



St Joseph's Catholic Middle School

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

Monthly Newsletter – Friday 6th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our students have approached this half term with tremendous energy and enthusiasm. They continue to make us incredibly proud through their positive attitudes and the many ways they contribute to school life. We have pupils representing St Joseph's in sporting events, taking part in robotics competitions, and helping to plan and lead our class Masses. In addition, a wide range of school clubs has been very well attended, and it has been wonderful to see so many children getting involved.

This week, I had the pleasure of accompanying 14 of our Year 8 pupils to Queens Hall for a *Careers in the Creative Arts* morning. The event highlighted not only the number of opportunities within the creative industries but also the variety of exciting pathways available. Our students particularly enjoyed the hands-on workshops, gaining insight into the working lives of a professional dancer, a freelance artist and a curator. Their engagement and curiosity were a credit to the school.

Immediately after half term, a group of our students will be heading to Austria for a week of skiing, adventure and fun. This promises to be a memorable experience, and we look forward to sharing updates from the trip.

Finally, a gentle reminder that school closes for students next Thursday for the half-term break.

I hope you and your families enjoy a restful and refreshing break.

Mr. N. A. Wood

Headteacher

Ash Wednesday Service

As Ash Wednesday falls during the half-term break this year, we will be marking the beginning of Lent with a special service on Wednesday 11th February here in school. The service will be led by Fr Paul, and all pupils will have the opportunity to take part in this important moment of reflection as we begin the Lenten season.



Class Masses:

Our next class mass will be for 8O on Tuesday 17th March at 11:15 in the school chapel. Parents and carers are invited to join us for their child's mass. Afterwards, the children will enjoy a lunch of pizza and chips in their classroom which will kindly be provided by our PTA. Our visitors are also welcome to join us in the classroom for a tea or coffee while the pupils eat their lunch.



Food

We have been learning how to make our own dressings, dips and sauces so far this term – rather than buying ready-made. Seems most of our learners like a lot of garlic and spice! This was especially true with the cowboy casserole and wedges that year 8 made.

After half term pupils will be changing rotation again. KS2 will continue to focus on food whilst KS3 will begin to learn more about textiles.

Don't forget to enter our Valentines bake off challenge and if you are really confident then the Junior Bake Off application process is open too.



Valentine cookie competition



Your challenge is to **bake and decorate x12 valentine themed cookies**.
 You can use any flavour, shape and decoration.
 Be creative but consistent.

50 house points for the winners.
 All entries will receive 20 house points.



YOU must be supervised/supported to prepare, cook and clean up.
 Cookies to be delivered to Food Room, for staff judging, on
Wednesday 11th February.
 You must include your **name** and a **note** from parent / guardian to confirm that you
 were **independent and safe**.

Art

Pupils in Year 5 have been getting to grips with chalk pastels. Here they are creating their own pictures, followed by recreating the Great Wave, by Hokusai.





Sports:

Congratulations to Teddy S from Y7 who represented Tynedale at the Area Cross Country at Temple Park. By finishing 6th Teddy qualified to compete in the Inter Counties Cross Country Championship.



Our Y5 and Y6 cross country squads competed at the KS2 cross country competition at Ovingham whilst our KS3 squads competed in the team relay events at the same venue. Our Y8 girls' rugby squad are looking forward to their trip to Kingston Park Stadium on Wednesday 11th February.

In our Y7 PE lessons pupils have been developing their paired and group balance work. Below are some pictures showing off their skills!



VEX Robotics:

🤖🤖 A huge congratulations to every member of our Robotics Team for their outstanding behaviour, teamwork, support, and respect towards other pupils and staff at the competition on Wednesday. The boys worked exceptionally well together and finished in an impressive second place out of 19 teams.



Vex Club will be competing on Saturday 7th February Good Luck everyone!



Careers in the Creative Arts:

A group of Year 8 pupils visited The Queen's Hall to take part in a Cultural Careers event. During the visit, students participated in three hands-on workshops: Art Curator, Make New Things, and Navigating the Dance Industry. All pupils engaged enthusiastically in the activities and found the talks both inspiring and informative.



Extra-Curricular Clubs:

The extra-curricular timetable for the Spring Term can be found on the school website.

Unfortunately, the Table Tennis Club has been cancelled until further notice. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

PTA

- PTA Valentine's Disco tonight, Friday 6th February, 7.00 – 8.30pm. £3.00 + tuck shop.
- The PTA are low on volunteers if you would like to be a part of the PTA, please contact Eleanor Stoves Tel: 01434 605124. We would love to see you at our events and maybe share new ideas.

Upcoming Events at a Glance:

Date	Activity
Friday 6 th February 2026	Disco 7.00 – 8.30pm.
Monday 9 th February 2026	Y7 Parents' Evening 3.45- 6.30pm
Thursday 12 th February	School closes 3.15pm for the half-term break

Friday 13th February	Teacher Training Day
Monday 16th – Friday 20th February	Half Term
Monday 23rd February	School reopens 8.40am
Sunday 22nd – Saturday 28th February	Ski Trip to Austria
Monday 23rd – Friday 27th February	Arts Week
Tuesday 17th March	80 Class Mass 11.15am

Our Prayer

Prayer for the Approach of Lent

Heavenly Father,

As we draw near to the holy season of Lent, prepare our hearts to walk with humility, faith, and love.

Help us to lay aside distractions and turn our eyes toward You,
to fast not only from food, but from pride, anger, and selfishness.

Teach us to give generously, forgive freely, and pray earnestly.

May this season be a time of renewal—

where our hearts are softened, our minds are transformed,
and our spirits are strengthened in Your grace.

Lead us closer to the cross,
so that when Easter dawns,

we may rejoice in the fullness of Your resurrection life.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

God bless,

N. A. Wood

Mr N Wood

