

St Joseph's Journal

Faith
Learning
Respect



Message from the Head

Sports day, Year 11 and 13 proms, Flamingo Land, Beamish, Northumbria university – what a fantastic way to end the academic year! There has certainly been a host of opportunities for our students to take their learning beyond the classroom and to have fun with their friends. Dare I say the teachers have also enjoyed themselves! As we wave farewell to some of our students who move on to pastures new, we look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 and 12 students in September. The transition days for Years 5 and 6 were marvellous with lots of happy smiling faces. These days are a great help, supporting the transition process for our new pupils as they begin their journey into the St Joseph's family. This year we also say goodbye to Mrs Robson, Mr McDuff, Mr Willis, Mr Padfield, Miss Goodfellow, Miss Chia, Miss Scott, Miss McConville (reception) and our lunchtime supervisor Mrs Nicol. We hope they enjoy their next adventure. There will be some new staff faces in September also and I know they cannot wait to meet their new classes. Have a restful and enjoyable summer holidays.

Mr Mitchell.

Spelling Bee Success!

Our wonderful and talented Spelling Bee Squad took part in the recent Trust spelling bee final at St. Wilfrid's. After several challenging rounds, our team have taken third place in the Trust-wide competition. It was an extremely close competition and our talented bunch gave the winning team a run for their money. The team have loved taking part in our weekly sessions and visiting other schools and meeting other students. We particularly loved the lunch that St. Wilfrid's put on for us for the final – there are many perks to being part of the Spelling Bee Squad! The team have had a thrilling year and have steadily moved up the ranks through lots of fun and hard work – St. Joseph's are very proud of their efforts.

The spelling team crew meet weekly for word game fun. Our team is a friendly bunch and many of Year 9s are looking forward to returning next year to support our new team in September 2023. We are looking forward to recruiting and welcoming more spelling stars from Years 7-9 for next year. Please come and see Mrs Sanderson if you are interested!

I really cannot believe it is the end of another year here at St Joseph's. We have just welcomed another 262 students through our doors as part of our Year 6 transition and we are very proud to announce we are over subscribed again! There is a real buzz about the place at the moment and I am delighted to be overseeing five House blocks now instead of four as we grow as a school community.

Personally, I am immensely proud of all that has been achieved across the school year by our amazing students. Class Charts demonstrates to us that behaviour is excellent and every student plays a role in this. There have been so many sporting success over the year too - we even made it on to Youtube!

After a restful summer I am so looking forward to doing it all again next year with our great team of pastoral staff who really do make a difference to children's lives and of course our wonderful students.

I do hope you all have a great and safe summer and I look forward to welcoming you all back through our doors in September.

Mr McConway



FLAME

St Joseph's students want to enrich and enhance their lives. They embrace their talents and engage in extra-curricular and careers education activities.



Golf Competition

A great afternoon was spent at U13/U15 South Tyneside Street Golf Competition at Boldon Golf Club. A new event for most students, but one that they certainly enjoyed! Well done to all the lads who got out of their comfort zone to give something new a try! Also, a big **congratulations** to Jonathan and Ethan who won the U15 competition and Jackson and Owen who took the silver medal in the U13



Wimbledon: 40 of our Year 8 students journeyed to Wimbledon to hopefully watch some tennis! They arrived on Court 2 to see Thiem v Tsitsipas. There was a lot of rain that stopped play but it didn't dampen the spirits! They had a great time! The next day there was lots of sightseeing to do in London! Great fun, with much better weather!



Newcastle University was the destination for our Year 10 Mandarin students this week. They were all invited to spend a day at the Modern Foreign Language Department to hear about university experience with final year Mandarin degree students, learn how to do TaiChi, enjoy some authentic Chinese food and most importantly, showcasing their video presentation made at the Tourism Day. Best of all, one of our team has won the 'Best use of Chinese' Award!



Year 6 Transition

This was an enjoyable and successful 2 days. The Year 6 pupils fully embraced FLAME at St Joseph's. A huge thank you to all staff who contributed to the smooth running of both days. We have sent home over 260 very happy Year 6 pupils with some great memories feeling confident to join us in September. Our FLAME name tree and our Year 6 chain of hopes and dreams were just 2 of the lovely ways we shared what we are about at St Joseph's.

The Buddy Team were inspirational role models and helped ease the transition to a very busy life here. They were an invaluable support to Year 6 pupils and staff over the 2 days and at the Information evening. Well done.

