

St Joseph's Journal

Faith
Learning
Respect



Message from the Head

With the mornings and evenings becoming lighter and brighter we have had a beautiful end to the first half term of 2023. With the new year, students have had the perfect opportunity to make New Year's resolutions with many having committed to trying out new things in school, whether that be a new extra-curricular club or a new menu choice for lunch and of course collecting FLAME credits for their efforts. Students have been working hard in their lessons and year 7 are making excellent progress in their accelerated reading. Year 11, 12 and 10 BTEC students have sat external examinations this half term as well as the year 11 and 13 mock exams beginning in this final week; we wish all our students luck for these and we know they will see the benefits of their revision and preparation. Over half term we have had some year 7 and year 8 students going to Thurston for a fantastic activity holiday and we know they will have such good fun with their friends, making life long memories on the way. For the rest of us, we will recharge our batteries next week ready to finish the spring term with the energy it deserves.

Take care,

Mr Mitchell.



The anti-bullying poster design winners have had their work professional enhanced. The pupils are over the moon with the results and can't wait for their work to be displayed around school.

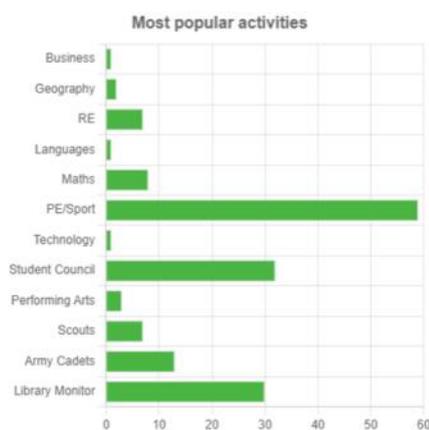
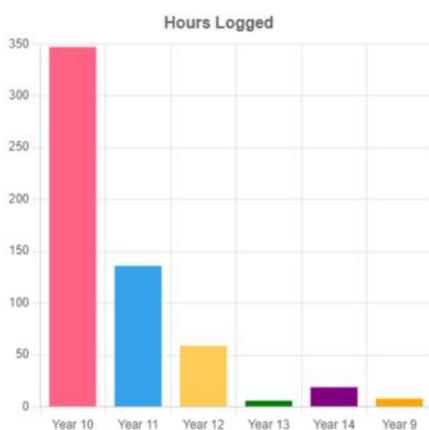
Hollie Tyrie 7A2
Chloe Fenwick 7A2
Calvin Caine 7D1

Leadership and Volunteering Passport

Over 90 students from Key stage 4 and 5 are now registered on a Leadership and Volunteering Passport. The website allows students to collate their volunteering hours in a user friendly way and helps the school track what our young people are doing.

All of these students go the extra mile to help others in the community of St Joseph's and beyond, as well as gaining valuable experience and accreditations along the way. As students reach different milestones they are rewarded with a certificate based on how many hours they have volunteered for and the competition heats up as students appear on a virtual leader board for all to see.

The website designed and run by Gateshead School Sport Partnership is using two pilot schools for the programme, before launching it to a wider network of schools. Participating schools will also be placed on a league table based on the hours their students volunteers. St Joseph's students have volunteered for over 500 hours since the website was launched and this total is set to grow as more and more students register. We will look forward to seeing how we fare against other schools in the coming years.



League table

Pos	Name	Hrs
1	COURTNELL, Jessica	70 🏆
2	EGAN, Conor	66 🏆
3	HILLIS, Lewis	52 🏆
4	MARTIN, Daniel	30
5	ROBSON, Jack	23

FLAME

FLAME has been embraced by our pupils and whole school community this term and we are very proud of how our pupils have let their light shine in so many different ways. Over 60 000 FLAME credits have been awarded this term which is an indication of how much Faith, Learning, good Attitude, Mutual Respect and Enrichment is going on in school. The incredible hard work of our pupils and staff is humbling!

Thank you so much

Barbara Berry

'The Jill Scott Pitch'

Anna Oakes, Year 7, was able to take part in the opening of 'The Jill Scott Pitch' at Perth Green in Jarrow; she had a fantastic experience.

It's the first of over 20 brand new facilities to be opened nationwide, funded by the Football Foundation, directly off the back of the lionesses winning the Euros. All of these new facilities are named after the players.

