



Macmillian Coffee Morning

We sold delicious baked goods to raise funds for the cancer charity. The morning featured a number of stalls with a raffle, tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits. Mrs McNicholas and pupils from Year 7 planned and ran the stalls themselves and deserve a lot of credit and praise for playing such a key role in raising an impressive amount for Macmillan. Mrs McNicholas challenged subject departments to a 'Staff Cake Off'. The Pupil Support Department won first prize with their varieties of mini and large cupcakes celebrating differences and diversity.



The Pupil Support 'Strength lies in differences, not in similarities' cake.



Shoe Box for Romania

Convoy aid Romania was set up 21 years ago to help orphaned children. It is run by Rod and Gabriela helped by a group of unpaid volunteers. It now helps non-income families, old people and street children with the consumable necessities of life that we all take for granted. For many years they have taken shoe boxes full of love to Romania, to seriously poor children from non-income families and old people. These boxes are taken direct and given personally to those in need in Romania. The staff and students at St Joseph's made a collection in November which was collected and taken to Romania for Christmas. A big thank you to all the staff and students who generously donated items for the boxes.

Important dates for Spring term:

School closes for half term	Friday 17th February 2017
School re-opens	Monday 27th February 2017
School closes for Easter	Friday 7th April 2017
Summer Term:	
School re-opens	Monday 24th April 2017
Term Dates 2016 - 2017	
Year 7 Progress Evening	Thursday 12th January 2017
Year 11 Progress Evening	Thursday 19th January 2017
Year 11 Maximix ½ day	Friday 27th January 2017
Pupil Personal Development Day including Work Ready Day and Ten Ten Theatre	Monday 6th March 2017

Pensioners' Christmas Party

Local pensioners were treated to a traditional Christmas dinner specially prepared for them by a group of our Year 9 catering pupils under the direction of their class teacher Mrs Fowler. Mrs Shillito's Year 10 and 11 class decorated and arranged beautiful table settings, and were there to greet, look after and entertain. The guests were served a delicious three course meal. Guests were thoroughly impressed by the organisation, standard of food and enthusiasm of our young people. The afternoon was finished off with Carol singing, bingo and a visit from Father Christmas. Well done to all involved in a fantastic afternoon.



ShelterBox

ShelterBox is a disaster relief charity that provides shelter, warmth and dignity to those who have been affected by disasters worldwide. We deliver boxes of aid, each of which provides a family with quality survival equipment to use while they rebuild their homes. Boxes can be tracked by their own unique reference number, so donors can find out where and when their box has been sent. ShelterBox Response Teams accompany the boxes into disaster zones, to ensure that the aid reaches those who need it the most. Major deployments include the Indian Ocean tsunami, hurricane Katrina, the Pakistan and China earthquakes, cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and the Haiti earthquake. The school, through a non-uniform day and the carol concert collection, along with a donation from the students who organised the pensioners party, raised a total of £769.33. An average ShelterBox costs £590.00.



Tamara Telford, Katie Walker, Dexter Johnstone, Katie Williamson, Lewis Anderson and Elliott Dodd.

Staff Changes

We are saying goodbye to Miss Malkinson and Mrs Sheckley who is on maternity leave and from January 5th we say hello to the new director of English Mrs Fillingham and Miss Basso will be changing her title to Director of Maths.

St. Joseph's Catholic High School

Business & Enterprise College

School Newsletter



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A few words from the Head

As the New Year begins, it is good to look back at our achievements and events in my first term. There have been a huge number of opportunities for our pupils to extend their learning after school and at lunchtimes and I know you would like me to thank our staff for organising the many activities, sports fixtures and trips to events outside of school.



We have also invited schools to come and spend time with us. Our end of term activities included advent services for all our classes, a Carol Concert and a Nativity Celebration with our primaries. It was wonderful to share the celebrations with our Catholic primaries and come together to recognise that Advent is a time of hope-filled preparation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Our primary students chose to celebrate with song, music, readings, acting and miming, all performed in our hall in front of over 150 students. I would like to thank our primary Head teachers and staff for the time they took to prepare their classes and look forward to many more opportunities to celebrate together in 2017.

I have spent a lot of time getting to know our students this term through meeting students one to one, meetings with parents and through assemblies and student voice groups. I began with Year 11, meeting each individual student. In particular, I was interested to hear how hard our students work and how well they were preparing for their mock exams in December. On the 15th December all Year 11 students received an envelope from their tutors containing their results. Discussions immediately took place on how they could further improve. I know Mr Balog and the Year 11 team will do everything they can to support our students in the little time they have left before GCSEs begin in May. Each year the pressure on our students seems to increase but it is our job at St Joseph's to ensure they have all the support and preparation they need, right until the last exam in June.

I have also met groups of students from other year groups and listened to their opinions about their school. The students have lots of ideas about rewards and extra curricula activities they would like to do. It is always good to hear the views of our students and I am sure many of their suggestions will come to be part of our school.

