



Saint Joseph's
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

With God's love and inspiration, we aspire to achieve excellence.

Parents/Carers Notices Week 7

From the Headmaster's Study

As we reach the end of this half term, I want to take a moment to congratulate the entire St Joseph's community on a fantastic start to the academic year. This is an important time to reflect on what we have achieved together and the exciting journey our school continues to take.



Our curriculum remains rich and diverse, with Sports, STEM, Arts, Literature, Drama, and Humanities all playing a vital role in enriching the lives of our pupils. Opportunities beyond the classroom are also expanding, with trips and enrichment activities continuing to grow. Plans are already underway for year-group away days that will further enhance these experiences.

High standards remain central to everything we do. Pupils are expected to look smart, arrive with their blazer, without jewellery, and bring a pencil case so they are ready to learn. If you need to purchase uniform or equipment during the break, please do so to ensure your child is not at a disadvantage. Should you require any support with this, please email the school, we are here to help.

Over the holiday, further building works will take place to enhance our facilities. I am delighted to announce that our IT upgrade continues, with new computers being installed and interactive whiteboards being measured for installation in every classroom. This investment reflects our commitment to providing the very best for your child and for you as parents. With so much effort going into improving our environment, may I politely remind everyone that chewing gum is not permitted in school. I am sure you appreciate the damage it causes to floors, carpets, and classroom furniture.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a restful and refreshing Autumn break. We look forward to welcoming pupils back on **Monday 3rd November at 09:00.**

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." — Colossians 3:23

Letters from Heads of Year

Please find the Half-term letters from your child's Head of Year.

[Y7 Newsletter](#)

[Y8 Newsletter](#)

[Y9 Newsletter](#)

[Y10 Newsletter](#)

[Y11 Newsletter](#)

Funding for the Sports Hall

We continue to raise money, and we will have a new focus which our Heads and Deputy Head Pupils will be leading on with the ambitious goal of raising £10,000.

Every contribution, no matter the size, will go directly to supporting our Sports and Music departments. If each child could raise an average of £20 via our GoFundMe page, we would be well on our way.

Please share the link widely and encourage support: <https://gofund.me/bc2f38ba>

Key Dates: Autumn Term 2

Day and Date	Time	Description
Monday 3 rd November	09:00	Return to school
Monday 10 th November		Odd socks Day (start of Antibullying week)
Tuesday 11 th November	11:00	Remembrance/Reflection
Tuesday 11 th November		Nasal Flu Vaccinations
Thursday 20 th November	16:30 – 19:00	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Thursday 27 th November	18:00 – 19:30	Certificate Evening (outgoing Year11)
Thursday 11 th December	16:30 – 19:00	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 17 th December (TBC)	17:30 – 19:00	Christmas Carol Service
Friday 19 th December	12:15	End of Term (Non-uniform Day)

Weekly Calendar

Assemblies:

Monday: Chaplaincy 'All Souls & Remembrance

Tuesday – Thursday: Mr McGuiness Remembrance

Friday: Wiltshire College – Year 11

Monday 3rd November	• Assembly – All Souls & Month of Remembrance (Chaplaincy) • SWGS ROCstars Year 11 revision skills sessions led by SWGS Year 13 pupils, 3:40 - 4:30. Room 22
Tuesday 4th November	• Yr9&10 Assembly • Yr7 Literacy Intervention (Rm30) • KS3 History club – lunchtime, Rm4 • LUNCH: Yr9-11 Basketball club, Lunchtime, Hall, Yr7&8 Rugby, Field, SolidWorks Club Rm30 • After School: Street & Break Dance Club, Hall, Yr8 Football, Field, Yr9 Football, Field, Girls Rugby (Yr9-11) Field, HW club Rm28
Wednesday 5th November	• Yr7&8 Assembly • Yr9 Literacy Intervention (Rm30) • Briefing – Rm30, 8:40 • School nurse drop-ins • Environmental and Gardening Club, Lunch- Room 8. All years welcome! • Lunch: Cricket Club – Hall (all year groups), Girls Rugby – field (Yr7&8), Chaplaincy Team Rm25 • After School: Netball (Yr7&8), Courts, Yr7 Football, Field, Yr10 Football, Field
Thursday 6th November	• Morning Prayer 8:30, Rm17 • Yr10 Literacy Intervention (Rm30) • Yr11 Assembly • Lunch, Rugby, Yr9-11 Field, Vocal Ensemble, Rm27, Inclusivity Alliance, Rm23, KS3 Games (Maths Club) Room 14 • After School, Netball (Yr9-11), Courts, Warhammer/Painting/Modelling club (rm27)
Friday 7th November	• Briefing – Rm30, 8:40 • Yr8 Literacy Intervention (Rm30) • Yr11 Wiltshire College Assembly • Lunch: House Comp and Yr11 Football(field), Chaplaincy Team Rm25 • Anime Club – Lunchtime Rm9 • After School – Girls' football (Yr7-9)