Anna's had a great training session and played a 6-a-side game with Jill Scott. Anna has also been interviewed by several media outlets, so watch out for her on Sky Sports, BBC Breakfast, ITV etc.

Several of the coaches and officials commented on how excellent Anna is developing and improving, which is a credit to Shannon and the St. Joseph's Improtech coaches. We are very proud!



School Chapel Comes to Life!



With a new year comes rejuvenation and new beginnings. That's exactly what has occurred to our sacred space - our chapel. Inspired by our school colours, blue has been used as the focal colour in the sacred space and walls decorated with our school's saints have given the space a touch of holiness.

Although our chapel has been in our school for quite some time, it has now come to life with a splash of life, reminding us that we all need a splash of life, a splash of "newness" in our lives. The Gospels call us to find new life in the light of Christ, so to illuminate our lives, and our world. What better way to do that in our school by spending quiet time alone in this Sacred space that has been given a touch of life!

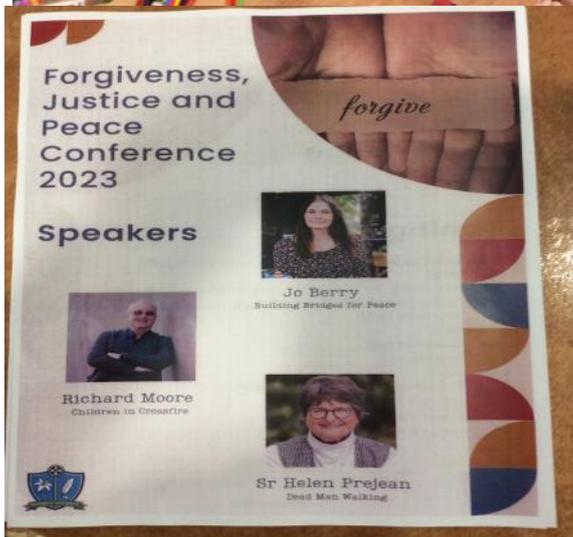
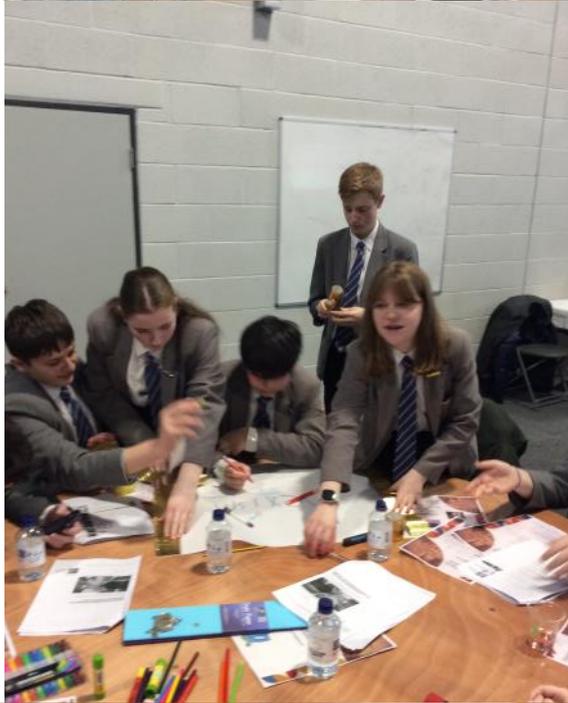
RE trip to the "Forgiveness, Justice and Peace" conference 2023



On Monday the 23rd January, ten year 9 students had the opportunity to attend the RE Forgiveness, Justice and Peace Conference at Our Lady and St Bede's in Stockton.

Students had the opportunity to hear from three amazing guest speakers called Richard Moore and Jo Berry (who had been caught up in the troubles in Northern Ireland) and from Sr. Helen Prejean, better known as the 'death row nun'.

Students then had the opportunity to create their own Catholic charity that would fight for Forgiveness, Justice and Peace and they then presented them to the other 150 students from the diocese who were there.



Y12/13 RSE Talk: Terrence Higgins Trust

terrence
HIGGINS
TRUST



On Monday 23rd January 2023 we were blessed with a visit from Sue and Steve from the Terrence Higgins Trust who had come in to talk to both Year 12 and 13 about HIV, HIV testing and treatment, and what it is actually like to live with HIV. This session is part of our RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) programme.

