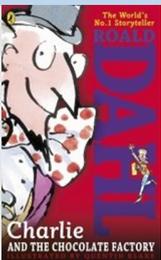




Message from the Head

What a fantastic start to the new school year. The new year 7 have had a smooth and positive transition and are now navigating their way around the building with ease! Year 11 and 13 have returned focused, committed to their learning and are preparing for their first mock examinations with maturity. We wish them luck in their first mock exam experience in November. Our sporting teams have been as active as ever, with success in girls trampolining and sixth form football to name but a few. There is a wealth of extra-curricular clubs at the moment for students—everything from debating to choir to table tennis. It is our aim that every child will attend at least one club during the school year. On Thursday 21st October, the half term ends with 'show racism the red card' day, with lots of information about this charity, a visit from Councillor Ellison and some fund raising activities for the charity, including football and nail painting. We also have a visit from some year 5 students on this day and they looking forward to being involved. Can I remind parents that if you collect students at the end of the day, to use car park 1. I wish you all a restful and fun-filled half term. Mr Mitchell.

This week's book recommendation:



Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

This week I have been reading an old-school classic with my family, Roald Dahl's fabulous 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. A story of hope, a story of poverty, a story of opportunity and importantly a story of great faith. Despite growing up in difficult circumstances, Charlie has deep faith and a deep desire to make life better for the people he loves. He doesn't care about his own desires but exhibits selflessness, care for others and love for all those he meets. This book for me teaches us to keep the faith and trust in the Lord with all our heart, all our might and all our soul. God bless.

This Week in



Black History Month – October is Black History Month and students at St Joseph's have taken part in school by celebrating their black heroes, an assembly and discussions within History lessons on why it is celebrated. A special thanks to those students who took part in assemblies from year 8 and year 10!

Black History Month:

Wear Red Day

During October we have been celebrating the phenomenal Black History Month raising awareness for the need for greater tolerance and understanding in the world, exploring the work of some amazing role-models from history, sport, culture, art, the media and music. Our celebration culminated in a special 'Wear Red Day' where students took part in a brilliant array of activities ranging from musical performances, sports cross-bar challenges, tuckshops, liturgies and poetry competitions to name but a few.

Thank you to all the students and staff who have worked so hard to make this month such a powerful, enriching and thought-provoking experience.

Quote for the Week:



"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, we are all **one** in Christ Jesus".
St. Paul.

5/10/1936 – 200 men left Jarrow on the Jarrow March and helped to shape the necessary conditions for the transition to the welfare state. Students in year 9 complete a homework project on this piece of local History – keep an eye out in your History classrooms for amazing examples of previous projects!

12/10/1492 – Christopher Columbus landed on San Salvador, marking the beginning of exploration of America by Europeans. Year 8 are currently studying exploration in History lessons, linking into empires and their effects on the world!



SAFEGUARDING:

Safeguarding Leads in school are: Mrs. Hammill Deputy Headteacher and Mrs Lewis-Dale Deputy Headteacher. Also your child's Head of House as first point of contact.

Welcome to our new regular feature: Deacon's Corner



Parish connections:

Our school community is blessed to have the support of amazing parish clergy. People who dedicate their lives to providing us with spiritual guidance, pastoral care and help us all to journey further along our own spiritual paths. One of these amazing people is Deacon Kevin, based in the parishes of Jarrow who this week is launching our new regular feature 'Deacon's Corner' to update you with what is going on in the parishes, help us to reflect and give us exciting spiritual food for thought! Enjoy and thank you Kevin.



I love this time of year, the changes of the seasons the colours that nature surrounds us with and yet we are also surrounded by the damage we are doing to nature, to our earth.

It is so easy to say it's not my problem, it's the governments of the world, it's the problem of big manufacturers or it's anyone older than me.

Well, that's not true. All of us are called to look after God's creation in any way we can. Pope Francis says to you, "It is said that you are the future, but in these matters, you are the present, you are those who are making the future today, in the present."

