

St Joseph's Journal

Faith
Learning
Respect



Message from the Head

For all it has been only a five week half term, it has certainly been jam packed with activities, both academically and for enrichment. Of course, during the half term, some of our year 7 and 8 students had a wonderful, wild time at Thurston: kayaking, abseiling and cliff exploration amongst a host of other activities. Certainly a half term excursion to remember! Being part of a multi-academy trust has enabled a group of key stage 3 students to participate in an inter-school spelling bee and our key stage 5 maths students enjoyed an inter-house maths challenge. Embracing our FLAME motto, year 10 engineering students have enjoyed a day at Nissan, learning how cars are manufactured; some of our students had the fantastic opportunity to watch The Lion King at Sunderland; the year 12 higher education plus students have just returned from a Cambridge university residential; our Mandarin students celebrated Chinese New Year, taking a trip to Birmingham and we have celebrated the feast day of our patron Saint Joseph. Of course, our sporting success continues in basketball, football, cross country and rowing. Now, our year 11 and 13 students are currently preparing for their final external examinations which begin next half term and year 10 and 12 are preparing for their first round of mocks. We wish all our key stage 4 and 5 students luck in their endeavours.

I hope you all have a restful, enjoyable and holy Easter, and come back ready for the final academic term.

Mr Mitchell.

Recently we celebrated **St Joseph's Day**. Departments have offered things like St. Joseph's karaoke, French boulangerie sales, Pi stalls, St. Joseph's sports challenges and ethical business designs through to 'the great St. Joseph's bake off'. We are really proud of everyone who has got involved with the activities. Year 7 celebrated their own Feast of St. Joseph's Mass with Fr. Adrian Dixon which was a brilliant way to end another week of enrichment activities. All students Years 7-13 were also given a St. Joseph's day biscuit to enjoy after prayer in tutor time.



FLAMEazing Term

FLAME

It's been a FLAMEazing term for our pupils with lots going on. Here are a few examples. Having the opportunity to get back to Thurston post covid was a fantastic experience that both staff and students enjoyed. Character building in abundance and lots of blue sky days despite it being February half term. Students made the most of all the activities on offer from tree climbing, blind folded assault course and abseiling to kayaking, ghyll scrambling, cave exploration and hill walking.



In school pupils made the most of **Friendship Week** with over £200 raised by our school house council reps who carried out an array of activities throughout the week. Students have really embraced these weeks so much so we have decided to make February next year our friendship month and expand our range of inclusive activities for all to enjoy. This year we had a basketball challenge, friendship nominations, friendship paper chains, name the bear, guess the sweets in the jar and a friendship hamper raffle. Our talented musicians also showcased their singing and instrumental skills at lunchtimes. The feeling of love and mutual respect also spread into our school dinners with some delicious heart theme cakes thanks to our amazing chefs.



Sporting Success

Year 7 football:

The Year 7 football team have had a very successful term with much excitement still to come. After the Easter holidays the team find themselves in the South Tyneside cup final against Mortimer and the County cup final (opponent yet to be decided). They also start up their pursuit of the league title as the CVL starts up on the first Tuesday back after half term.

Year 8 football:

The year football team have had similar success, they find themselves in 2 county cup semi finals and the South Tyneside cup final. They still have league games to complete which could see them win the league too!

The U15 Handball team:

The u15 handball team have also made the County finals which will take place on the last day of term.

Individual schools X-Country:

Our winning teams from the South Tyneside Cross country competition earlier in the academic year competed in the county event at Watergate park. Team highlights included the Year8/9 girls team finishing second place. Individual successes included a 3rd place finish for Lauren A and a fourth place finish for Emily B.

U13 and U16 girls squads both faced St. Bede's in the semi finals of the County Cup and won. They will both play in the final on Wednesday 26th April, 5pm KO at Washington Hub.

U14 girls will play Durham Johnson in their semi-final on Wednesday 19th April and if they are successful will have a chance to play for the trophy and title on Thursday 27th April, again at Washington Hub.

