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A Message from the Headteacher

Autumn has arrived and with it a well-deserved break from lessons for our pupils, who as you will see from this newsletter have been very busy both in and out of school.

In August we warmly welcomed our new and enthusiastic S1 cohort along with a number of new members of staff: Miss Denim and Mr Macdougall in Biology, Miss Persson in English and Miss Kerr in Technical Education. Our congratulations and best wishes go to Miss Haley (Biology) and Miss McCormick (Biology) who both got married recently and will now be known as Mrs Wilson and Mrs Barbour respectively. It was lovely to see so many pupils and Parents/ Carers at the S1 Welcome Evening this week and the S1 Disco organised by the Events Committee and Senior Pupils was also much enjoyed. Many thanks go to our in-house DJ Findlay!

SQA Results day brought confirmation of much success for our Senior Phase pupils. Whole school results indicate performances above both Authority and National benchmarks and within these there were many outstanding individual achievements at all levels from National 3 to Advanced Higher. Worthy of a special mention are the nineteen S4 pupils who all achieved at least 7 A's at National 5 level and the school record breaking performance of fifteen S5 pupils who achieved 5 or more A's at Higher level. Well done to all – keep up the good work!

Recently I had the privilege of accompanying pupils to both the Barcaple Outdoor Education Centre which is supported by the Abernethy Trust and also beautiful L'Hermitage in France, the area where Marcellin Champagnat, founder of the Marist Order grew up. On both occasions it was fantastic to see our young people successfully tackle new challenges, build their confidence and leadership skills and make new friends from different schools across Scotland and Ireland. Great opportunities which were fully embraced by St. Joseph's pupils. Congratulations to everyone involved – you should feel very proud of yourselves.

My congratulations also go to our many successful athletes and sports teams this term, our History Club members who were runners up in the Malcolm Dolin Memorial Award Competition for Local History Research 1914-1918 and finally our young mathematicians who won the Regional Enterprising Maths competition for the third year in a row!

All in all, a great start to session 2024/25.

Mrs. Jones

'A'mazing — Our pupils who achieved at least 5 A grades at Higher!



Please see the last page of this newsletter for Key Dates for Session 2024/25

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

Autumn Newsletter 2024

Captains and Vice-Captains

Session 2024/25



Adele Wildner – School Captain

I am very grateful to have been offered the role of School Captain this year. I am committed to making our school a welcoming and positive environment for all, and I will work closely with the Leadership Team to create and offer new opportunities for my peers and the younger year groups. This role provides me with the opportunity to make positive changes in the school by listening to and considering everyone's views and opinions.

Kevin Rayen – School Captain

I am tremendously grateful to have been selected as one of the School Captains of St Joseph's College for the 2024/25 session, and I am motivated to bring about positive changes within our school community. My goal is to provide pupils with more opportunities outside the classroom and to encourage active participation in upcoming House competitions. Pupil involvement is my top priority, and I am confident that, together with my team, we can achieve this throughout the year. I aim to set a high standard of pupil leadership and be the best Captain I can for our school.



Callum Baxter – School Vice-Captain

It is a great honour to have been elected as a Vice School Captain for the 2024/2025 session. As a Captaincy team, we have a variety of events and activities planned, and we are excited to make a positive contribution to the school community. My ambition is to represent the views of all students at St Joseph's College and to foster a positive environment where everyone can strive to achieve their best. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity and look forward to embracing the challenges and responsibilities of

Maya Nassar – School Vice-Captain

I am truly honoured to have been elected as your Vice Captain. My goal is to foster a spirit of teamwork and collaboration among all of us. I will work closely with our Captains, lead by example, encourage open communication, and strive to ensure that everyone in our school feels safe and supported. Together, I believe we can make this year unforgettable, filled with achievements and

House Captains



Bruce House

Sean Cameron and Zak McGill



Douglas House

Sophia Earle and Jennifer Harper



Stewart House

Skye Dodds and Teju Chaudhary



Wallace House

Ben Armstrong and Sam Henderson

St Joseph's College Parent Council

Working together with our school for the best experience for all our children

As a parent, carer or family member YOU can make an enormous difference to your child's chances of success in school, at home and in their later life.

Parental and Carer involvement is all about supporting pupils and their learning. It is about parents and teachers working in partnership to help our young people become more confident people and learners. Research shows the importance of parental involvement in raising attainment and improving outcomes for children, families and schools. The more that parents engage in their child's learning, the more likely it is that they will help raise their child's attainment.

