

St Joseph's Journal

**Faith
Learning
Respect**



Message from the Head

Hello everyone, I am Suzanne Lewis-Dale and I am the Acting Head Teacher at St. Joseph's. For those who are not acquainted with me, I have been Deputy Head Teacher for teaching & learning for several years now and I also teach art and RE to some of your amazing children. It is an absolute joy to support both you and your child in their learning journey and to see our students embrace our FLAME values, being the best versions of themselves and letting their lights shine. And my what a half term we have had, filled with opportunities and experiences galore. Our HE+ year 12 students have been to Newcastle University to begin their preparations for Oxbridge later this year. Year 8 have received an NHS careers assembly to support them as they begin to think about what career pathways they may pursue in the future. Year 11 had their sixth form and college taster day to have a firm experience on what life holds for them in just the next 7 months. Congratulations to Laura in year 12 who has qualified for the World Champion kickboxing competitions later this year. During the final week of this half term we have had a wonderful friendship week of celebrations with a highly engaging assembly from Mr Johnson, Head of Physics. I hope we all manage to have some rest and relaxation over the half term; we have certainly earned it!

Mrs Lewis-Dale

We say goodbye and thank you to Mr Mitchell who has had part of the school aptly named after him. Our corridor to Sixth Form will be a focus for aspiration as the students move through their years at St Joseph's.



The Sacrament of Confirmation



On Wednesday 16th January 2024, Bishop Stephen Wright celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation for our students at St. Bede's RC in Jarrow. Students had been working hard since October to prepare for this amazing step in their faith journey, had been reflecting upon which saints had inspired them, chosen their own confirmation names and planned their own contributions to the confirmation Mass. The Mass was co-celebrated by Fr. Adrian, Fr. Saji and Fr. Jonathan as well as a seminarian for the Diocese of Hexham and New-

Students performed beautiful music, read readings and prayers powerfully and took part in the celebration exceptionally. We are really proud for them and continue to hold them in our prayers as they continue to journey spiritually in faith. God bless.

JPII students altar serving for the Feast of St. Benet Biscop



On Friday 12th January, two of our Pope John Paul II students altar served for the Mass at St. Paul's church in Jarrow for the special Feast of St. Benet Biscop Mass.

Darcy and Shahira supported Fr. Adrian Dixon and Seminarian David excellently in leading Mass for our primary schools and parishioners and helped to lead the service with passion, dedication and faith.

We are immensely grateful to Fr. Adrian for providing our students with exciting opportunities to get involved with the parish.

God bless and well done to the students involved.

Sports Corner

Year 7/8 Sports Hall Athletics Tyne & Wear Finals

On Friday 12th January our Year 7 and 8 students had a great day at the Tyne & Wear Sports Hall Athletics Finals. We were fortunate enough to have all our teams qualify to represent South Tyneside for the event, which turned out to be very competitive. All students from each year group performed fantastically and were able to achieve the following from the 10 schools at the event:

Year 7 boys - tied 3rd place

Year 7 girls - 5th place

Year 8 boys - 5th place

Year 8 girls - 5th place

Well done to all involved.



Year 12 Student off to World Championships!

This term, Laura Innes in Year 12 competed at the kick boxing world championships qualifiers in Chesterfield. Laura finished the event with 3 gold medals and a silver and has qualified for those World Championships in Italy later this year.

Well done Laura, a fantastic achievement!

Boys Handball Competitions:

A great day for our students this half term at the South of the Tyne Handball Competition at Temple Park.

In the morning our Year 10 students played fantastically well through the tournament and managed to come away with the Gold medal.

In the afternoon our Year 8 team were part of a very competitive and very close competition that saw the boys finished in third place having been beaten narrowly by 2nd and 1st in matches that could have gone either way.

Well done to all involved!

Boys badminton Competition:

A great evening at the Key Stage 4 Boys badminton competition at Boldon School. Both teams played some great stuff and learnt a lot from the experience. If you would like to come along to badminton club it is open to all year groups on a Tuesday from 3-4pm in the sports hall.



