

St Joseph's Journal

Faith
Learning
Respect



Message from the Head

What a wonderful – and very busy – first half term we have had at St. Joseph's for the new academic year. Our 261 new year 7's and 97 new year 12's have settled in with remarkable ease, they have climatised well to their new environment and to the rigour of their new academic journey. Of course, we received a visit from Ofsted during the fourth week and the report will be available for viewing in early November. The inspectors spoke with over 300 students over the course of the two days as well as popping into lessons, tutorial and observing the school areas as a whole. Parents will be sent a link to the report once it is ready. Queen Elizabeth II infamously said "Grief is the price we pay for love," and the whole country were certainly united in their grief for our much loved monarch. A true inspiration for all generations. We wish Charles III well on his accession to the throne. Sadly, we have also felt the impact of Queen Elizabeth's word directly within our school community. Rafay Qureshi tragically passed away in July after a very short illness. He was an outstanding student whose kindness and infectious smile will always be remembered by all who knew him. Our love and condolences are with his family now and for always.

I wish you all a restful half term.

Mr Mitchell.

Chinese studies day at Newcastle university

On the 16th June the year 10 Mandarin class attended a Chinese studies day at Newcastle university. The day included a seminar, delivered by Dr Jo Smith Finley, about living in China and the opportunities that studying a Chinese language can afford us, a university and library tour where students got to try out the language lab, translation and interpretation tools, authentic bubble tea and Chinese snacks with lunch and a seminar on the 24 solar terms. Additionally, students were given the opportunity to create a tourism project, to promote locations in the UK using their foreign language skills, this was a brilliant showcase of what the students have learned so far and they were able to use their listening skills in order to vote for the winning project.



Always in our hearts

Rafay Qureshi

(2010 – 2022)

Rafay Qureshi tragically passed away in July 2022 after a short illness. He was a wonderful student, liked by all who met him and a delightful young man. His teachers all speak very highly of him, he was a true delight to teach. He and a very academic student who did not shy away from a challenge and would approach all his work with positivity.

His form tutor and members of his form class wanted to share some memories of Rafay with the wider community.

Mr Burns, Rafay's form tutor

8B1 and I were fortunate enough to get to know Rafay last year. My first memories of Rafay in those first few weeks were of a student who was inquisitive, friendly and very excited to be starting school at St Joseph's. Although Rafay did not know many people in Year 7 when starting, it didn't take him long to get to know people and make close friends. He always had a smile on his face that would light up the room each morning in registration. He was a valued friend to many, and he will be missed by all in 8B1, but always in our hearts.



Annual French Trip

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 and 2 year 12 pupils , with 8 teachers from St. Joseph's will be boarding a coach to embark on the first visit to Normandy and Disneyland Paris since 2019. Having run for over 30 years, the trip is often cited as one of the highlights of our students' school years. During the week, the pupils will visit a variety of sites related to World War 2, such as Omaha Beach and Pegasus Bridge and have the opportunity to practise their French speaking skills in shops, markets and cafés in the Normandy area. 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! Today it is a 3* hotel, where the children will be taking part in lots of different activities in its extensive grounds. On Wednesday, they'll be up at the crack of dawn for the trek to Paris, where they'll visit the artists' quarter of Montmartre, the beautiful Sacre Coeur and the 210 metre observation deck at the top of the Montparnasse Tower. Thursday sees them heading 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 Dunkirk 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.



Keir Starmer's keynote speech

St Joseph's students were delighted to be given the opportunity to take some A Level politics students to hear the leader of the opposition, Keir Starmer's keynote speech in Gateshead. We were joined by former Politics students from St. Joseph's who got to ask some probing questions. They also got the opportunity to speak with local MP Kate Osborne and the Police and Crime Commissioner Kim McGuinness. Alongside students at St Wilfrid's, they were a credit to the Bishop Chadwick Trust and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Summer Reading Community

As a parting gift from their time at St Joseph's, the students from 11D2 helped to create family reads for people in the community. The books were all donated as part of the book exchange held in school in March but are aimed at younger readers. We have decided to share the books with families in the community, leaving them in bags (with a message from the students) around the local parks for children to enjoy this summer. Students from Year 7 have been dropping them off on benches on their way home from school. Keep your eyes peeled for one of our collection.