You can have a positive effect by simply being aware of where you throw your rubbish, or you can take more steps in the home to challenge others to change how we use plastics or create less rubbish.

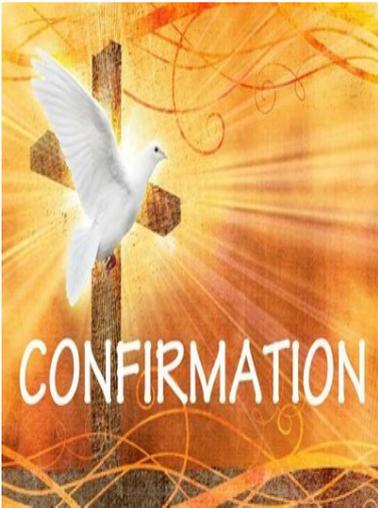
Whatever you can do, do it today, be part of the creative, life-giving solution to our planet's care.

We believe that God created the whole earth, so it is special. Creation shows God's power and great love for all life.

Let us pray for our Earth - All powerful God, you are present in the universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with your peace that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution or destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle, for justice, love and peace.



St. Joseph's Ethos page



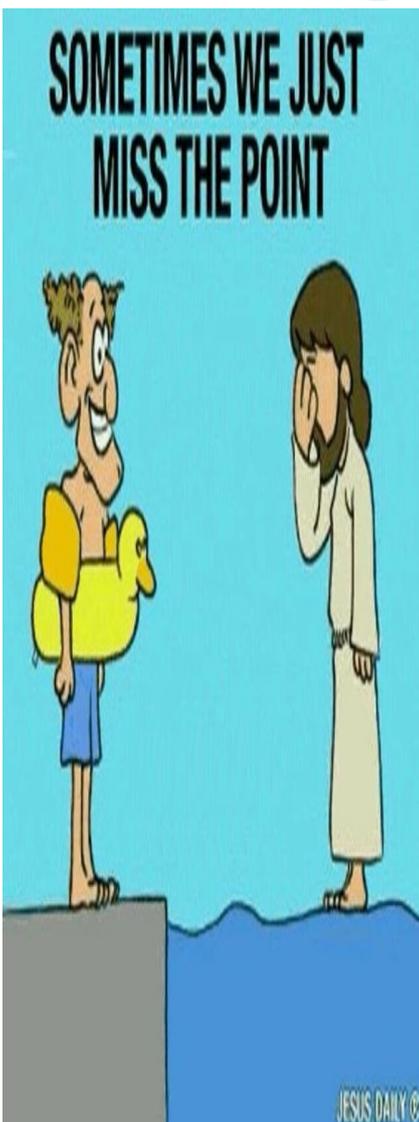
The Jarrow Confirmation programme!

We are delighted that lots of our fabulous students in Years 9-13 have joined our confirmation programme running weekly at St. Bede's RC Church in Jarrow.

Students have begun a series of sessions looking at topics like faith journeys, inspirational role-models, baptisms, confirmation names and sacraments. They will have the opportunity to go on a day retreat to YMT youth village and explore their faith deeply through a series of games, fun and faith based reflections before being confirmed by Bishop Robert Byrne on Thursday 9th December 2021. Please can you hold all our students taking part in the course in your thoughts and prayers.

God bless.

Chaplain Adam's 'Thought for the Week'



As ambitious people, we want to get things right all the time. We spend so much time trying to get things right, even to the point of perfection, that we don't take a step back and see the larger picture. We become overly focused on the task at hand that we miss out on what we should actually be doing rather than why we started a task in the first place!

A rich man came to Jesus and asked him what he should do to become a better person. He had followed all the rules, never cheated anyone, paid all his taxes in full and followed Jesus' advice. Looking at him, Jesus felt a deep love for him inside and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." Jesus knew that it was not about just physically and outwardly doing the right thing by "ticking the boxes". It is about having a change of heart from within. It is not necessarily about following things literally; it's about genuinely embracing what we are doing for the right reasons as the Gospel values tell us.

