



St Joseph's Catholic Middle School

The family of St. Joseph's loves, learns and grows together as followers of Jesus

Monthly Newsletter – Friday 3rd May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our expectations as a school are that we have a vibrant, happy, and caring community where everyone feels valued, safe and can flourish. I am pleased to say that at the start of this term, the behaviour of our students has been excellent ensuring that we all feel part of that caring community. They have also been extremely hard working in lessons and are a credit to our school and to yourselves.

Many of you will be aware that our Year 6 students will be sitting their KS2 SATs in the week commencing 13th May. All of Year 6 and their teachers have worked extremely hard this year and I am sure you will all join me in wishing them well with these assessments.

Mr N A Wood

Please see the following Catholic Life News:

We are delighted that we will continue to welcome Fr Paul into school to lead our class masses this term. We would like to invite parents and carers of pupils to join us in school on the day of your child's class mass. The service will begin in our school chapel at 11:15am and visitors will be invited to join the class afterwards for tea or coffee while our pupils enjoy their lunch.

Upcoming dates of class masses:

6C- Monday 20th May

8O- Monday 10th June

8C- Monday 24th June

7C and 7CO - dates TBC.

Each Monday morning, our pupils lead Celebration of the Word in their pastoral classes. This is something that the children plan, lead and reflect on themselves. Last week, we held a planning session across the whole school which allowed pupils to plan their times of prayer for the upcoming weeks. We are looking forward to participating in these celebrations over the summer term.

We are currently in the Liturgical season of Eastertide, which encompasses the fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. This season is meant to be very different from the solemn focus carried in Lent and the Easter Triduum. Instead, it is meant to be a time of thanksgiving, joy, and feasting. Our prayer spaces around school have been updated by the children with white cloths, which represent triumph and joy, as well as spring flowers as a symbol of new life.



On Thursday 9th May, we will welcome our parish priest into school to lead a whole school mass for the Feast of the Ascension.

Young Green Britain Challenge:

We are delighted to inform you of the outstanding achievement made by three groups of Year 7 students from St. Joseph's in reaching the County Finals of the Young Green Briton Challenge last week. This commendable accomplishment showcases the dedication and hard work of our students in actively contributing to environmental sustainability.

The Young Green Briton Challenge, in its second year, is a collaborative initiative by Volunteers for Future, Social Innovation for All, the Ministry of Eco Education, and the Green Britain Foundation. This programme is designed to nurture the skills of students aged 11-14 in areas such as design, innovation, and business, empowering them to tackle local climate and sustainability issues through creative entrepreneurial solutions.

The entire Year 7 cohort at St. Joseph's participated in this challenge, engaging in workshops to explore climate change factors and develop innovative solutions during the Design Sprint workshop. Through teamwork and creativity, our students formulated projects to address root causes of climate change, culminating in the 'Eco Dragons Den' pitching event, at County Hall, where the Fast Fashionistas team emerged victorious with their impactful solution addressing fast fashion waste locally. The Fast Fashionistas team has been selected to advance to the National Award Finals in June, in London, where they will compete alongside other top teams for additional funding to further amplify the impact of their Eco-Venture. This opportunity not only highlights the potential of our students but also underscores the importance of their contribution to environmental sustainability on a wider stage.

Well done team Fashionista!



Attendance Update:

Attendance at school is the single most important aspect of school life, what could be more important than being here! Please see below the current attendance figures for each pastoral, well done to 7 Cuthbert/Oswald for leading the way with your fantastic attendance so far this year!

Pastoral Class	Attendance to date
7 Cuthbert/Oswald	95.2%
5 Cuthbert	95%
7 Cuthbert	94.8%
7 Oswald	94.6%
5 Oswald	94.5%
8 Oswald	94.3%
6 Cuthbert	94.2%
6 Oswald	93.4%
8 Cuthbert	93.2%

Careers Week:

Thank you to those parents who have very generously offered to give up their time to contribute to our up-and-coming careers week. We still have some spots left if parents would like to come into school and give a talk to our pupils about their chosen profession. It will certainly be hugely beneficial to our pupils in developing their career-based aspirations in the future. We are currently planning to run the sessions between 13:15 – 15:15 on the 21st and 23rd May. If you are interested then please follow the link: <https://forms.office.com/e/Amc6xZgrGh>

Art:

Art Club offers the chance for pupils to chill out and enjoy being creative. Here are our fabulous fish and cool cats, made from cardboard, thread and wool.



Textiles

Pupils are now completing a practical unit learning about textiles. After some weaving and practicing of different embroidery stitches, KS3 are in the process of making drawstring bags or bird buddies. If you have any threads, wool or fabrics (including old clothes, denim, tea towels, sheets) that you no longer need then we would welcome your donations so that we can be even more creative.



P.T.A. News:

Summer Fair: 14th June 2024 1.30 - 3.15

Disco Dates:

Friday 12th July 2024

If you are available to help on the night, please contact the school office and leave a message for Mrs Stoves.

Father's Day Stall: Wednesday 12th June more details to follow.

Safeguarding Updates:

As many of you will be aware there has been a [national awareness campaign](#) being raised by the National Crime Agency (NCA). Whilst we would hope that no pupils of middle school age would be targeted, the best approach to protecting our pupils is proactively ensuring we are aware of risks that arise, especially when it comes to the digital arena.

Please follow the link below for further information regarding this from the NCA:

[Sextortion \(webcam blackmail\) - National Crime Agency](#)

Upcoming Events at a Glance:

Date	Activity
Monday 6 th May	May Day – school closed
Monday 13 th – Thursday 16 th May	Y6 SATs Tests
Monday 20 th May	6C Class Mass Y8 HPV
Friday 24 th May	School closes 3.15 for half term

Our Prayer

Lead us in your ways

God of love,
fill us with your grace.
Move us, strengthen and renew us.
Lead us in your ways.

Open our hearts to answer
the demands of others, and
to seek your face in all those
who cry out for justice.

Spirit of God,
prompt us to respond to your love
and seek a glimpse
of your Kingdom here on earth.

Amen.

God bless,

N. A. Wood

Mr N Wood