Good Causes

With the summer term in full swing and the 6 weeks holiday fast approaching, it seemed fitting to support some worthy causes within our school and wider community.

With an abundance of cakes and plants, during the week commencing 20 June, we raised over £20 for Jarrow WI through cake sales.



The sales from bedding and perennial plants raised £9.90 – an amazing total considering most plants were 10p and 20p. This money went towards sponsoring our St Joseph's Race For Life team, at Monkton Stadium, which took place on 15-16 July.



Well done everyone who gave up their diets, money and time, to give back to the community. Our school is such a special place, where we all grow together (including our waistlines; but that was offset by many, with the Race For Life).

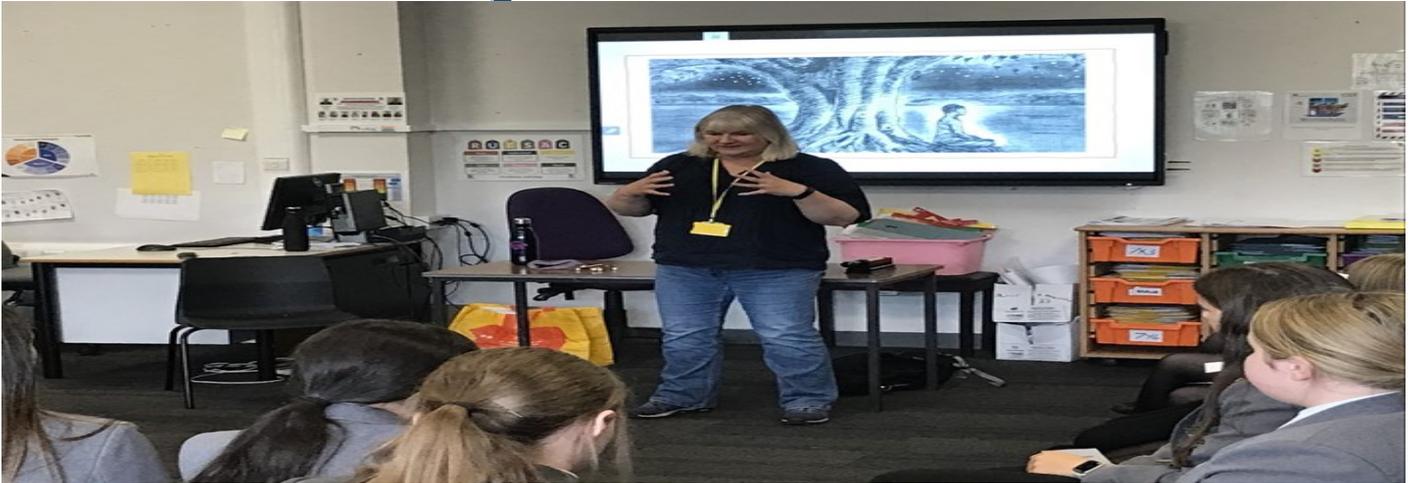
STEMFest NET ZERO

On the 6th July, Miss Oliver and Mr Smail took 30 Year 8 students to St. James' Park to take part in STEMFest NET ZERO. The theme for this year was climate change and there were lots of things to get involved in, from construction to energy and we even got some trees to bring back and plant at school! Students had a special treat and were taken into the stands to see the pitch and were given a talk about the stadium. We had a great day!



Guest speaker series:

RE students experience Buddhism first-hand



As part of our guest speaker program in Religious Education, Y7 students met with Wendy Gray a Buddhist and a physicist who works at Durham University on Tuesday 5th July 2022. Wendy talked about how she has practised Buddhism for 25 years, the role her faith has played in her life, the prayers that she feels have been answered. She also wowed our students with her impressive Buddhist chanting which she gave students a demonstration of in order to show them how Buddhists worship first hand.

Students were given a deeper insight to the role Kamma plays in Buddhism and how Buddhists treat the environment. Wendy taught students that 'the change of heart of one person can change the destiny of mankind forever'. Our students were then given the chance to ask some thought-provoking questions which proved for fruitful discussion.