Art Attack

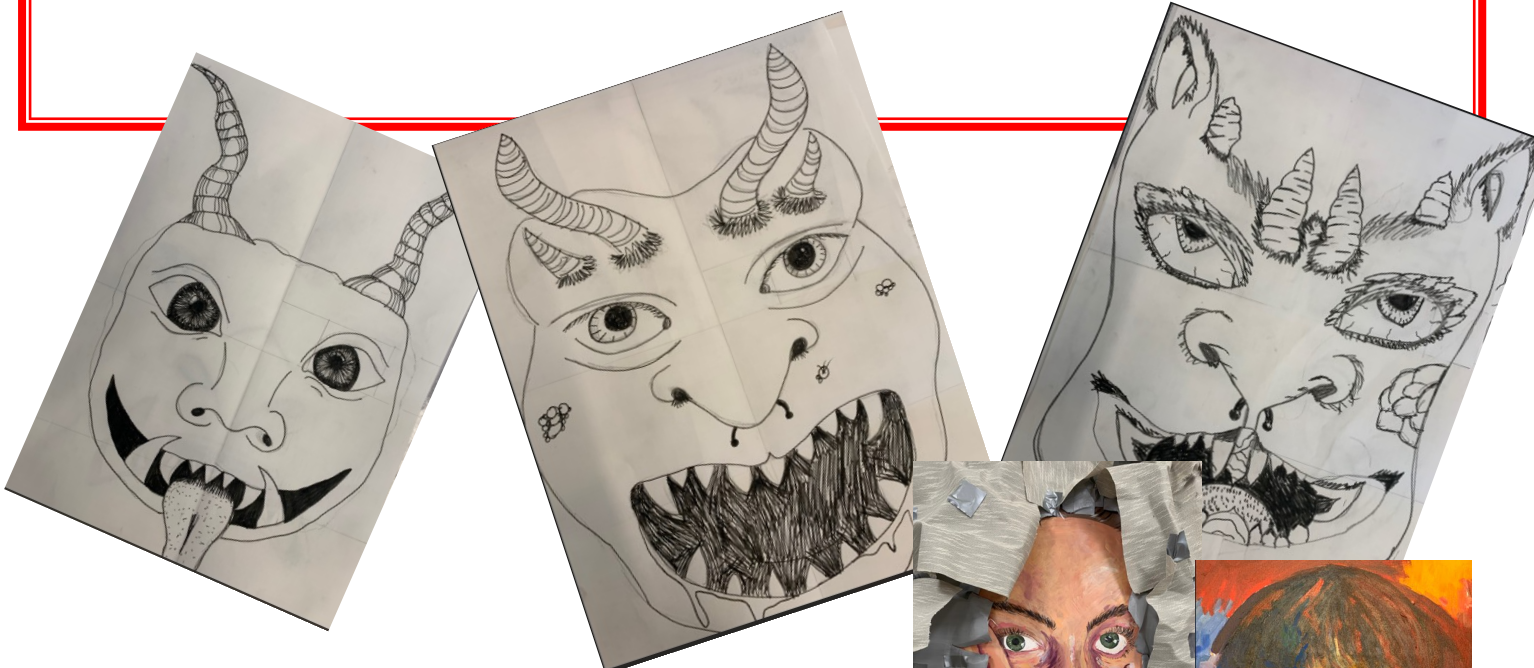
Year 9 art

The Year 9 students have been designing fantasy creatures to inspire their clay gargoyles that they will make after half term.

Some facts about Gargoyles

Gargoyles are waterspouts set high on a building that direct rainwater away from the building's walls. Most gargoyles are carved from a block of solid stone. They are made to look like animals, monsters, laughing or scowling humans, dragons, or demons. A channel, or groove, cut along the top of the statue directs rainwater away from the building through the gargoyle's open mouth and onto the streets below. Today people often call any stone carving of a strange creature a gargoyle. However, if such carvings are not waterspouts they are not technically gargoyles. Instead they are known as chimeras.