Our Y7 and Y9 girls battled it out at the Tyne and Wear finals this week. Y7 were crowned champions with Y9 finishing runners up.

On Thursday 20th March we had the opportunity for 4 of our year groups to be crowned Futsal County Cup champions.

Y10 took the runners up spot, with Y7, Y9 and Y11 all being awarded the title!

Lots of goals and lots of impressive defensive work and saves made from such a talented groups of students!

The U15 girls travelled to Manchester March for the chance to win a place in the final of the National Cup!

FLAMEazing Catholic Life Award

for the great St. Joseph's bake-off 2023



The great St. Joseph's day Bake Off!

Over the next couple of days, in honour of St. Joseph's day we are challenging you to create your own St. Joseph's star bake!



It could be a biscuit, a cake, a meal or anything that represents St. Joseph.

We hope you have some fun with this and please email in your pictures of your entries to YoungA@stjosephs.uk.net

The winning entries will receive a St. Joseph's day Easter egg.
God bless and happy baking!



As part of our St. Joseph's feast day celebrations, we ran a great St. Joseph's week bake-off competition to create a culinary master-piece inspired by St. Joseph.

Our school winner was Martha Harkin in Year 7 who created this amazing masterpiece, which was a cake in the shape of St. Joseph with a halo, hammer (to represent St. Joseph as a Carpenter) and his staff and lillies.

Absolutely faboulous effort Martha, we are truly proud of you!

God bless.,



#STEMettes



Some of our Y10 girls attended the STEMettes event at The Word. They started the day with some ice breakers, including lining up in height order, without speaking to each other. They were then given their brief - to create a website on the theme of Climate Change. They were given time to map their ideas out, while being supported by women from the STEM sector. After this, the STEMettes team directed them through some basic coding using the html language. The girls were given an hour to write the code for their websites. Some of the girls found they were really good at coding! After lunch each group presented to the panel. The panel included female leaders from the construction and renewables industries. Jessica C won the judges award and group 2, Emily, Tilly and Rebecca were voted as pupils choice.

They rounded off the event with a Q&A session in which the panel told us about how they got into their roles, the challenges they have faced and the best place they have worked.



The event was really educational and a fun event to take part in.

Kirandeep



I liked how engaging the activities were and how fun everything was.

Rebecca



I liked how creative the day was and the chance to try something new.

Tilly



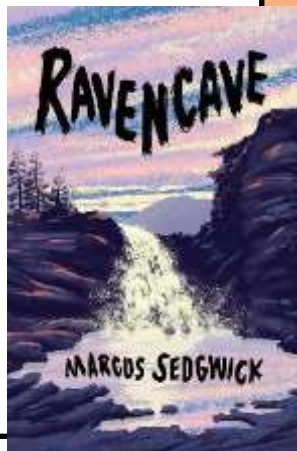
THE BOOK REPORT

KS3 Book Recommendations

The Newbie

- **Ravencave** by Marcus Sedgwick

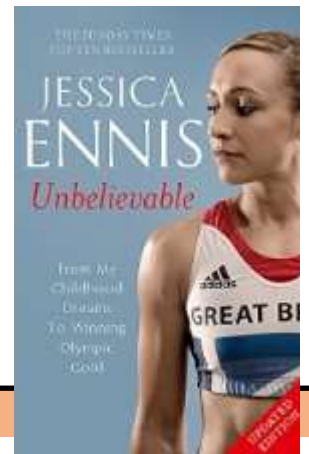
A family holiday to their old hometown reveals some terrible truths. A gripping ghost story that combines real-world anxieties and unsettling paranormal horror.. Scary yet soulful.



The Non-fiction

- **Unbelievable** by Jessica Ennis

The inspirational story of the record breaking British Olympian, from being bullied at school to winning gold medals for her country. Movingly motivational.