Mrs Berry

FLAME



YMT Summer Festival Y9 trip: This week, ten of our wonderful year 9 students attended the annual YMT summer festival at the Youth Village in Consett. The festival is a celebration of faith and is a great week of camping, contemporary worship music, guest speakers, games, dancing and a great opportunity to make friends with other young people across the diocese. Led by Miss Knox and Miss Short, students were brilliant ambassadors for St. Joseph's and got involved with all the activities at the festival. The festival was headlined by world-renowned faith rapper Guvna B who has written many songs about growing up as a Christian. Thank you to everyone who went and to Miss Knox and Miss



Year 6 South Tyneside Leavers' Mass

Year 7 students serving the Altar for the Year 6 South Tyneside Leavers' Mass. Year 7 students at St. Joseph's undertaking the Faith in Action award served the Altar as part of the South Tyneside Year 6 Leavers' Mass today at St. James' RC church. Students processed the cross and the candles, took up the offertory and served the Altar. Bishop Seamus presided the Mass, supported by Fr. Adrian and Fr. Dixon which was a wonderful celebration of students' time at their primary schools and starting the next exciting stage in their spiritual journey. We are really proud of our students serving in their local parish and supporting the spiritual journey of our new students coming to us in September. Well done. God bless.

We had a lovely visit from the amazing Nicholas Balls this week, fresh from his success at the Special Olympics where he won Gold and Silver in the pool. Nicholas was kind enough to spend time with our Leadership Academy students whilst they interviewed him on what inspired him to get into swimming and what his goals are for the future.



Faith in Action Award ceremony and liturgy

On Monday 11th July, 16 students in Year 7 who have been working towards their Faith in Action bronze award celebrated a liturgy and awards ceremony to recognise their outstanding efforts in serving their parish, their school and their communities. Students have undertaken a wide range of liturgical, social and community minded work to share their FLAME with all those in the community and to bring Christ's love to all those they meet. Students have led worship, visited care homes, ran social action projects and endeavored to be good stewards and care for God's creation throughout the award. This was the first year we have ran the Faith in Action award and we will be running both the silver and bronze levels of the award next year.

Special mention goes to Mrs. McEwan for co-ordinating the award and helping each student to make such a profound difference in the community, Mr. Mitchell for his steadfast support and for presenting our students with the awards, Mrs. Wiblin for assessing the students' portfolios and passing their work and chaplain Adam who led us in a beautiful liturgy to celebrate their hardwork. God bless.

Bon voyage à 9ème année étudiants!

While the rest of the school are winding down and relaxing on the first Friday night of the summer holidays, a party of 70 Year 9 pupils and 9 members of staff from St. Joseph's will be boarding coaches to embark on the annual visit to Normandy and Disneyland Paris. Having run for many years, the trip is often cited as one of the highlights of our students' time at school. In fact, some of the children going this year are following in their parents' footsteps!

During the week, the pupils will visit a variety of sites of historical interest, such as Omaha Beach, Pegasus Bridge and the Bayeux Tapestry and will have the opportunity to practise their French speaking skills in shops, markets and cafés in the Normandy area. They'll also be immersed in French culture by visiting a cider farm (only apple juice to be sampled) and a bakery, where they'll produce their own loaf. Evenings will be spent at the fabulous Chateau du Molay, a building which is over 250 years old and has housed a variety of people including an officer to King Louis XV, the German 352nd Division and employees of the Citroen car manufacturer! To-day it is a 3* hotel, where the children will be taking part in lots of different activities in its extensive grounds. On Thursday, they'll be up at the crack of dawn for the trek to Disneyland Paris, where they'll be able to ride the Tower of Terror and Space Mountain or go and watch a live action stunt show or the famous parade. The week ends with a trip back across the Channel from Calais to Dover, before the final leg of the journey back to Hebburn and a chance to recover from what will hopefully be a fun-packed and memorable experience.



Sporting Success

Year 7 football team do the treble

The Year 7 football team were able to celebrate their treble winning season having won the South Tyneside league, District cup and County Cup. The boys have had a really successful year and have enjoyed every moment. This year's top goals scorer was Morgan Storey, most player of the match awards was Amir Raviv and our player's player of the year was Ollie Lockwell.



Panathlon Leaders

Our Y10 and Y12 Sport Leaders helped to run and organise the Tyne and Wear Panathlon Disability Finals. Students were in charge of each event and had to demonstrate and officiate for over 200 students throughout the day. All of the leaders did a brilliant job which allowed them to continue to develop their leadership skills. Well done!