Both Sue and Steve gave immensely powerful testimonies of how they contracted HIV, how HIV has impacted their lives, issues of mental and emotional health, and how they manage this long-term condition.

It was fantastic for our students to hear first-hand about life with HIV and understand how we can prevent it and work towards no more HIV transmission in this country by 2030.

We are really grateful for the frank, honest and open testimonies given by both Sue and Steve, and we are appreciative of their support for our students in overcoming this virus.

God bless and thanks, for your amazing support.

The girls football squads continue to impress across all competitions!

Our Y7 girls have the last round of their South Tyneside central venue league fixtures next week, which will see 18 girls playing across 2 teams.

The Y8 and Y9 squads finished strongly in their CVL, with the Y9 squad taking gold and qualifying for the Tyne & Wear final.

The U13, U14 and U16 squads are all still in the County Cup. The U14 girls were victorious over Woodham Academy this week, winning 5-1 with Leila-Marie Hughes netting twice and being awarded player of the game.

The U15 girls squad were successful in their recent match in the National cup, which will see them take on Thomas Telford School on the quarter finals.

We have Y7, Y9, Y10 and Y11 teams who have qualified for the Northern finals of the Durham County Futsal Cups. Winning the next round will book teams a place in the County final.

We continue to be proud of the provision for girls football in our school and the number of girls wishing to play, alongside their success in each of the competitions they take part in.

Emily Booth in Year 10 continues in her role as the Barclays Ambassador for girls football in South Tyneside. Emily was successful in her application for the role due to her commitment to improving the provision of girls football across the borough.

She will be working with some of the primary schools in the area to provide opportunities for girls to play.

Our PlayStation FIFA 23 Championships got under way this week with the first round showing skill and dexterity across our students as they battle it out to become school champion. This is an exciting opportunity, with the winners representing the school in a National final at West Brom next term.

Keep an eye out on social media for updates on how the competition is progressing.

Our year 10 girls have continued their journey in the Young Women Leaders programme, with a workshop on Confidence.

Alongside this, our Female Influencer group met with the Y7 girls from Aidan and Bede to support them in becoming more resilient, confident, and less afraid to fail! Our influencers delivered a 5 min activity that was designed to help our students be more empowered, with students visiting all activities across the hour. They will be providing the same opportunity to the Cuthbert and Dunstan girls next week.



Celebrating success

U15 boys handball South Tyneside champions - going through to the County finals in March. A great competition with fantastic performances from Perry Boston and Will Goodall.

U13 boys handball silver medalists, just missed out on the gold medal by Boldon school in the final.

Year 12 and 13 Boccia leaders officiating a primary event with over 100 games officiated.

Boys badminton. A great experience in what was most students first experience of competition badminton.

Year 8 football team through to the 2 county cup quart finals after wins vs grace college and St John's school.

Year 8 futsal team came second in the area finals in a very competitive and close competition which saw all 4 teams separated by only 2 points.

Year 7 football team through to the county cup quarter finals and are playing Castlevie school in the coming days for a chance of making the semi finals.

Year 7 futsal team through to the county finals after winning a tight competition against fellow area winners Monkwearmouth, Cardinal Hume and St Bede's Lanchester.

Year 7 and Year 8 represented St Joseph's at the County final Sports Hall Athletics with the Year 7 boys picking up a bronze medal.



Basketball News

KS3 Basketball Club (Every Thursday 3-4pm)

One of the best attended extra curricular clubs taking place after school. Every week attendance figures regularly exceed 30+ students.



Under 16 Boys

After a tough start in night 1 through injury and availability our boys bounced back to qualify for the South of Tyne finals on Tuesday January 15th. The boys played extremely well in a very competitive set of games against Whickham, Cardinal Hume, St Thomas More, Mortimer and Emmanuel College finishing 4th overall. They now qualify for the Tyne & Wear final on 22nd March as a South Tyneside qualifier.

Under 14 Boys

A strong St Joseph's team fought off competition from all teams across South Tyneside to win the CVL over 3 nights. Our boys finished 1st with the gold medal after winning 8 matches from 8. The boys now move onto the Tyne & Wear finals on Wednesday 15th March.



