

St Joseph's Journal

Faith
Learning
Respect



Message from the Head

What a glorious end to a wonderful academic year at St Joseph's. A Flameazing array of trips and events are planned for the final week, starting of course with the highly competitive Sports Day for the coveted House Cup. I wish all our competitors the best of luck and I know all our students will thoroughly enjoy and embrace the planned activities.

Year 12 and some year 13 have just returned from a sensation two week adventure in Morocco and have made many life-long memories. It is also a time for reflection as we say goodbye to Father Adrian and thank him for his many years of wisdom at St Joseph's the contribution he has made to the spiritual life of both staff and students is immeasurable.

We also say goodbye to Mr McConway, Mr Gardner, Dr Glen, Mrs Musgrave, Mr Taylor, Mrs Correria, Mr Holmes, Mr Spruce and Mrs Jobling and wish them well on their new adventures. We also say a fond farewell to our Improtech coaches and hopefully our paths will cross once again in the future.

I myself will be leaving St Joseph's this year. I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you for allowing me to be part of your wonderful St Joseph's community, and to contribute for a short time to this truly special space. But most of all thank you to all the staff and students for the immeasurable way in which all of them have left their mark on me and made me a better person.

Please have a wonderful summer, enjoy the break and I hope you return refreshed and ready for the challenges of the new academic term in September.

Mrs S Lewis-Dale

As we reach the conclusion of another vibrant and enriching school year at St Joseph's, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our entire school community. This year has been marked by remarkable achievements, both in academics and extracurricular activities, demonstrating the unwavering dedication and hard work of our students and staff.

We have seen our students grow not just in knowledge, but in character, embracing the values of faith, learning, attitude, mutual respect and enrichment that define St Joseph's. Our teachers and staff have gone above and beyond, fostering an environment where every student can thrive and achieve their best.

I would also like to thank our parents and guardians for their continued support and partnership in our educational journey. Your involvement and encouragement have been instrumental in our collective success.

As we look forward to a well-deserved break, I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable summer and wish you all the best of luck in the future.

Mr McConway

The English Department welcomes you

We have had a busy few weeks of meeting students from local primary schools and are extremely impressed by their creativity and enthusiasm for English.

Members of the English department have been visiting our feeder primary schools and teaching the Y6 students a taster session on gothic literature. This will be the first topic they study when they join us in September and it gave the students an insight into this genre as well as an opportunity to experience some of our teaching and learning processes. We were incredibly grateful to the Y6 teachers for welcoming us into their classrooms and giving us a chance to meet the students face to face before they will visit St Joseph's for their two days of transition later in the term.

We also welcomed students from y5 for their transition day on Wednesday 26th June. We looked at unusual narrative voices with the students and challenged them to write in role, representing the thoughts and feelings of characters that don't normally get a voice. We were blown away by the empathy shown by the students and are excited to see them back here next year to again show off their creative writing skills.



Summer Reading Review Challenge

We would love to hear about the books you are reading over the summer holidays. Please write a review of any book that you have particularly enjoyed reading, explaining what the book is about and what you love about it and bring it to Mr Johnson or Mrs Sanderson in September. We would love to share a collection of reviews with students to help them pick out their next book.

Sparx Reader Update

Our readers have shown great dedication to their reading this year. Awards have been given to individual readers and class groups who have gone above and beyond in their reading this term. In particular, 7X1, 7YE and 7YJ have won special awards for gaining the most class reading points out of 700 schools across the country! 7X1 celebrated their reading homework achievement with freshly baked cookies with our school librarian. We are proud of every student who has spent time carefully reading and discovering new books this term. Reading really does develop hearts and minds.

We are excited to be introducing Sparx Reader to our wider school this summer. All students can log into Sparx Reader using their Sparx Maths log in and they will have instant access to a whole library of wonderful books – new books are being added all the time, so there will always be something for our most voracious readers.