My first impressions of the school community are that we have welcoming, polite young people in

school who are happy to work with our staff and who embrace the aims of the school. However, I am also keen to ensure that our students leave with results that compete with the best and I have begun to review how we ensure that all our students are aiming to be the best that they can in their examinations and that they believe in themselves. All of us want our St Joseph's students to stand out in the future as well-adjusted, mature, kind adults aiming high with confidence. It is this goal that is driving me each day when I arrive at work.

We have many things to look forward to in the Spring of 2017. Two school trips abroad, to Iceland and to Barcelona, have been organised. We have a new member of staff joining us in January: Mrs Fillingham, our new Director of English, and in April/ May we will be opening our new purpose built Sports Hall. We would love to hear from former students from the distant past. I know our students would like to hear about St Joseph's history. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the welcome you have given me since I began in September. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the New Year.

J Kennedy
Headteacher

Remembrance Day

St Joseph's School remembered all those serving in the forces and fallen soldiers in our assembly on the 11th November. We invited all cadets to wear their uniform in school on



Remembrance Day and these cadets also sold poppies in the week prior in preparation for the remembrance. Jack Burdon, Year 9 Army Cadet, can be seen in the picture selling poppies. The English Department had also studied letter writing around the battle field and wrote their own letters from the trenches. Jamie Wilson Year 8's letter was so emotive he was picked to share his letter with all of Year 7.



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Harrington Road, Workington, Cumbria CA14 3EE
Tel: (01900) 873290 • Email: office@st-josephs.cumbria.sch.uk
The school website has lots of information on it for parents www.st-josephs.cumbria.sch.uk



COMPETITIONS

Tiger Boat Challenge

For the third year running, St Joseph's staff team entered Bassenthwaite's annual Tiger Boat Race on Derwent Water, near Keswick. We raised £500 for Cumbria Hospice at Home. We rose to the challenge and we gave it our all, winning two out of three races!



Year 7/8 Reading Challenge

Congratulations to Declan Smith, Jaedyn Kendall-Watson and Mitchell Ward for winning tickets to see Manchester City versus Everton and a Match Day Experience by reading as many books as they could and completing the Accelerated Reader quizzes.



Entrepreneur Competition

Congratulations go to six of our Year 9 pupils who won the Youthpreneur competition against rival teams from all over the county, winning £500 towards making their business idea of a cookbook designed by teens into a viable business product. The team 'Taste for Teens' worked hard for three months in their free time, developing a new product idea and then pitching it to four judges in a 'Dragons Den' style pitch at Energus earlier this term. All pupils showed dedication and enthusiasm throughout the whole process. Well done to Kate Weaver, Katie Murray, Holly Faulkner, Kate Howard, Owen Mandale and Nathan Little for developing a fantastic product idea and an amazing pitch.

Science Competition

On Friday 11th November, four students took part in the top of the bench competition organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry. This was the first year our students had taken part in the competition and they were up against some tough competition. The competition consisted of two assessed practical experiments followed by a quiz. Whilst one team from Queen Elizabeth Grammar School were the competition winners, it was announced that there had been a tie for second place. The judges went back to the experiment results and it was decided that St Josephs' had come second. It was a fantastic result for the team who all won a WH Smiths voucher and have now set the bar high for next year!



SPORT

New Table Tennis Equipment

The brand new outdoor Table Tennis tables have proved to be very popular during the first week of lunchtime play. The Lunch club takes place on Mondays and Thursdays and is run by Mrs Bell and Mr Wise and designed to get the students of St Joseph's active and hopefully playing the game to a good standard. Both sessions have attracted students from years 7 to 11 with both tables being constantly in use.



Hannah joins netball elite

Hannah Kurzyk O'Donnell has been signed to play for Oaksway, an elite netball team in the North East, and has already played in two national competitions. Hannah said, "I'm really happy. Lots of opportunities have come my way and I want to keep going and try and play for England". Hannah, (second from left) with the St Joseph's Netball Team.

Cumbria Schools' Cross Country Competition

The P.E department took a selection of pupils to the 'Cumbria Schools Year 7 Cross Country competition' which was held at QEGs in Penrith. The girls' course was 2000m and the boys' course was 2500m. All of the pupils gave it maximum effort and enjoyed the experience of running against lots of other pupils from different schools in Cumbria.



Cracking Codes in Maths

Last week students in years 7 and 8 at St Joseph's Catholic High School were treated to an insight into the world of espionage. Visiting guest speaker Dr Katie Chicot from Leeds University provided the students with a whistle stop tour through the history of code breaking, demonstrating and explaining how different codes were created and challenging students to crack increasingly difficult ciphers. Students spent the afternoon wrestling with complexities of the Caesar Shift Cipher, the Transposition Cipher, and even one called Pigpen developed by a secretive organisation in the 18th century. The lectures, organised by the school's maths department were generously provided through the Holgate Lectures and Workshops scheme with the aim of enriching the students' mathematical education. The day was a big hit with the students, who got a real taste for cracking codes as well as seeing how mathematics underpins all aspects of the coding arms race.