Chaplain's Report

"The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." - St Luke 19:10

As we reflect tomorrow on the life of St Luke, a Greek physician and companion of St Paul, we are reminded of his dedication to sharing the Gospel with all people. His writings, especially the Gospel and Acts of the Apostles, show a deep concern for inclusion, compassion, and service—values that continue to guide our chaplaincy work.

Our chaplains remain active in the communities of St Andrew's and St Osmund's Primary schools, and we are pleased to have welcomed several new members to the team. Together, we've shared prayer, fellowship, and planned upcoming school visits. Looking ahead, we are excited to extend our chaplaincy support to Exeter House in the new term.

In the spirit of Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the principle of solidarity, the chaplaincy team are launching a cake sale after the half-term break. We invite Year 11 pupils/parents to donate cakes, which will be sold at break and lunch outside the canteen. Any remaining cakes will be offered by donation after school on Friday.

Shoe-Box Appeal

This year we will again be joining with House of Opportunity to make Christmas shoe boxes for people in need. Our aim is to beat the 35 full shoe boxes that we donated last year. After half term, we will begin collecting for the items to fill the boxes. If you are able to donate, please bring in any of the following:

- Regular sized shoe boxes
- Christmas wrapping paper
- Brand new or very good condition items to fill shoe boxes of all ages e.g. sweets and treats, toys, warm clothing, toiletries (nice things that people would enjoy receiving as a gift!)



All items **MUST** be able to travel and last a long time. Last day for donations is Monday 17th November

Mr Inglis in Room18 will be happy to take all donations. If you are a parent bringing things in, please drop the items off at reception and we will ensure they are added to our ShoeBox Appeal efforts!

Academic Matters

Young Enterprise Programme

A carefully selected group of Year 9 pupils will be embarking on our first ever Young Enterprise Programme beginning after half term. We're super excited about this initiative and are very much looking forward to guiding the pupils as they create their product, market it and, ultimately, make money!

If you would like to be involved in business advisory capacity, please click this link to find out more!
<https://young-enterprise.goassemble.com/opportunities/99863-business-volunteer-st-joseph-s-catholic-school-salisbury-2025-10-16>

We are hoping we can unearth the next Alan Sugar!

Year 11 Updates

This week and the first week after half term, Year 11 have been and will be completing assessments. We will use the data gathered from these assessments to help inform on the progress that the children are making towards their target grades. At the beginning of November, we will share this information with Year 11 parents prior to the parents' evening in mid-December.

Visits from Governors & The Local Authority

It has been a very busy week for visitors in school! This week we have welcomed the Local Authority, Governors and prospective parents to school. We have embarked on tours of the school and learning walks visiting a multitude of lessons. It is extremely pleasing and a source of pride to hear the praise that all visitors have had for the school.

Our School Improvement Advisor from the Local Authority commented on the excellent relationships that underpin everything at school. He was full of praise for our lovely pupils and the ethos in school and was delighted with how this contributes to excellent learning in classrooms – he mentioned that the school was unrecognisable to the last time he came in (in a positive way!)