Year 7 #NBA Opportunity

This is the first year we have taken part in this England basketball competition. A very raw and hard working squad has assembled and was awarded the New Orleans Pelicans franchise to represent. Other schools a teams represented included Whickham (Memphis Grizzlies), Hebburn (Houston Rockets), Burnside (Dallas Mavericks) and Harton (San Antonio Spurs).



Under 14 & U16 Girls

The girls South Tyneside competition is scheduled for Monday March 13th 2023. We are looking for students to represent both teams. Anyone interested has been asked to attend the basketball club (Thursday 3-4pm) or approach their PE teacher or Mr Rudd specifically.



ICT & Computing

Digital Graphics - KS3 students have been using Inkscape to hone their artistic skills whilst creating a range of fun graphics.

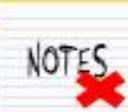


Supporting your child's revision and study at home



-  Encourage your child to create and then follow a timetable for their revision so that they can manage their work and time more effectively.

-  Encourage your child to use high impact retrieval activities for revision, such as making flash cards, self quizzing, creating Cornell notes pages, and completing knowledge dumps. These strategies help students to retain knowledge more effectively.

-  Remind your child that simply reading over notes, or reading a revision guide, has been proven to be less effective for revision than the retrieval activities listed above.

-  Help your child to find a suitable space for revision, a quiet space where they can focus on their work and have space for their materials.

-  Encourage your child to leave their mobile phone in another part of the house whilst they are revising to avoid distractions. If their phone is absolutely vital for their revision, then they could mute notifications or put their phone on silent to help them focus on the work and reduce the level of distraction.

-  Research has shown that last minute cramming for an exam is a poor way to revise. Revision should be spaced out over time. We all naturally forget things, but spaced revision helps us to remember more over time. Encourage your child to space their revision and remind them of this key research into memory.

Poem of the day!

“Hope” is the thing with feathers
By Emily Dickinson

“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the
words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is
heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I’ve heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.

Celebrating Talent



I attended the mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on the 19th of November. At this time, I had just started playing the cello and I was extremely grateful to have the opportunity to play at an event like this. I was completely new to being a part of an orchestra and performing in general, but I felt very welcome and it was such a friendly environment. I felt like I was part of this new community (and I still do), as I have made so many new friends and learned so many new pieces. From improving my note reading to keeping in time with the rest of the orchestra, I have developed lots of new skills that I am already able to use. Overall it was a really fun, yet educational experience.



Congratulations to St. Joseph's Spelling Bee team for winning the first round in the BCCET Competition. St. Joseph's team were incredible and showed off their amazing spelling knowledge and skills!



These are some impressive bleach/ink drawings inspired by natural forms. Created by year 11 students in the sixth form taster session

Crime Club

Members of St. Joseph's Crime Club went to see the world's longest running play, Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*, at Newcastle's Theatre Royal. As part of Crime Club, students get to explore the crime genre; the play was a chance to experience a genre-defining murder mystery from the best selling novelist of all time. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the play and everyone was putting on their detective hats during the interval, trying to guess the murderer. As is the famous convention of the play, the cast swore us to secrecy about the ending so you will have to go and see it to find out 'whodunnit!'.

Review from Lillah Birrell and Lizzie Spoons:

The *Mousetrap* was an extremely entertaining play. The storyline was very intriguing and full of unexpected twists and turns, making it possible for any character to be blamed for the murder at nearly every point. Comedic moments were in abundance but the play was able to keep light-heartedness and mystery on an even scale throughout. The ending gave means to gasp at how shocking it was and was a very satisfying conclusion for the exciting plot. I'm sure the group would highly recommend the play for anyone who enjoys a comedy as well as mystery. A play with this amazing cast is not one we are ever going to forget.





Puzzle time

Initial numbers

Have a go at these! Each number has some initials after it. Just work out what the initials mean as the numbers are the clues.

For example: 7 D in a W is 7 Days in a Week.

A good score is 12, but if you get them all right - excellent indeed!

- 26 L in the A
- 7 C in the R
- 6 W of H the E
- 7 S on a F P P
- 1000 M in a K
- 64 S on a C B
- 1066 B of H
- 28 D in F
- 24 H in a D
- 8 L on a S
- 52 C in a P (no J)
- 366 D in a L Y
- 93 M M to the S
- 1760 Y in a M (ask your gran)
- 10 G B H on the W
- 200 P for P G in M

Good luck!



Answers in the next issue!