Wimbledon Trip

40 Year 8 students had a brilliant time exploring both the Wimbledon Tennis Championships and London. Unfortunately due to some poor weather the students were only able to see an hour of tennis on court 2. However, they did have time to explore SW19, learning about the history of the competition and trying some of the activities that we offer. Students were then able to explore London and the South Bank before taking a trip on the London Eye to see the sights London has to offer. All the students conducted themselves and represented the school brilliantly and hopefully had a great time!



Year 9 Boys take South Tyneside School Title!



The Year 9 football team were presented with their league title medals on Monday 10th July. The boys won 6 league games out of 7 this season scoring lots of goals in the process. Captain George Barclay got to lift the league shield in celebration. The league title adds to the Year 8 & 9 South Tyneside futsal titles achieved over the last couple of years. Unfortunately despite reaching the South Tyneside cup final the squad was narrowly beaten to a league and cup double by a very strong Mortimer side.

Squad: Ethan Porter, Will Goodhall, Adam Burns, Ben Slasor, Khalid Olantiti, Dominic Tulip, Ryan Parker, Harry Compton, Andrew Hope, Ethan Hadnum, Oliver Brown, Ryan Boyle, George Barclay, Daniel Farish, Tony Gowland, Timo Mulligan.

Squad members missing from photographs: Aseem Ahmed, Leo Haddrick, Lewis Burgoyne

Mr G Rudd (Team Manager) would like to thank Liam & Bryan at @South Tyneside Schools football for all their efforts this season and @KipMcgrathTutoringGatesheadEast for supporting the team with new team shirts this season.

Leadership academy

For the second year running, our school has been a part of the South Tyneside School Sports Network Leadership Academy. This involves 4 of our Y9 students who complete a series of workshops and assignments throughout the year to develop their confidence and communication skills to become more competent sports leaders.

Our students have done an excellent job of contributing to the programme. They have led to other students across the borough and even delivered a lunchtime club in school. Their course will conclude with a trip to Sandhaven beach, where they will deliver a primary school event for Year 5 & 6 students, before graduating from the programme.

Well done to Amber, Lucy, Perry and Thomas for their fantastic work all year.



Ultimate Frisbee

The ultimate frisbee competition ran this year for U13 and U15 teams to compete in both girl's and boy's events. Unfortunately, the girl's event had to be rescheduled after the weather put a stop to their first attempt, however, despite a very windy day affecting some of the play, the girls ventured to Jarrow school to participate in this exciting event. A lot of the students involved were competing for the school for the first time, with everyone putting in an excellent effort to challenge some strong sides from across South Tyneside. The U13 squad finished 3rd overall with everyone having had a brilliant day.



Enrichment

Orienteering

As part of the South Tyneside School Sport Partnership we took 12 Year 8 students to compete in a orienteering competition at Marine Park. Teams were made up of 3 girls and 3 boys with one of our teams managing to win silver medals!

Well done to everyone involved! Great teamwork!

Dance festival

On Wednesday 28th June 10 of our amazing dances performed at the Customs House, South Shields. The dancers are from a range of year groups and attend dance club every Wednesday. Due to an illness on the day one of our dancers could not perform and last minute changes were made. The girls were so professional and performed amazingly. They were a true credit to themselves and the school.

Well done everyone!



Maths Murder Mystery - Year 8

On Monday 3rd July two Year 8 classes took part in a Maths Murder Mystery task ran by Newcastle University. Two ambassadors from the outreach programme came in to deliver a fun and engaging task, where students had to work out which local celebrity had committed a murder.

Students learned more about University life, including activities on a University Campus, what STEM subject Newcastle University offers, and a short glimpse at what life might be like if they did go to Further Education.

The task itself was completed successfully by many teams, and used a range of problem solving skills, as well as prior knowledge and teamwork to discuss ways of answering the questions. Hopefully it promoted the STEM career path to a range of students, and showed the fun side of subjects that will help in their future studies.





Creative 'flare'

In May Mrs Whyte asked all pupils to design a new logo for the Maths department.

She received lots of very good logos, but narrowed it down to these 2 excellent submissions, by Charlie & Poppy in Year 7.

They both used their artistic skills to bring their designs to life.

COMPETITION (all students) - New Maths Logo

We are looking for a new Maths Dept logo which incorporates FLAME, the school badge and all things mathematical.

This is the logo we use currently (the one on the front of your manifesto). The winning design will be used on all manifestos in the new school year and it will be turned into wall art to be displayed in the maths corridor. There will also be prizes!