New and coming soon books on Sparx Reader

Look out for the following books on Sparx Reader this summer:



City of Bones

by Cassandra Clare

Fantasy • Paranormal • Action • Monsters • Romance • USA

⚠ This book contains mature themes

Book reading age: 15 years

Minimum age: 13 years

Love. Blood. Betrayal. Demons. First in the New York Times No. 1 bestselling series that has swept the globe, City of Bones is also a major movie and Shadowhunters is a Netflix TV series based on the book. Inesistably drawn towards a group of demon hunters, Clary encounters the dark side of New York City and the dangers of forbidden love.

Lie or Die

by A. J. Clack

Thriller • Drama • Survival • Friendship

When a casting call is announced for new reality TV show Lie or Die, Kass is tricked into auditioning by her best friend. Big Brother meets Mafia, Lie or Die pits contestants against each other as they try to discover who is a murderous agent and who is an innocent player. But when contestants start to turn up dead (the real kind, not the fake kind), Kass realises that not being eliminated and winning the game is the least of her worries. No



Finding Jupiter

by Kelis Rowe

Real life • Romance • Drama • Family • USA

⚠ This book contains mature themes

Book reading age: 14 years

Minimum age: 15 years

What if Romeo & Juliet took place in Memphis in 2022? Ray has no time for romance. She's queen of the roller rink, she writes found poetry, and she's got her eyes set on her own independent future. Besides, she's seen what loving someone too much – and losing them – can do to a person. Orion, on the other hand, would like to be smooth with the girls. Just once. He looks like the jack his father wants him to be, but really he's a hopeless romantic.



The First Thing About You

by Chaz Hayden

Romance • Real life • Disability • Friendship • Humour • USA

⚠ This book contains mature themes

Book reading age: 14 years

Minimum age: 15 years

When his family moves from California to New Jersey, fifteen-year-old Harris is eager to prove he's more than the kid in the powered wheelchair. Armed with his go-to icebreaker ("What's your favourite colour?"), he'll weed out the incompatibles – greens and purples, people too close to his own blue to make good friends – and surround himself with outgoing yellows, adventurous oranges and thrilling reds.

Norman Castle Projects 2024



Norman Castle Projects 2024

Every year, the History Department eagerly awaits the creative and scholarly contributions of Year 7 students to the Norman Castle Homework Projects. This annual tradition not only underscores the students' academic progression but also fosters a deeper appreciation for the rich history of Norman architecture and its impact on medieval society.

The project focuses on the exploration of Norman castles, pivotal structures in medieval England following the Norman Conquest of 1066. Students examine various aspects of Norman castles, including their strategic locations, architectural features, and roles in consolidating Norman control. This study highlights the significance of these castles in the broader context of medieval history, offering insights into the social, military, and political fabric of the era.



South Tyneside Youth Council: Cultural Day





The vibrant corridors of Jarrow Hall echoed with youthful energy as Year 7 students from various schools gathered for an inspiring Youth Council event dedicated to celebrating and exploring 'Culture'. The initiative, organised by the South Tyneside Youth Council, aimed to foster cultural awareness and appreciation among the younger generation, encouraging them to embrace the rich tapestry of traditions, languages, and arts that form the backbone of their community.

Music played a significant role in the day's activities. In a lively rap session, students worked with local musicians to write and perform their own raps, focusing on themes of cultural barriers. This creative outlet allowed them to voice their perspectives in a contemporary and relatable form, making the experience both enjoyable and meaningful.

The event also featured a student-led panel discussion, where Year 7 students took the stage to share their own cultural backgrounds and experiences. This platform allowed them to express their thoughts on what culture means to them and how it shapes their identity. The discussions were heartfelt and enlightening, revealing the students' deep understanding and appreciation of diversity.

One of the highlights of the day was the pottery and ceramics session. Under the guidance of local ceramic artists, students had the opportunity to mold clay and create their own pieces of pottery. This activity not only introduced them to the ancient craft of ceramics but also allowed them to express their cultural identities through their creations. The joy and pride were evident as they showcased their unique designs, reflecting the diverse heritage of South Tyneside.