One of our governors spent the day with us on Tuesday and accompanied me as we conducting learning walks in many different departments. We were both extremely pleased with the engagement and enthusiasm of the pupils, the quality of work they were producing and their ability to articulate their learning.

It is brilliant to see the fruits of all our teachers labour and the enjoyment and love for learning that is being fostered and is testament to their hard work and efforts!

Year 11 Updates – WIN Sessions continue!

Over half term, it's important for Year 11 to have a break and recharge, but it is also an excellent opportunity to get some valuable revision done! Revision wise, **'little and often'** is key phrase for Year 11. Don't forget on our website we have lots of resources to help both pupils and parents. For pupils, particularly the subject specific guide which contains links through to exam boards and past papers and mark schemes: <https://sjcs.org.uk/revision/>

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch	GCSE PE	Maths (Foundation)		History	
After - School	RE (OBL) French	English Lit & Lang Food tech Combined Science Separate Science	English Lit & Lang Sociology Music Combined Science Further Maths	BTEC Creative Media (+ GCSE Comp Sci) History Combined Science RE (DIN and RRO) Spanish Maths (Higher)	

Home Learning & Homework Club

Sparx is our main vehicle for core subject home learning. Each week, on a Wednesday, pupils in all year groups will be set Sparx Reader, Sparx Maths and Sparx Science tasks for their home learning – these will be due in on the following Tuesday. All other subjects will set home learning in accordance with the subjects' needs – that may be consolidation of learning, research for upcoming learning or applying information in exam style questions or even extended projects. All these tasks will be set via Class Charts.

Tuesday's after school will be our Homework club – this will be from 3:30-4:30 in a computer room and enable pupils to meet the weekly Sparx deadlines if they have technical issues at home.

Curriculum Visibility

Many subject pages have their Learning Journeys and Curriculum Checklists visible on the subject pages of the website. <https://sjcs.org.uk/curriculum/>

We have reviewed many aspects of the curriculum and have updated the aforementioned documents accordingly. We are adding new key term lists and personal learning checklists for each subject area on our website. These are excellent resources for the children to engage with for reinforcing key vocabulary and checking their learning across the term.

Pastoral Support

Looking After Yourself Over the Holidays

As we approach the school break, it's important to take time to rest, recharge, and look after your wellbeing. Whether you're a student, parent, or carer, here are some ideas and resources to help you unwind, manage revision stress, and stay supported during the holiday period.

Ways to Unwind and Recharge

- **Get Outside:** Explore local walking trails or green spaces. Nature is a great mood booster.
- **Digital Detox:** Try switching off devices for a few hours each day to help clear your mind.
- **Creative Time:** Journaling, drawing, baking, or music can be great outlets for stress.
- **Connect:** Spend time with friends or family or reach out to someone you trust.
- **Mindfulness & Relaxation:** Apps like *Headspace* or *Calm* offer free guided meditations.

Managing Revision Stress

Revision doesn't have to take over your holiday. Here are some tips to help you stay balanced:

- **Set a Realistic Schedule:** Break your day into short, focused sessions with regular breaks.
- **Use Timers:** Try the Pomodoro technique – 25 minutes of work followed by a 5-minute break.
- **Mix It Up:** Use flashcards, mind maps, videos, and quizzes to keep things engaging.
- **Stay Active:** Physical movement helps reduce stress and improve concentration.
- **Don't Overdo It:** Rest is just as important as revision. Give yourself permission to relax.
- **Talk About It:** If revision feels overwhelming, speak to a parent, carer, or trusted adult.

Get some Help!

[St Joseph's Catholic School](#) mental health and wellbeing page can signpost you to a range of ideas and support services across a wide range of Pastoral topics including:

- **Support Contacts:** Key staff members at SJCS who are available to help with mental health concerns.
- **Resources for Students and Parents:** Links to external support services, including CAMHS, Kooth, and Young Minds.

- **Guidance on Mental Health:** Information about recognising signs of mental health struggles and how to seek help.
- **School-Based Support:** Details about how the school promotes wellbeing through pastoral care, PSHE lessons, and student voice initiatives.