As the school year returns to normal, after the impact from COVID, it is more important than ever that we work together in supporting our young people and our school.

The Parent Council is a safe community of Parents and Carers, who support each other, represent the parent/carer community and work closely with the School to create the best learning experience for all our young people.

What do we do ?

- we meet regularly with the Headteacher and school to discuss what is happening with the school and key items.
- we support the PFA in raising money for the school and supporting events.
- we take part in key items like teacher interviews and inspections.
- we take part in focus groups in areas such as sustainability
- we comment and input to new policies.
- we feedback the parent and carer voice to the School.

How you can help?

- come along to our meetings and hear what will be happening in the school
- volunteer your skills, time or resources to support the school.
- attend events.
- help shape learning and opportunities for our young people.

Everyone is very welcome and we look forward to meeting you. Contact: stjosephscollegeparentcouncil@gmail.com
Follow the Parent Council's Facebook page: [StJosephsCollegeParentCouncil](#)

Parent Council Members Session 2024/2025

C Renton—Chair
T Crombie—Vice Chair
L Nosratzadeh—Treasurer
Father G Donnelly—Church Rep
A Brown — Clerk
K Walters—PFA Rep
F Purdie—Teacher Rep
D Stainthorpe
A Stores
K Pullen
S Drysdale
J Challinor
R Topping
S Shek
G Stewart

Parents and Friends Association (PFA)

PFA Chair – Keith Walters: stjosephscollegepfa@gmail.com

New members are always welcome, at any time!

At St Joseph's College we are in the very fortunate position to also have a Parents and Friends Association (PFA) – members of this group include not only parents but also friends of the school from the local community who wish to support the school by being involved in the fundraising and hospitality aspects of school life.

It is these dedicated people who will be serving you teas and coffees at every concert, Parents' Evenings, etc held in the school, and who will help to organise many of the fundraising activities and events held for the benefit of the school.

There are no membership fees and parents are encouraged to play an active part so that a thriving association is maintained. All members are welcome to participate in the large variety of events that take place each year in the school.

School events are publicised through letters, by Group Call messaging, by announcements in Parish Bulletins, the quarterly School Newsletter and via the PFA and the school's Facebook pages.

PFA 100 Club

To help raise additional funds for the school, the PFA runs a **100 Club**. Members pay an annual fee of £12 and are allocated a number. A monthly draw is held, with three winners receiving prizes as follows:

1st Prize = £25; 2nd Prize = £20; 3rd Prize = £10

Letters & application forms have been circulated by email to families but if you would like another copy, please contact the PFA 100 Club at sjc100club@gmail.com or ask at the school office. Your support would be very much appreciated.

In the last few years, funds raised by the PFA, mainly through donations for teas and coffees and the 100 Club membership, have been used by the school community to help provide, among other items:

- Kindle Fires for the English and Drama departments
- SD cards for the cameras used by several departments
- Netball kits
- Football strips
- Several picnic benches for the outdoor areas
- Laser cutter for the Tech department
- Table Tennis Table

All of these things add to our children's experiences in class, and we are always very grateful for any funds received to be able to pass on to school for their benefit.

Don't hesitate to contact either the PC or PFA if you are interested in joining!

DH9 Foundation Honours David Hill



St. Joseph's College is very grateful to have received an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) from the DH9 Foundation launched in memory of past pupil David Hill. This donation will also be supported with free CPR training in school.

Very sadly David died at the age of 30 from an undiagnosed heart condition, on a rugby field in Dublin on St. Joseph's Day in March 2022. David, who worked at the Scottish Parliament, was playing in the No. 9 shirt in a cross-party match for Holyrood against Dail and Seanad XV as part of the Parliamentary Six Nations tournament. David's popularity and hardworking reputation led to him being posthumously named Parliamentary Staffer of the Year in September 2022.

The aims of the DH9 Foundation are to raise awareness of young sudden cardiac death (YSCD), provide CPR training and defibrillators for schools and community organisations in Dumfries and Galloway and fund screening through Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY). The DH9 Foundation is committed to improving the cardiac health of young people under the age of 35.

Our new AED will be stored in the PE department which is used not only throughout the day by the school but also in the evenings by community sports clubs. We also have an AED beside our school reception and another beside the outdoor 3G pitch.