Recently, I spent a lot of time planning for a children's party which included loads of activities from professional party planners, trendy music, trendy costumes, strobe lights...etc. It was going to cost a few hundred pounds for two hours of entertainment for a bunch of eight year old children. To my surprise, I attended a children's party the following week, and the children had a great time. There was no fancy dress, no strobe lights, no DJ's, and very little fancy amenities. However, it was perfect. The children embraced the moment to the full and had just the same amount of fun, if not that same, had they'd been to an expensive catered party!

You see, I'd missed the point. They did not. They enjoyed the company of their friends, and thrived off the simple silly games. They embraced the moment by living out their day with joy and purpose – which was to have fun with each other. They saw the bigger picture for being there.

Let us remind ourselves, that whilst it's important taking time to plan activities, work, etc, we should always take a step back to refocus and channel our thoughts. This will help us put our faith, life and daily living into perspective. Amen



AWESOME ART



Every edition we feature some of the amazing work from our fantastic art department.

Below you can learn about where some of our incredibly talented art graduates have gone on to following their successful studies at St. Joseph's and you can also learn about the exciting projects they are currently involved with in their lessons. Thanks, as always, to the incredibly hardworking Team ART for inspiring our wonderful students.



This month in Art, we are celebrating diversity by asking every student to write their family heritage on paper stone which will be joined together to form a collaborative art piece in school.

Put simply, it's a chance to celebrate the cultural diversity of our school community and find out more about what we have in common, whilst learning openness and appreciating differences.

You can watch a short video about this creative collaboration on;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hX8kEHEILqs&t=5s>



Having not stepped foot in an art gallery for 18 months, the art department was thrilled to take a group of aspiring artists and photographers to the Laing and Baltic art gallery during enrichment week last term.

We were especially excited to see the work of former A Level artist Rosalind Byass, whose painting was proudly displayed in an exhibition of lockdown artwork.



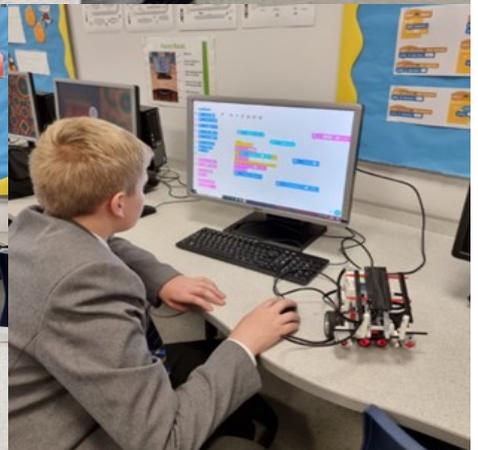
Since returning to school, we have been creating art work inspired by Remembrance Sunday. We are decorating the school with poppies for all to enjoy.



Extra Curricular Programme



Here at St. Joseph's we are passionate about providing enriching, stimulating and exciting extra-curricular opportunities. We have launched 36 clubs for students across the key stage spectrum to partake in and we have launched our weekly 'Give it a Go' taster sessions too. Below is a selection of some of the fantastic clubs going on, this week including pictures from Cookery Club, Robot Wars club and Dance Club.





Performing Arts club



St Joseph's popular and successful Performing Arts Club has started up again after the enforced break due to Covid 19. The Club, which meets in the main hall after school each Thursday, attracts pupils from year 7 right up to year 13, to take part in games, role plays and performing various scripts.

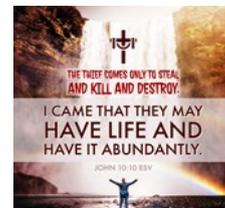
Recent sessions have involved pupils rehearsing scenes from the evergreen pantomime *Aladdin*, playing the roles of the villainous Abanazer, our hero Aladdin and the very comical Genie of the Lamp. Past productions have included *Our House*, *Oliver!* and *Hairspray* and the Club hope to undertake another big show in the near future.

Any pupils who are interested in joining can come along on Thursdays or speak to Mr Middleton or Mrs McEwen for more information.