Mental Health & Wellbeing Support in Salisbury & Wiltshire

If you or someone you know needs support, there are services available even while school is closed:

- [Alabare Riverside Sanctuary, Salisbury](#)
- [Wiltshire Mind](#)
- [CAMHS \(Children & Adolescent Mental Health Services\)](#)
- [Wiltshire Wellbeing Cafés](#)

Safeguarding & Support While School is Closed

Your safety and wellbeing are always a priority. If you're worried about yourself or someone else, here's how to get help:

- If you have any concerns during the holiday, you can email safeguarding@sjcs.org.uk at any time. A member of the safeguarding team will respond as soon as possible.
- [Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub \(MASH\)](#)
- [NSPCC – Speak Out Stay Safe](#)

Remember

You are never alone. Whether you're feeling overwhelmed, anxious, or just need someone to talk to, there are people and services ready to help. Take care of yourself and look out for others.

Wishing you a safe, restful, and joyful holiday.

The Pastoral Team

UNIFORM



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The school believes that a high standard of appearance and presentation enhances the dignity of the individual and raises self-esteem. To that end, school uniform should be worn properly to and from school and throughout the school day.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS ON UNIFORM CAN RESULT IN SANCTION. MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE.

UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

TROUSERS - Black or dark grey. Tailored. No jeans, leggings, corduroys, or casual trousers. May be supported by a dark, narrow, unbranded belt.

SKIRTS - Black. Must be pleated. No tube skirts. Knee high.

SHORTS - Black. Smart, tailored (no cargo or sports shorts).

SHIRT - Plain white. Full button and collar.

BLAZER - Blue blazer with school logo.

TIE - House Tie - Red, Blue, Green or Yellow.

SOCKS/TIGHTS - Socks, short (ankle/trainer). Black, navy blue, or white. Or plain natural/black tights.

SHOES - Black. Shoes must be completely black (including the soles) with no logos, laces, or trims of a different colour. No sports trainers. No foam soles. No visible "air bubbles". Leather or canvas.

APPEARANCE EXPECTATIONS

HAIRSTYLE - Students whose hairstyle is reasonably deemed offensive, of a non-natural colour, or in any other way disruptive to learning, will be asked to modify that hairstyle, and could be asked to remain in inclusion until such time as the hair has grown back sufficiently, or the style has grown out.

MAKEUP - Tidy, natural look, minimal make up.

NAILS - Nails should be of a natural look, colour and length. We will ask for nail varnish or false nails to be removed.

JEWELLERY - A watch and, if desired one band (charity) that can be removed for PE. All other jewellery must be removed when in school uniform. All jewellery must be removed for PE. Incidents of theft are rare at SJCS but we do ask, to aid us in minimising this, that students do not bring items of value to school.

PIERCINGS - One earring per ear, which should be a stud for safety reasons, and be in the lower lobe. All piercings must be removed for PE. No facial or body piercings at all.

PE KIT EXPECTATIONS

TOP - School polo shirt - house colour.

SHORTS - Black sports shorts, plain with no distinctive branding (shorts must be loose fitting, mid-thigh, not tight fitting Lycra).

SKORT - This is an optional item and must be the SJCS branded item to ensure it is appropriate.

TROUSERS / LEGGINGS - Black tracksuit bottoms or leggings, plain with no distinctive branding.

TRAINERS - Practical and suitable for sports performance.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISCORD

AGE RATING
13+

Servers and channels marked as 'NSFW' require users to be 18 or older to join.

Discord is a free app which allows users to communicate in real time via text, video or voice chat. Available on desktop and mobile devices, it was originally designed to help gamers cooperate – but has evolved into a more general networking platform for a range of online communities, discussing topics like TV series, music, Web3 and more. Discord is organised around closed groups, referred to as 'servers'. To join a server, users must be invited or provided with a unique link. It's a space for users to interact with friends, meet others with shared interests and collaborate privately online – but it's also a place where young people can be exposed to risks if the right precautions aren't taken.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CYBERBULLYING

Discord's easy accessibility and connectivity, unfortunately, makes it an ideal place for cyberbullying to occur – especially as audio and video streams disappear once they've ended, meaning that bullying could take place without leaving any evidence. Closed groups can also be created, giving young people the opportunity to exclude their peers or send cruel messages without adult oversight.