Sports Corner

Female Influencers Lift.Inspire.Empower event

Throughout the year, Mrs Whyte and Miss Berry have delivered an enrichment programme to the girls in year 10. This female leaders programme provides opportunities for students to think about equality, positive self-image and challenging themselves to achieve their potential. Alongside the programme, girls can opt to be a part of the Female Influencers group. This group of students are then challenged to develop their leadership skills and confidence throughout the year. This accumulates in the planning and hosting of our year 10 female influencers **Lift.Inspire.Empower**. event, which in its third year of running, took place on Thursday 20th June.

This year, we had Harriet and Victoria, the mother and daughter double act, as guest speakers, telling us all about their successes in working in engineering and on wind farms. We also had a workshop with Miss Halliday as she told us all about her sister's clothing company Make No Apologies. Miss Berry and Mrs Whyte spoke to students and parents about the power of positive self talk, and everyone made a pledge to be kinder to themselves.

The Female Influencers did an excellent job, with clubbercise, singing and quiz making to entertain everyone throughout the evening. The evening was very well attended and offered a lot of female empowerment throughout.

The programme will begin again in September with the new year 10 students and we look forward to meeting our new Influencers.

Schools Athletics

We have always had a strong contingency of athletes in our school, and over the years have seen a lot of success, both at school level and through to County representation. This year was no different as we battled against other South Tyneside schools to be crowned ST athletics champions for the second year in a row, The competition was very tight and was eventually decided in the final relay race of the afternoon. Following this, athletes who finished 1st and 2nd in their events were invited to compete for South Tyneside at the Durham County championships at Monkton Stadium.

We had 12 athletes who qualified to compete on the day, with 4 athletes, gaining their County honours by making it through to the Inter-County championships, competing for Durham County.

We are delighted to report that following these competitions, Abigail Farrer was then selected by Durham to represent the County in 100m at the English Schools National Final taking place in July. We wish Abigail luck in what will be the highest standard of English athletics competition.



Today in History

20th July 1969

Neil Armstrong is the first man to walk on the moon

Between 1950 - 1970 the United States and the Soviet were in competition to see who had the best technology in space. The Space Race was considered important because it showed the world which country had the best science, technology, and economic system.

Initially it looked like the Soviets were on top. In 1957 they successfully launched the first satellite, Sputnik into orbit. As the Americans panicked to catch up the Soviets launched another rocket, this time containing a stray dog, Laika. Then in 1961 the Russian Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space.

Then, on 20th July 1969 America took the lead when the Apollo 11 spacecraft successfully landed on the moon and Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the Moon.

The event was not only a 'giant leap for mankind' but it also effectively ended the Space Race between America and the Soviets.



FLAME



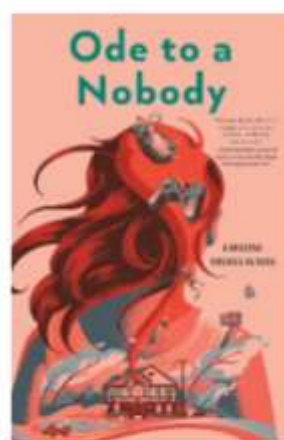
The Reading List

Summer Special



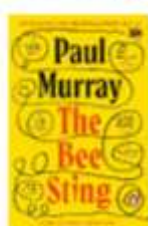
Key Stage 3

- Damsel by Evelyn Skye
- Cross My Heart and Never Lie by Nora Dasnes
- The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani
- Ode to a Nobody by Caroline Brooks Dubois
- Moonstorm by Yoon Ha Lee
- Five Survive by Holly Jackson
- The Counselors by Jessica Goodman
- The Encanto's Daughter by Melissa de la Cruz
- Brownstone by Samuel Teer
- Blue Lock by Muneyuki Kaneshiro