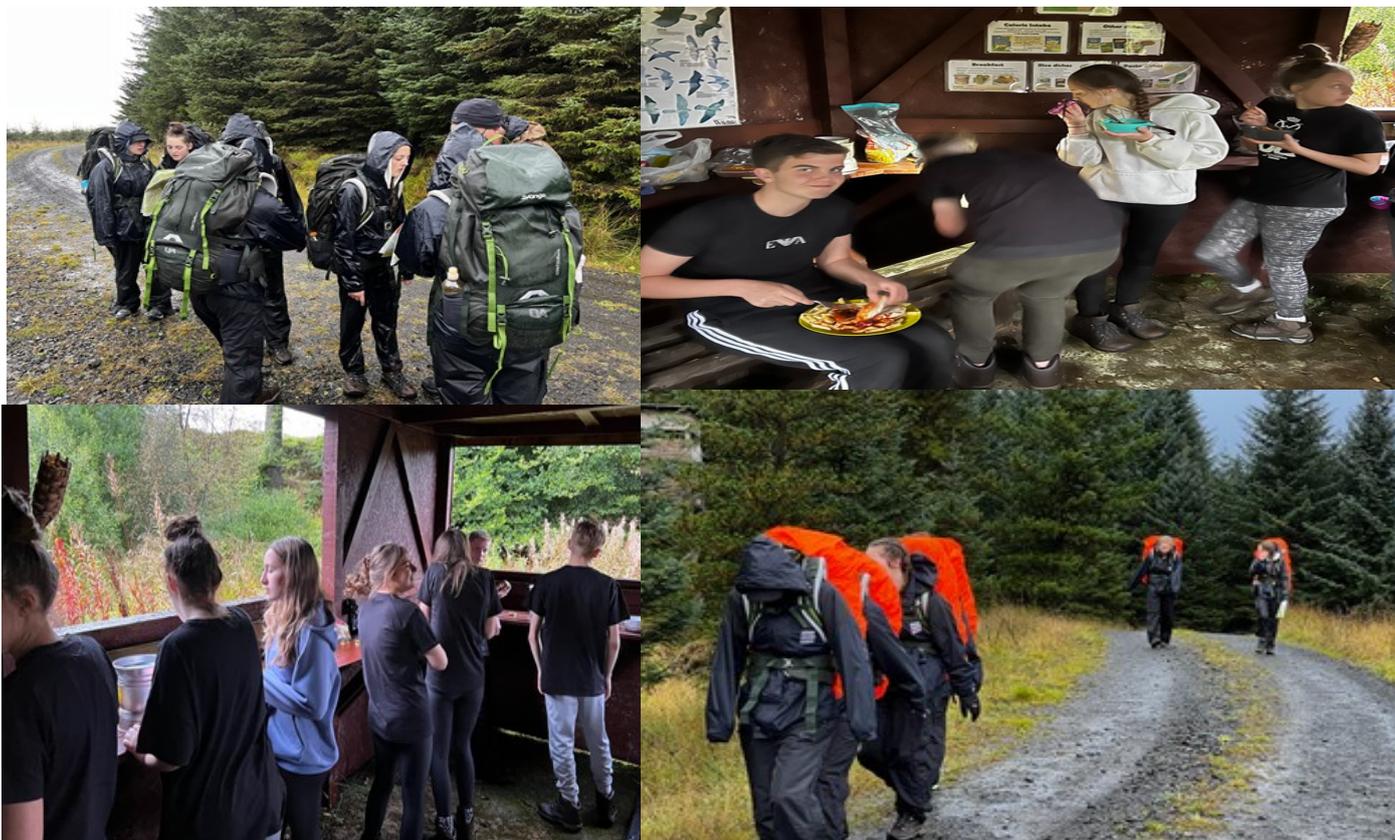




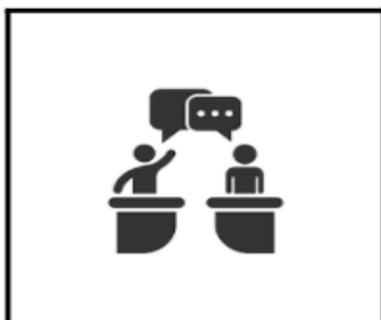
Extra Curricular Programme



Congratulations to our Year 11 Duke of Edinburgh award participants. They completed their Bronze qualifying expedition at the beginning of October in some horrendous rain. Yet despite the bad weather, they all showed grit, determination and positivity and have successfully completed the Bronze expedition section of their awards. Well done to all involved, Mr Simpson.