Gargoyles have been used for more than 2,000 years. They were most popular in parts of Europe during the later Middle Ages, from about 1000 to 1500 CE. During that time the largest and most important building in any town was the church or cathedral. Those buildings were costly to build. There were many skilled workers involved and precious materials used. Rainwater running down the walls would eventually ruin the building. Therefore, workers carved decorative statues to act as waterspouts. At the end



Sixthform students responding to portraiture.

What type of art is portraiture?

Portraits are a visual representation of a person which can be created in any artistic medium. Portraits of people are often in traditional oil paintings, and more recently photographs. However, sculpture and even mixed media artworks can also be portraits.



'That is when the trouble started for the Jews. Our freedom was severely restricted by a series of anti-Jewish decrees.' Anne Frank, diary entry, Saturday 20 June, 1942 – reflecting back on May 1940 when the Germans arrived in the Netherlands.



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

*Learning from genocide -
for a better future*

Fragility of Freedom

Freedom means different things to different people. What is clear is that in every genocide that has taken place, those who are targeted for persecution have had their freedom restricted and removed, before many of them are murdered. Not only do perpetrator regimes erode the freedom of the people they are targeting, demonstrating how fragile freedom is, they also restrict the freedoms of others around them, to prevent people from challenging the regime. Despite this, in every genocide there are those who risk their own freedom to help others, to preserve others' freedom or to stand up to the regime.

HMD 2024 marks the 30th anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. 49 years after the Holocaust ended, 19 years after the genocide in Cambodia, the world stood by as Hutu extremists shattered the fragile freedom in Rwanda, follow-



Perpetrators of genocide reduce freedoms before they commit genocide. It can be a gradual process where freedom of speech, movement, religion, self identify and reproduction. It ends with **freedom to live**. Genocide is the ultimate manifestation of violence ending freedom to live. During the Holocaust, six million Jewish people – men, women, children and babies – were brutally murdered in fields, ghettos, concentration camps and death camps. In more recent genocides, vast numbers of people have been murdered purely because of their faith, ethnicity, or other form of identity.

Anne Frank's comment, quoted above, concludes 'You couldn't do this and you couldn't do that, but life went on'. But of course, for Anne, and millions of others, life did not go on – they were deliberately murdered. Building upon the multiple restrictions on their freedoms, their freedom of life was destroyed. On HMD 2024, we can all reflect on how freedom is fragile and vulnerable to abuse. As we come together in communities around the UK, let's pledge not to take our freedoms for granted, and consider what we can do to strengthen freedoms around the world.

At 8pm on 27 January people across the nation will light candles and put them safely in their windows to:

- remember those who were murdered for who they were
- stand against prejudice and hatred today

HMD 2024

Iconic buildings and landmarks will light up in purple during this powerful national moment of commemoration and solidarity.

The Holocaust Memorial Trust will light 6 million candles in a digital vigil across the nation's billboards – 6 million candles for 6 million lives lost during the Holocaust. We can join in with vigil and take a moment to remember people who have their freedom taken away.

February Tudor Events: Unravelling the Intrigues of the Past

As we approach year 11 making their choices to what they will be studying at A-Level, the History A-Levels we study Revolution and Dictatorship in Russia 1917 until 194 and the Tudors. The Tudor era, spanning from 1485 to 1603, was a time of political intrigue, cultural transformation, and royal drama. In February, just like any other month, significant events unfolded that left an indelible mark on Tudor history.

1. **Birth of Mary I (February 18, 1516):**

February witnessed a notable Tudor birth - that of Mary I, the first surviving daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon. Mary would later become the first queen regnant of England, ascending to the throne in 1553. Her reign, known for the attempt to restore Catholicism to England, was marked by challenges and controversies, earning her the nickname "Bloody Mary."



2. **Execution of Lady Jane Grey (February 12, 1554):**

The short-lived reign of Lady Jane Grey came to a tragic end in February 1554. After being proclaimed queen for just nine days in July 1553, Lady Jane Grey was imprisoned and later executed on the orders of Mary I. Her execution symbolized the tumultuous power struggles within the Tudor dynasty.