As part of the talk, Wendy brought in key artefacts from her religion to help students understand how Buddhists worship.

Students were able to see her own personal shrine and she talked passionately about the role that lay Buddhists can play in changing the world. Wendy was keen to express how faith is something best shared between individuals and that to truly impact people you have to deal with people one on one and live out good deeds and actions to individuals. Thank you Wendy for your support, time and inspirational talk.



'Deacon's corner'

I am a wild child, the wild is my home. What does that mean "A Wild Child"?

In one dictionary the explanation given is this – 'a **young person who acts in an uncontrolled way**, for example not obeying their parents, drinking too much alcohol, etc.: he was a wild child when younger.

That's one way of being a 'Wild Child', but there's another, it's about seeing yourself made in God's image, made to be wild - alive, passionate, expressive and creative, hope – filled, uncontrollably loving & giving, over- generous, patient, quiet and reflective, loud and joyful, calm and mad, continually seeking within and at the same time always ready to reach out, to find the precious gift of God close to your heart, yet always making him available for others.

Being this Wild Child, is a much more engaging, exciting, and fulfilling experience.

What kind of Wild child do you see yourself as?

As your heading to the summer break, have a Wild summer, in the loving presence of your great Heavenly Father!

Remember, you were made to live with and for God in the Wild of His presence, in the Wild of his love, He's all around you and He is calling you into this wild relationship with Him.

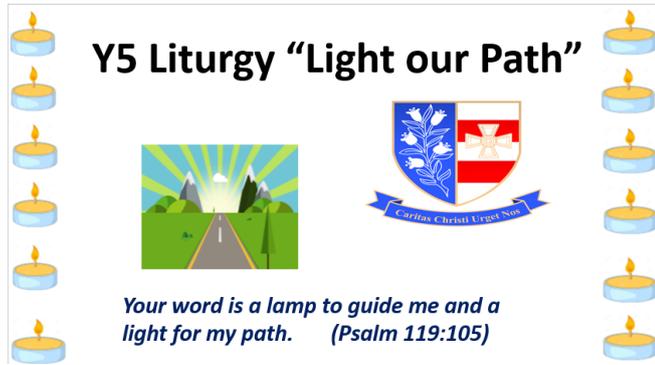
God bless, stay safe and live in the Wild love of the Holy Spirit.

By Deacon Kevin

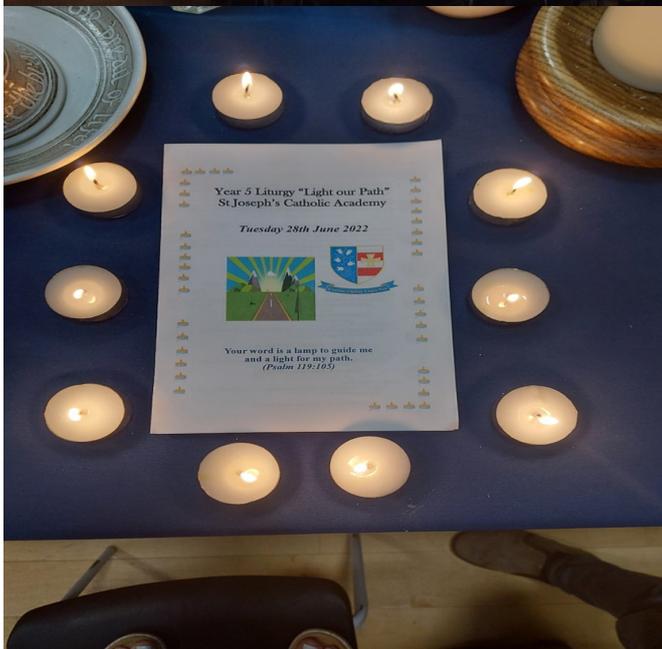
Y5 Transition: Liturgical prayer

On Tuesday 28th June 2022, students and staff from St. Joseph led a transition liturgical prayer for our feeder students from St. James', St. Bede's and St. Aloysius primary schools. The theme was 'light our path' as we begin to teach them about FLAME—our new school's mission statement.