Speak up!



Pupils in year 10 and 11 are invited to join the newly established St Joseph's Debating and Public Speaking Club, which takes place in A119 on Tuesdays from 3-4pm. Debating is a team activity where students are challenged to put together and engage with logical arguments. It is a great way to improve general knowledge and the ability to be persuasive, as well as to develop confidence in public speaking and honing your research skills. Most importantly, it encourages the willingness to hear others' arguments, and to respond to them fluently, without it deteriorating into a full blown fight! Founder members from year 10 said, "These skills are sought after by universities and it's fun arguing about serious issues like climate

change, as well as less serious ones such as whether brains are more important than beauty." Another participant added, "It's brilliant for improving your confidence and skills in English and makes it easy to meet other pupils with similar interests." Once the Club has been up and running for a while, it's hoped that teams can be entered into one of the many local or national competitions which take place regularly. Any KS4 pupils who are interested should come along to A119 on Thursdays or see Mrs McEwen for more information.

Vocations Spotlight



On Thursday 7th October students in Year 11 and Sixth Form had the opportunity to meet Canon Paul Douthwaite, head Catholic Prison Chaplain for England and Wales. Canon Paul shared his vocation story exploring his ministry as an RAF Padre and a Prison Chaplain. He reflected upon the fascinating role of a prison chaplain and how they are called to be 'all things to all people' as Jesus outlines in the Gospels. Students were given a flavour of life in prisons for inmates and the role that ministers of religion play in supporting the spiritual needs of both prisoners and officers. Students posed some fascinating and deeply thought-provoking questions and were in awe of the answers that Canon Paul gave. Thank you Canon Paul for your time, your inspirational reflections and your commitment to working with our young people.

God bless.



Vocations talks coming soon:

In November Padre David Smith will be joining us to talk about his life as a British Army Military Chaplain.

We will also be joined by Gram Seed from Sowing



PE Trampolining Club

This half-term, students in the PE's incredibly talented Trampolining club attended the regional Trampolining championships held at South Tyneside. Students were outstanding ambassadors for St. Joseph's and gave 100% in every competition.

The students had great fun and great success at the games and really did themselves proud. Well done!





Black History Month



During Black History Month we asked students and staff to share with us who their heroes are for Black History Month. Can you work out who they have picked from the images below? Good luck and happy guessing!



Answers to this week's Riddles and jokes to entertain

1. Water
2. Lost
3. He was the best in his field
4. You can see right through them
5. A bloodhound

If you have a riddle or joke which you want in the next newsletter, please email Mrs Curry .



Sixth Form Core RE



In Year 12 and 13 Core RE all our students take part in an award called the 'Pope Francis Laudato Si Award: Silver and Gold levels'. This requires students to delve into contemporary Religious, Ethical and Philosophical issues in the modern world. Students are taught through a fortnightly lecture series delivered by passionate subject specialists and guest speakers as well as through fortnightly interactive seminar groups.

This course encourages students to think morally about the world, engage in social action and gives them excellent skills for university and the world of work ahead.

Year 12, during their seminar sessions, have been creating their own ethical businesses so far this term. They explore how ethics and morality plays an integral part in the working world and must use team work, leadership and motivational skills to present their own ethical businesses. Year 13 have been exploring issues of fertility treatments, refugees and immigration and the sanctity of life.



During our lecture programme students have been exploring fascinating religious customs from across the world, religion in film and media, eco-cities and sustainable living and we will be looking at restorative justice, redemption and crime and punishment in the coming weeks.