3. **Mary Queen of Scots is executed (February 8, 1587):**

During the 19 years that Mary Stuart is Elizabeth's prisoner, some English Catholics form plots to liberate her and to place her on the throne of England. Finally, Mary is accused of having a part in the so-called Babington Plot to assassinate Elizabeth. Parliament demands her execution, Elizabeth signs the warrant, and Mary is beheaded on February 8, 1587. The Golden Age starring Cate Blanchett and Mary Queen of Scots starring Margot Robbie are both excellent depictions of the event.

4. **Marriage of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn (February 14, 1533):**

Valentine's Day took on a historical significance in 1533 when Henry VIII secretly married Anne Boleyn. Anne was already pregnant with Elizabeth and Henry was frantic that the baby would be classed as illegitimate. This marriage played a pivotal role in the English Reformation, as it ultimately led to Henry's separation from the Catholic Church and the establishment of the Church of England.

5. **Death of Henry VII (February 21, 1509):**

February also marks the death of Henry VII, the first Tudor monarch, on February 21, 1509. His death paved the way for his son, Henry VIII, to ascend to the throne. The death of Henry VII was kept a secret for three days to arrest and imprison members of the council who did not fit with the Prince of Wales style. Henry VII's reign had brought stability to England after the Wars of the Roses, laying the foundation for the Tudor dynasty.



As we explore the Tudor events that unfolded in February, we gain insight into the complex web of politics, marriages, and power struggles that defined this remarkable era. These events continue to captivate our imagination and remind us of the enduring legacy of the Tudor dynasty in shaping the course of English history. If you require any further information on GCSE or A-Level courses please speak to any member of the History department.

St. Joseph's Catholic Academy

STUDENT ENTRANCE



Achieve, Believe, Excel and make life long memories.

Applications for Sixth Form are now open!

Be a part of our fantastic sixth form family. We offer 24 courses for you to choose from with expert subject staff. You will be supported by a highly experienced pastoral team every step of the way.

What are you waiting for!

*applications close March 31st.



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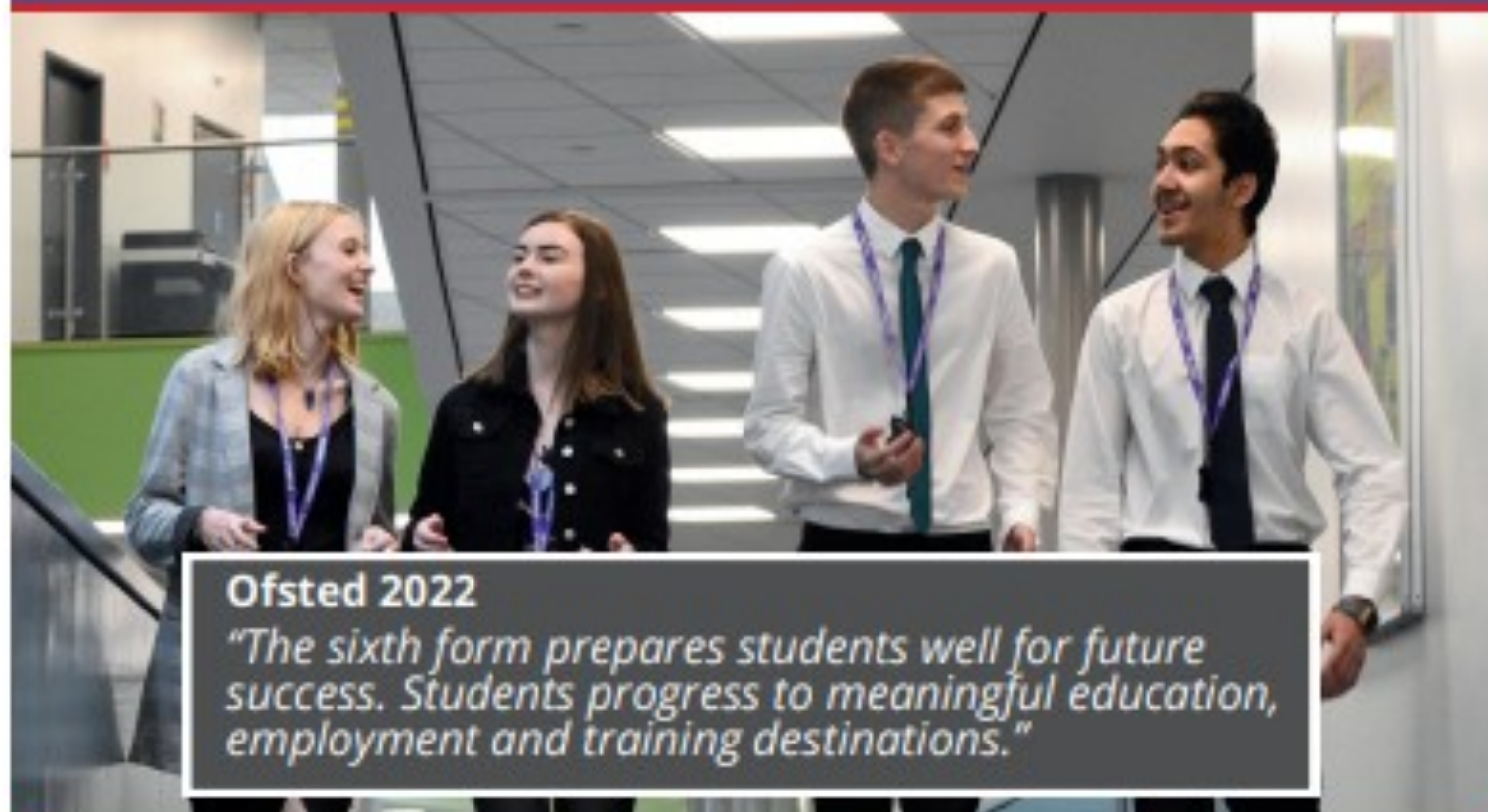