DEADLINE - Submissions, either paper or electronic must be given to Mrs Whyte by **22nd May**.



Mrs Whyte then sent their designs to Ang, at NE Displays, to turn them into an electronic version encompassing all the best bits of both designs.

In September their new '**flame-mazing**' logo will appear on the wall in the Maths department as well as our Maths Manifestos.

Charlie & Poppy are both very pleased with their finished logo ... and their prizes. Well done!

STEMFEST 2023

30 Year 8 students attended STEMFEST 2023 at the Vertu Motors Arena in Newcastle. This year's themes were based on Space, Technology, Energy and Manufacturing. Students had an amazing day and participated in a wide range of hands-on activities.





Year 8 Mandarin students have spent half a day immersed in Chinese culture experience in Newcastle city center! They first went to the bubble tea shop together getting a drink invented in Taiwan, then visit the Chinese supermarket to shop for some treats.

Y8 Day trip to

CHINATOWN

The last stop was enjoying a full Chinese dining experience with Miss Chia and Mrs Masters at Amaysia Restaurant, Stowell Street, where they were served a 2-courses meal with a drink. Pork Ribs as starter and Sweet & Sour Chicken as main were the popular choices.

Everyone has to order the food and drinks in Mandarin, then enjoy them with chopsticks!



měi xī yà
美西亜





Miss Chia and the Year 10 Mandarin students at ICC Birmingham.

They have heard from speakers all around the world, sharing their Mandarin learning experience and how it was beneficial to their career. We were proud to be chosen and interviewed by the organizer to share our experience and



Illisa Wilson was interviewed by the MEP media team.

On 29th March, our Year 10 Mandarin students and staffs travelled to Birmingham for the “Journey to the East – A Voyage of Discovery” Chinese Conference. It was taken place at the International Convention Centre (ICC) Birmingham with over 1,500 MEP students from over 60 MEP schools in attendance.



On the first night arriving Birmingham, the students were invited by their Mandarin teachers to share an authentic Chinese meal together at the local restaurant.

They were challenged to order in Mandarin and use chopsticks to enjoy their Chinese food!



Chaplain's Corner

The End of our Time this Academic Year

For me, the end of the year is always a reflective time; a time for taking stock of what I am doing with the time given to me, by my creator. This grows particularly clear to me as I become “younger” every year.

Human beings have always marked time by significant events. The real question is not whether we will mark time, but how we will do so. What events and what messages are we proclaiming during our earthly time?

For people living under Gospel values, time is not meant to become a tyrant ruling over us. Rather, it is intended to be a teacher, instructing and presenting us with opportunity to walk the way of love, light and in the truth of the Gospel message.

Rather than being looked at as an enemy, it is to be cherished as a friend. Its role and reach are part of the plan for our personal growth in the person of Jesus in the Gospels; breaking into time to transform it from within – to be free to fully appreciate ourselves and others.

As this Academic year ends and we venture into different experiences, we are invited to live as though time really does matter. We are invited by grace to give ourselves away for others; to imitate the God who gave Himself for the entire human race. We are invited to pour ourselves out as Jesus did. If we live life this way, we will show others that life is beautiful; We will grow in the person we were created to be and will be that necessary love this world is so ever thirstier for.

Let us live our lives in the fullness of our Gospel values in complete goodness - free of selfishness - to offer our immediate relationships a glimpse of hope, love and a genuine encounter with that ever-loving Christ that strives to surface from within us – and each other.

Amen

Chaplain Adam



Exploring Sikhism:

Guest speaker Jaswinder Singh



On Friday 30th June 2023, we were blessed with a visit from Jaswinder Singh who is the Sikh chaplain for the RVI hospital and both Northumbria and Newcastle universities.

Jaswinder came to explore life as a Sikh for some of our Year 9 students who had the opportunity to interview him and discuss the key features of the Sikh tradition. Jaswinder explored the origins of Sikhism, the philosophy of Guru Nanak, the importance of care and compassion for those in need and service to others, Sikh prayer and the importance of equality in Sikhism. Jaswinder also showed students the 5 Ks of Sikhism and explained how he feels incomplete without each of these Ks on his being at all times.

Students asked thought-provoking questions and were really shocked when he told them that he has to get up in the ambrosial hours between 2-4am to brush his hair and meditate on God (Waheguru!)

We are immensely grateful for Jaswinder's time, support and dedication to our students, especially as he came straight after a nightshift at the hospital.

