If their phone is absolutely vital for their revision, then they could mute notifications or put their phone on silent to help them focus on the work and reduce the level of distraction.

6  Research has shown that last minute cramming for an exam is a poor way to revise. Revision should be spaced out over time. We all naturally forget things, but spaced revision helps us to remember more over time. Encourage your child to space their revision and remind them of this key research into memory.

A poem a day...

'No Man is an Island' by John Donne

No man is an island entire of itself;
every man

is a piece of the continent, a part of
the main;

if a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe

is the less, as well as if a promontory
were, as

well as any manner of thy friends or
of thine

own were; any man's death diminish-
es me,

because I am involved in mankind.

And therefore never send to know for
whom

the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | | 7 | 2 | | | | 9 | |
| | | 6 | | 3 | | 7 | | 1 |
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| 2 | | 9 | | 8 | | 6 | | |
| | 4 | | | | 9 | 3 | | 8 |

Rule 1 - Each row must contain the numbers from 1 to 9, without repetitions

Rule 2 - Each column must contain the numbers from 1 to 9, without repetitions

Rule 3 - The digits can only occur once per block

Rule 4 - The sum of every single row, column and block must equal 45 (so it has every number from 1-9 in it)

The aim is to complete the unique puzzle so that each column, row and block contains the numbers 1-9, without repetition. For this puzzle you know that a "2" must go into the top right square of the bottom middle block. This is because the first 2 columns already contain a number 2, leaving the last column. However, because the last column has a nine in the bottom square, and the middle row already contains a 2 in a different block, it must go in the top right square of that block.