By offering CPR training and defibrillators, the DH9 Foundation is looking to improve the chance of survival in cases of out of hospital cardiac arrest.

Pictured in the photo along with some of our Senior pupils is David's Dad and his wife, together with three of our S1 pupils who have been petitioning the Scottish Parliament to place defibrillators in every school. We wish them well with their campaign.

Any profit from our upcoming Christmas Market will be donated to the DH9 Foundation to carry on their important work in David's memory.

Mobile Phone Policy

At our school, mobile phones must be switched off and stored in pupils' school bags unless directed otherwise by a teacher. To manage this, teachers use a reversible poster system in class:

Green indicates "Devices Allowed for Learning Activity."

Red indicates "Devices Switched Off and Stored in School Bag."

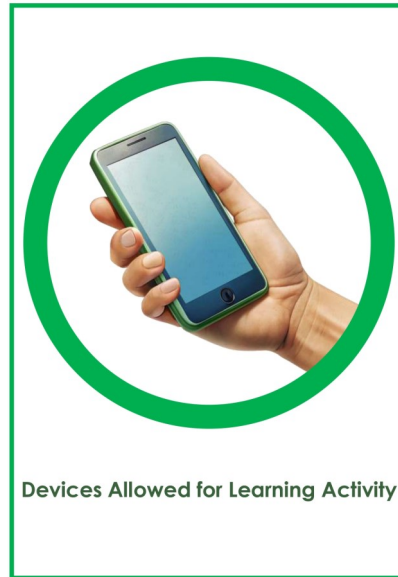
Phones should be fully switched off, not just on silent.

Parents and carers are requested to only contact their children during break and lunchtimes to avoid disruptions to lessons.

Break time: 10.30 – 10.50 am

Lunchtime: 1.05 – 1.45 pm.

In emergencies, contact can be made through the School Office.



Regional Enterprising Mathematics Competition.

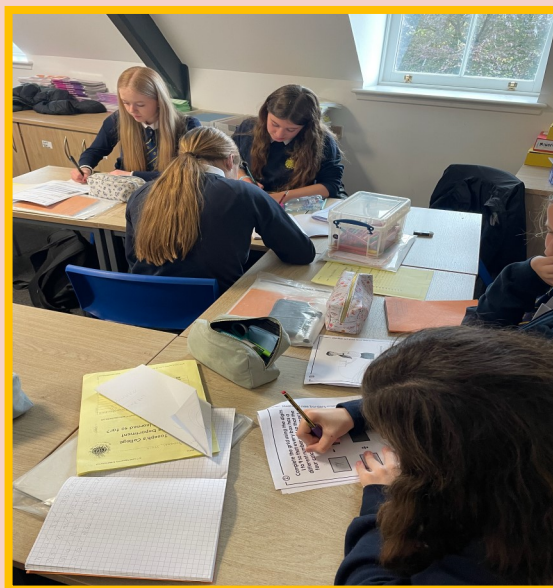
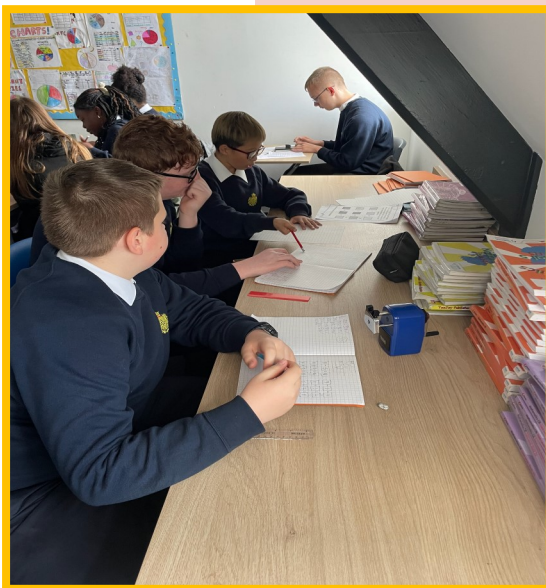
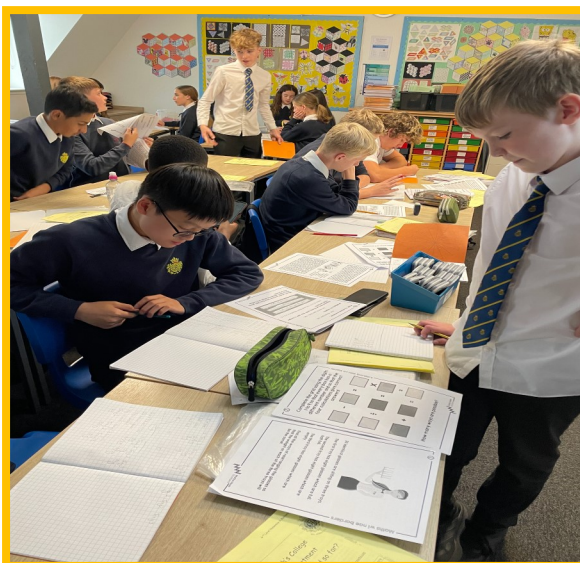
As last year's winners, St Joseph's College had the honour of hosting the 2024 Regional Enterprising Mathematics competition. Representing our school were Euan Riddick and Layla Martin from S3, along with Lilianna Sudol and Manas Muniraju from S4, who were more than up for the challenge. We are proud to announce that we emerged victorious! St Joseph's College, along with Wallace Hall Academy, will now progress to the national finals at the Glasgow Science Centre in November. We wish them all the very best of luck.