Key Stage 4

- Its Kind of a Funny Story by Ned Vizzini
- A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle
- Diary of a Dying Girl by Mallory Smith
- Call Us What We Carry by Amanda Gorman
- Shut Up, This is Serious by Carolina Ixta
- The Mermaid of Black Conch by Monique Roffey
- Mexican Gothic by Silvia Moreno-Garcia
- Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay
- The Bee Sting by Paul Murray
- The Devil in the White City by Erik Larson
- Infinity Alchemist by Kacen Callender





Key Stage 5

The Sisters Brothers by Patrick DeWitt

Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng

Fleche by Mary Jean Chan

Superior by Angela Saini

Beautiful World, Where Are You by Sally Rooney

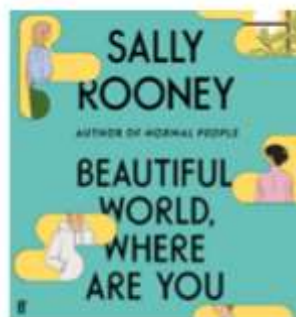
You Will Never Be Found by Tove Alsterdal

A Certain Hunger by Chelsea G. Summers

The Feast by Margaret Kennedy

Kitchen by Banana Yoshimoto

Summer of My Amazing Luck by Miriam Toews



The Mini Book Review

What I Talk About When I Talk About Running by Haruki Murakami

Haruki Murakami is one of the greatest writers of this century, certainly Japan's number one. He is known for his surrealist novels which explore themes of self-discovery and urban fantasy. Whilst his books are for older readers, fans of the Ghibli movies will for sure love Murakami.

After selling his jazz bar in 1982, he took up running to keep fit. He has since run a marathon every year since the age of 33. This autobiographical book details his experiences with running as both a hobby and sport and how it has influenced his writing, recounting his favourite memories and the challenges he has faced along the way. The memoir is funny, educational, philosophical, and more than anything, inspirational – it is the source of the famous motivational quote:

'Pain is inevitable. Suffering is optional.'

For someone who enjoys walking but not necessarily long distance running, I still found interest in seeing the way Murakami's mind works, as he is a famously private person. At only about 180 pages, it is a great starting point for older readers to get into Murakami and find out more about the man, being his most biographical work. I would then recommend **Kafka on the Shore** and **Norwegian Wood** for some of his best work.

Mr Johnson, Librarian at St Joseph's

Year 7 End of Year Mass



On Friday 28th June 2024, all of Year 7 gathered together to celebrate the Year 7 end of year Mass with Fr. Adrian Dixon.

Students planned the Mass, practised the hymns, wrote bidding prayers and joined together to mark the end of their spiritual journey through Y7.

Students undertook liturgical ministeries such as Altar Serving, ministers of the Word and taking up the offertory with confidence and students sang beautifully led by our very talented choir.

At St. Joseph's, faith comes first and is at the heart of everything we do.

God bless and thank you Fr. Adrian for celebrating this beautiful Mass.

Y7X1 interview Fr. Saji



On Tuesday 11th June 2024 we were blessed with a visit by Fr. Saji from Jarrow to talk about his life and his vocation as a priest.

Fr. Saji explored the unique vocation as a priest from Kerala in India and the Catholic order that he belongs to.

Students asked thought-provoking questions to Fr. Saji ranging from beliefs about God and the creation of the universe, vocations, his hobbies and interests and life as a priest.

We are truly grateful for the fantastic support of Fr. Saji and all the priests of the parish who come in to support us.

God bless and thank you Fr. Saji.

Y9 students interview Jaswinder Singh



On Friday 14th June 2024 we were blessed with a brilliant visit from Jaswinder Singh from the Newcastle Sikh Gurdwara. Jaswinder Singh is also a hospital and university chaplain and spends his life serving the community, devoting his life to God and those in need.

Jaswinder explained about his life in the Sikh community, the key beliefs and practices of Sikhs and the role that the Gurdwara can play in the community.

At the end of June we are really excited to take some of our students up to the Gurdwara to see these beliefs and practices lived out and to serve in the Langar (community kitchen) at the Sikh Gurdwara. Thank you Jaswinder for your amazing support and dedication to our students. God bless.