Y5 Liturgy "Light our Path"



Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path. (Psalm 119:105)



Student buddies from Year 7 welcomed Year 5 students to the liturgical prayer, students sang Rend Collective's 'My Lighthouse' and reflected upon their own spiritual paths and the role that St. Joseph's will play along their spiritual journeys.

Students from both St. Joseph's and our feeder primaries read bible readings, psalms and bidding prayers before a final reflection from Chaplain Adam. Students were engaged and participated beautifully in worship.

Commemorate Holocaust Survivors and Victims

Recently we were asked to produce a piece of work to commemorate Holocaust survivors and victims showing that what they went through will never be forgotten and proving that we should still be educating ourselves to make sure we never have to relive what happened. Many people in the class created memorial pieces to make sure the lives of victims will forever live on: this included drawings, models and posters that represented certain events during the Holocaust. Over the past term we have been learning about stories and victims whose lives were completely changed by what took place during the war, this included Anne Frank, Eva Clarke and many more effected by the Holocaust. We have also learned about memorials that have been made a tribute to the victims including the room of shoes in Auschwitz, Anne Frank's diary and concentration camps that have now been turned into museums to remind us what life was like for victims of prejudice and inequality during the war. We hope that our pieces of work help to spread awareness of how horrifically people were treated during that period of time so we never have to re-visit times like that again.



Celebrating student success

On the 29 of April I went to Bristol to attend a National singing competition. I had already won the junior championship award in the regionals in Leeds in February. I went with all my friends that got either first or second prize. In the regionals my church (St Gregorios) got the first prize for being the best one there because everyone who participated from Newcastle got a prize. Only the people who got first and second prize could go to the nationals and in all the things I participated in I got first for all of them. Then me and my friends had to go to the nationals and I had to do the same thing again. The first category was a solo song in English and then the second was a solo song in Malayalam. I also performed two group songs without music.

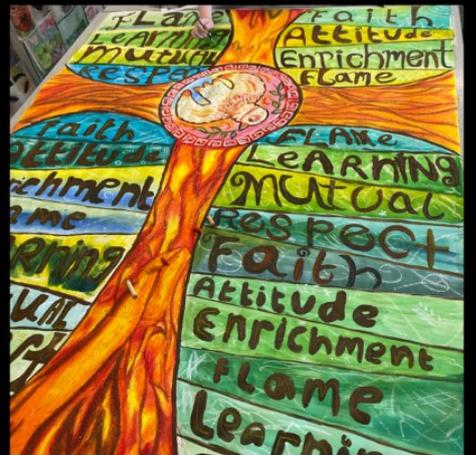
I was getting really nervous waiting for the trophy ceremony. We were all sitting together and I was shivering but also really excited. I was in the junior category and there were many different churches such as one from London, one from Liverpool, Bristol and many other places from across the country. When they said my name for the best junior singer I was really, really happy and I was so shocked. It was amazing! My parents were very proud of me and it was the same with my siblings and friends. I did not expect that and it was truly one of the best days of my life.



By Catherine Bikku

FLAME

On Monday 20th June, a group of talented Year 9 Artists worked with Mrs Crombie and Mrs Renwick to create a logo and posters to celebrate the launch of FLAME. Flame is a reminder of our schools' commitment to faith, Learning, Attitude, Mutual respect, and enrichment. The students used a variety of materials such as inks, oil pastels, acrylic paints, and wax. You will see the art pieces displayed in school and the logo used on school Communications.



**YEAR 9 ART STUDENTS
CREATING THE SCHOOL LOGO
FOR FLAME. 🔥🎨**

PIC·COLLAGE

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Monday 10 October, our wonderful Science Department hosted their annual Macmillan Coffee Morning, which was supported by all staff. An amazing £138.08 was raised for this wonderful charity. Well done to everyone involved!

Thanks

Debbie



Getting involved

Joseph's Academy will be running our Christmas campaigns this year.

- International **Operation Christmas Shoe Box Appeal** - Deadline 14 November
- **Hebburn Helps** Local Food Pantry Collection - Deadline 21st Dec

HEBBURN HELPS

Community Foodbank & Crisis Response