DIFFICULT TO MODERATE

Like many private communication apps, Discord's real-time messaging can be difficult to control. The system enables content moderation through each individual server – so different groups can set their own rules for what's acceptable, and some groups may not monitor for unsuitable content. Anything that happens in an audio or video stream is also virtually untraceable once the stream has concluded.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Discord mainly hosts private groups, making it easier for unsuitable or explicit content to be shared on channels. Pornography, racism and inappropriate language can be found in some groups. Server owners are required to add an age-restriction gate to channels where 18+ content is being shared – but this solution isn't foolproof, as the platform doesn't always verify users' ages when they sign up.

ACCESSIBLE TO PREDATORS

On many chat platforms, users can lie about their age or true identity – and Discord is no exception. Predators have attempted to abuse the platform by using it to contact and communicate with underage users – by initially chatting with a child on an age-appropriate channel, for example. While Discord has improved its safety settings, some users will still try to bypass them for malicious reasons.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Discord does have strict Terms of Service and Community Guidelines to protect its users – but, sadly, not everyone adheres to them. Criminal activity including grooming, hate speech, harassment, exploitative content, doxing and extremist or violent material have all been found on Discord servers over the last two years. In 2020, Discord received almost 27,000 reports of illegal activity on the platform.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SAFETY SETTINGS

Discord has a series of safety settings, enabling users to choose who can direct message them or send them friend requests. Your child's experience on Discord will be much safer if the app's privacy and safety settings are configured to only allow messages or friend requests from server members. This will minimise the chances of potential predators from outside the group contacting them.

EXPLAIN AGE FILTERING

While Discord requires users to be at least 13 to sign up, many servers geared towards older users are flagged as NSFW (not safe for work), which indicates they probably contain material that's inappropriate for children. It can be easy to click through settings without properly reviewing them, so ensure your child understands why age filtering is important and that it's there to protect them.

SCREEN OUT EXPLICIT CONTENT

In the privacy and safety settings, Discord users are offered the ability to filter direct messages for inappropriate content: a setting that should be enabled if your child uses the platform. Discord automatically tries to flag images that are explicit, but the setting must be manually enabled for text. If a young user is sent explicit content in a direct message, Discord will scan and (if necessary) delete it.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's wise to regularly review your child's activity on Discord. This can include checking their safety settings to ensure they're correctly enabled, talking about which servers they've joined and reviewing some of their friends and direct messages. Ask if anything has made them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Things can change quickly online, so plan routine check-ins and follow up frequently.

DISCUSS GOOD ONLINE BEHAVIOUR

The anonymity offered by the internet often leads people to communicate more openly online and behave differently than they would at school or home. It's crucial to bear in mind, though, that every internet user is still a real person. Talk to your child about the severe and lasting consequences that cyberbullying or exchanging inappropriate material online can have in the real world.

HAVE CANDID CONVERSATIONS

It can sometimes be awkward to discuss topics like grooming, pornography, racism or explicit content with your child – but it's important to ensure they're aware of the harms these things can pose. Talking openly about these subjects is a great way to help your child feel more comfortable about coming to you if they experience an unwanted encounter on Discord (or anywhere else online).

Meet Our Expert

Coral Cripps is a Canadian-born, London-based tech journalist at gmv3.com: a website specialising in all things Web3, gaming and XR (extended reality). With a focus on brands and culture, she researches and writes about the ways that our current innovations – including the metaverse and Web3 – are impacting people, places and things.



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Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2021/dec/01/discord-5-steps-to-keeping-your-teen-or-popular-chat-app> <https://support.discord.com/hc/en-us/articles/360038233331-how-to-report-a-violation> <https://www.fox.com/news/2021/12/01/discord-closed-thousands-of-violent-extremist-and-otm-354923265/>