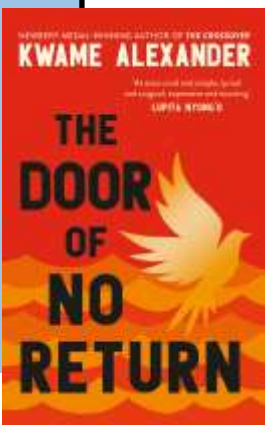


KS4 Book Recommendations

The Newbie

- **The Door Of No Return** by Kwame Alexander

The intensely powerful coming-of-age-story of Alexander and his epic journey across the sea. With Lyrical prose, African Mythology, and vivid storytelling , this book is a modern Epic.



The Non-fiction

- **Flowers in the gutter** by K. R. Gaddy

This Is the story of the Edelwiess Pirates., the group of working-class German teenagers who resisted the Nazis during the Second World War. An exciting tale for history lovers which reads like a thrilling fiction book.



BOOK REVIEW

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

This was a book that I've been meaning to get around to for a while, as I know that it is taught in a lot of schools as part of the English Curriculum, especially in America. I was expecting big things, and wasn't disappointed. The story is of a family of farmers from Oklahoma as they are driven out of their home by a forces out of their control, following their journey West in search of a better life. Without giving too much away, the family go through a lot together, and feel like the whole world is against them at times, but it is only through banding together that they stand any chance of survival in a cruel and changing world.

It is relevant to geography, with it's focus on the agricultural revolution and land-grabbing, as well as a good book for history lovers with the images Steinbeck paints of the American West during the 1930's. This period was known as 'The Dust Bowl' because of the severe dust storms that ravaged the area, causing crop failure, drought, and forcing people off their own land. Steinbeck's descriptions of this period was one of the highlights of the book for me, the way he describes people and landscapes in such vivid detail. Steinbeck makes what might even be a non-fiction book and paints it with poetry and colour, even if those colours are the dark browns and harsh oranges of a dry and dying country.

The most obvious themes of the book are social inequality, inhumanity, and, strongest, the power of family and faith against these. It wasn't the cheeriest of novels, and I wouldn't pick it up for some light summer reading in the garden, but the life lessons and storylines it delivers are poignant and at times heartbreaking. I can definitely see why it is seen as essential reading in schools, and considered one of the greatest books of all time.

Mr Johnson

Puzzle Corner

An Easter Riddle

What Am I?

I'm colorful but I'm not a rainbow
 I'm hunted for but I'm not an animal
 I sometimes contain chocolate but I'm not an advent calendar
 I have a shell but I'm not a crab
 I'm sometimes painted but I'm not hung on a wall
 I'm left by a bunny but I'm not the remains of a carrot



Find the hidden Bee!

Easter Word Search

E A T R C H O C O L A T E G H
 G J G E G E A S T E R J E B N
 S G E S A T L H H O D A Y S U
 T F A L N G D E C O R A T E D
 R L E R L A D A B I P O Y S C
 G O G G R Y A C A R R O T E H
 D W E S G I B B U N A N Y S I
 U E P A R A D E J E L T S P C
 C R J L A I N S A H O L I Y K
 K S G E S J R S U N D A Y O A
 L C A R S T A S B A S K E T N
 I K S H J H B U N N Y E G S I
 N G S A U I B L A T I P G S N
 G I N J E N I J E L S O N G G
 S P R I N G T U L I P A G D S



BASKET	DUCKINGS	JELLYBEANS
BUNNY	EASTER	PARADE
CARROT	EGGS	RABBIT
CELEBRATION	FLOWERS	SPRING
CHICK	GRASS	SUNDAY
CHOCOLATE	HOP	TULIP
DECORATED	HUNT	



Across

- 13 across times two
- Two times 11 down
- 4 down minus one
- 4 across plus forty
- 6 across minus 187
- Seconds in eight minutes
- 48 plus 36
- 9 across minus one

Down

- 1 across minus fifty-five
- Months in seven years
- 5 down plus sixty-eight
- 10 down plus twenty-five
- Seconds in six minutes
- 7 across minus sixty-two
- 1 across minus 149
- Months in two years