Saint's Salon Review

I recently went to Saints Hair Salon to get my hair done for prom, and it was amazing! I needed a fancy hair pin-up because I'm a teacher and wanted to look my best for the big night. From the moment I walked in, I felt welcomed.

The salon was super clean and had a really cool vibe. The stylist who did my hair was so nice and listened to exactly what I wanted. She even gave me some great suggestions to make my hair look even better.

The pin-up style she created was perfect. It looked elegant and stayed in place all night, even with all the dancing. I got so many compliments from my students and other teachers!

Overall, I had a fantastic experience at Saints Hair Salon. If you need a stylish and professional hair-do, especially for a special event like prom, I highly recommend going there. The staff is friendly, and they really know what they're doing!

Rating: ***** (5/5)



Pastoral Reflections

As Head of Elfleda House, I am immensely proud of our Year 7 students and their journey through their first year at St. Joseph's Academy. Watching them grow and adapt has been both inspiring and rewarding.

When our Year 7 students first joined us, I could see the mix of excitement and apprehension on their faces. Transitioning from primary school to a larger secondary school is a significant step, and I was determined to ensure they felt welcomed and supported. Our dedicated staff and older students worked tirelessly to guide them through the early days, helping them navigate the new environment and build their confidence.

Elfleda House quickly became a close-knit community for our Year 7s. They embraced the house spirit, participating enthusiastically in various activities and competitions. From sports days to house quizzes and charity events, our students showed remarkable teamwork and determination. These events not only brought joy but also helped forge strong bonds among the students.

Academically, our Year 7s faced new challenges with admirable resilience. The curriculum at St. Joseph's Academy is designed to be stimulating and rigorous, and our teachers provided unwavering support to help students succeed. It was particularly rewarding to see many students discover new passions and excel in subjects they had never encountered before. Their hard work and perseverance paid off, and they have laid a solid foundation for future academic success.

One of the most heartening aspects of this year has been watching our Year 7 students form lasting friendships. Initially, many were understandably shy, but as the year progressed, they developed strong connections with their peers. These friendships have been crucial in providing mutual support and a sense of belonging.

Reflecting on this year, I am filled with pride at what our Year 7 students have achieved. They have grown in confidence, independence, and character. Being part of Elfleda House has clearly had a positive impact on them, and I am excited to see how they will continue to flourish in Year 8 and beyond.

Mrs Visram

As a prominent Northern Saint, Saint Cuthbert is viewed as a beacon of encouragement, love and resilience. Saint Cuthbert was famous for embracing the challenges in life and supporting others in their spiritual and educational journeys through life. These qualities of Saint Cuthbert remain at the core of what we seek to instil upon the students of our house as they transition throughout the school. This year our Cuthbert students have consistently demonstrated the qualities of St Cuthbert and our school's FLAME values. All the way from our Year 7s, who have encouraged each other as they have begun their St. Joseph's journey, to our departing Year 11s, who have shown strength in overcoming the challenges of an exam year, it has been inspiring to see the gospel values being lived out by the students of Cuthbert House. As we move to a summer of reflection and recuperation, we wish all of our Cuthbert students a safe, happy and productive holiday and look forward to their return in September.

Mr Leask and Mr Jobe

Well done Dunstan House, we have had an extremely successful academic year. We are all on a continual journey of learning and development and I am so proud of the progress I have seen across the year. Our House colour is yellow, its use in Scripture lends itself to symbolically representing gold or something of great value. I see diverse evidence of the, 'great value' in students in Dunstan House on a daily basis, whether this is the simple acts of kindness on corridors, the engagement in charity work, effort in the classroom or participation in a huge range of extracurricular activities. The Dunstan House Symbol shows a Silversmiths tongs and hammer which represent hard work. This is something staff and students in Dunstan House pride themselves on. I hope we can all continue to work with devotion and continue to learn inside and out of the classroom in the new academic year and I am sure year 11 students will see the evidence of their continued hard work on results day! I wish you all a safe and relaxing summer.

Best Wishes, Mrs Hardy Jones