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www.stjosephs.uk.net/sixth-form

St. Joseph's Catholic Academy



Ofsted 2022

"The sixth form prepares students well for future success. Students progress to meaningful education, employment and training destinations."

- St. Joseph's has a well-established and highly successful sixth form, centred on our school core values 'faith, learning and respect'.
- Subjects are carefully selected to ensure pupils have the necessary qualifications and skills for successful entry into university, apprenticeships, further education or employment.
- Students are supported each step of their sixth form journey by our experienced pastoral team.
- Our careers and enrichment programme provides opportunities in a wide variety of activities, including sports leadership, world challenge, peer mentoring, community placement, work experience and coordinating whole school charity events.
- We work with Durham, Newcastle, Northumbria and Sunderland universities to prepare students for the next stage of their life journey.



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www.stjosephs.uk.net/sixth-form



St. Joseph's Catholic Academy



Post – 18 Careers Fair
Tuesday 16 April | 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Come along and chat to representatives from over 30 organisations.
For all students & parents in years 9 – 13.

Hear it from the professionals of exactly what entry requirements you need to achieve, what subjects you need to take at A Level, what work experience would be helpful, in addition to specific details of the job role / university course.

COTTAM
WORLD CLASS BRUSHES



University of
Sunderland

Newcastle
University



NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE

SIEMENS

Northumbria
University
NEWCASTLE

Durham
University

HITACHI
Inspire the Next



NHS

CATERPILLAR

A Pastoral Reflection

As we embark on a new academic journey, it's only fitting to take a moment to reflect on the initial strides we've made in the early days of this school term. It is great to witness the bustling corridors once again coming to life with the energy of our students

In particular I'd like to commend our students for extending a warm welcome to those joining our community for the first time. The diversity of talents, interests, and backgrounds is a testament to the richness of our collective community.

As we reflect on the commencement of this term, it is paramount to underscore the significance of consistent attendance. Attending classes regularly is more than a routine; it is a commitment to one's own education and a demonstration of respect for the learning environment. The connections forged in the classroom, the exchange of ideas, and the collaborative learning experiences are all heightened when every member of our community is present.

I do hope that the rest of the school year unfolds with a sense of purpose, determination, and the unwavering belief that, together, we can achieve great things.

Mr McConway