St. Joseph's trip to Newcastle Gurdwara



On Monday 3rd July students doing their Faith in Action and Pope John Paul II awards had the opportunity to go and visit the Sikh Gurdwara in Newcastle.

We had a fascinating guided tour of the Gurdwara, saw the bedroom of the Guru Granth Sahib, it's throne, and explored the importance of the 5Ks in Sikhism.

Then we were treated to a special performance of Sikh meditative music and prayer which students engaged brilliantly in.

Afterwards we learned about the importance of Seva (selfless service) in the Sikh community and we were invited to help out in the Langar (Sikh community kitchen).



History Homework Projects

It is with enormous pleasure that the History Department can showcase the awe and wonder of Year 7 homework projects this term. Students have demonstrated their creativity, resourcefulness, as well as their historical skills



Y12 CORE RE students earn their Diploma in Religion and Ethics



On Friday 14th July 2023 students in Year 12 were awarded their Diploma of Religion and Ethics by Chaplain Adam.

The awards mark the culmination of a year of hard work and creativity. Students have engaged in a lecture series examining the role of religion, philosophy and ethics around the world ranging from the Catholic rite of exorcism, religion in the media, new age religion to the ethics of animal warfare.

In their workshop sessions, students have been creating their own ethical businesses, building their ethical business HQs and designing ethical business adverts. They have also designed their own digital religious apps too.

In addition to these modules, students have also been studying a module of RSE as part of their CORE RE studies. We are immensely proud of them all. Well done.

THE BOOK REPORT

KS3 Book Recommendations

The Small Things by Lisa Thompson

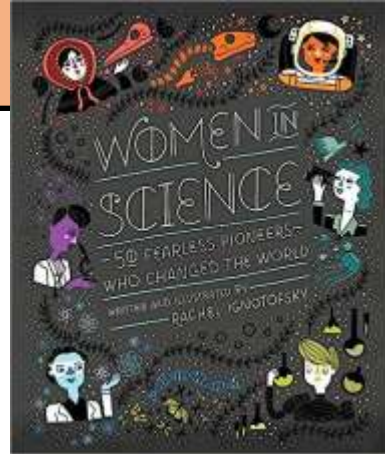
Anna's anxious when she's picked to befriend the new girl in her class, but a groundbreaking robot will help their friendship blossom. A poignant and uplifting novella inspired by a true story, from best-selling author Lisa Thompson.



Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World

By Rachel Ignotofsky

This fascinating, educational collection features 50 illustrated portraits of trailblazing women in STEM throughout history. Full of striking art, *Women in Science* also contains infographics about relevant topics such as lab equipment, rates of women currently working in STEM fields, and an illustrated scientific glossary.

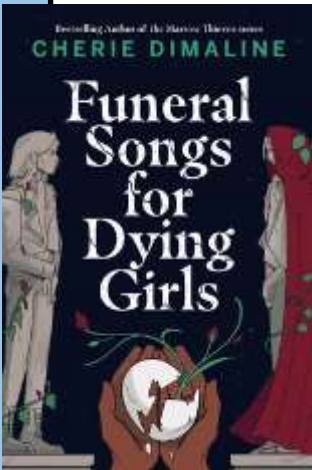


KS4 Book Recommendations

Funeral Songs for Dying Girls

by Cherie Dimaline

After inadvertently starting rumours of a haunted cemetery, a teen befriends a ghost in this brand-new young adult novel exploring indigenous identity from the critically acclaimed and bestselling author.



I Must Betray You

By Ruta Sepetys

A gut-wrenching, startling historical thriller about communist Romania and the citizen spy network that devastated a nation, from the #1 *New York Times* bestselling writer.



THE BOOK REPORT

KS5 Book Recommendations

The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat

By Oliver Sacks, 1985

In his most extraordinary book, Oliver Sacks recounts the stories of patients lost in the bizarre, apparently inescapable world of **neurological disorders**. These are **case studies** of people who have lost their memories and with them the greater part of their pasts; who are no longer able to recognize people or common objects; whose limbs have become alien; who are **afflicted and yet are gifted** with uncanny artistic or mathematical talents. In Dr Sacks' **splendid and sympathetic** telling, each tale is a unique and deeply human study of life struggling against incredible adversity.

(goodreads, 2023)

The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat



Oliver Sacks

- **Sci-Fi** - **Sea of tranquillity** by Emily St. John Mandel
- **Non-Fiction**—**Atlas of the Heart** by Brene Brown
- **Biography**—**Finding Me** by Viola Davis
- **Horror**—**The Hacienda** by Isabel Canas