The winning team is pictured alongside Ms Haining and Mrs Cannon from the Mathematics Department and Ms Caven, Principal Teacher Inclusive Practice, Dumfries and Galloway Council.



Maths Week Scotland

As part of Maths Week Scotland, some of our classes participated in a mini competition called “Maths Wi Nae Borders,” which is open to all schools across Scotland. The students were given five tasks to complete within a two-hour time frame. After working through the challenges, each class selected the best solution for each task to submit as their official entry.



S1 Computing Science

Earlier this term, in the Computing Science Principles class, our S1 students showcased their creativity by designing their ideal computers and describing the unique features of each. They also participated in a hands-on learning experience by opening up a computer system to explore its architecture, giving them practical insight into the various hardware components and how they work together.



S3 Computing Science



The S3 Computing Science cohort at St. Joseph's College has been hard at work, applying their programming knowledge and artistic flair to create fantastic games using MakeCode Arcade. This platform is perfect for learning game development, with built-in tutorials and a badge system to help pupils track their achievements. Pupils worked both autonomously and collaboratively, producing some excellent projects.

Future Asset Competition

Did you know that there are more men named Dave running FTSE 100 companies than there are women? Our S5 and S6 girls are determined to change that.

Earlier this term, our enthusiastic group of girls, accompanied by Mrs Plunkett and Mrs True, participated in a kick-off workshop for the #FutureAsset competition, which introduced them to the world of Investment Management. They visited Barclays Head Office in Glasgow for a fun and engaging day, featuring a series of talks, activities, and interactive experiences.

Good luck to the girls as they continue their journey!



Enterprising Competition

Two groups of S5 and S6 Higher Business Management pupils are participating in the "Sweat the Asset" competition, run in conjunction with SRUC Barony College in Dumfries. Pupils from St Joseph's will take on pupils from across Dumfries & Galloway and the Borders in which is sure to be an exciting day.

Our two entries are:

CineMarist – Sam Henderson, Zak McGill, Finlay Millar, and Alex O'Hagan

Late Night Lectures – Mia Milligan, Emily Mitchell, and Hamish Reilly

The finals will take place on Friday, 11 October.

The goal of the competition is for pupils to develop a business idea that utilises the school estate (building and grounds). They will present their business concepts to a panel of judges, competing for awards in categories such as Best Trade Stand, Business Plan, Presentation, and Interview.

Good luck to both teams!

SWEAT THE ASSET

SRUC

Idea

PLAN

A senior phase school competition

Sweat the Asset is a senior phase school competition taking place on 11th October for S5/S6 (as of June 24) to give pupils the chance to showcase their business and entrepreneurial skills and learn how to utilise them in a real-world scenario.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Congratulations to all pupils and staff who helped raise over £1,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support! S6 pupils and staff enjoyed a wonderful selection of treats baked by friends and family during the Coffee Morning, with the leftovers selling out quickly at lunchtime. Pupils also got into the spirit of the event by participating in the 'Wear It Green/Dress As You Please' day, supporting this important annual fundraiser.

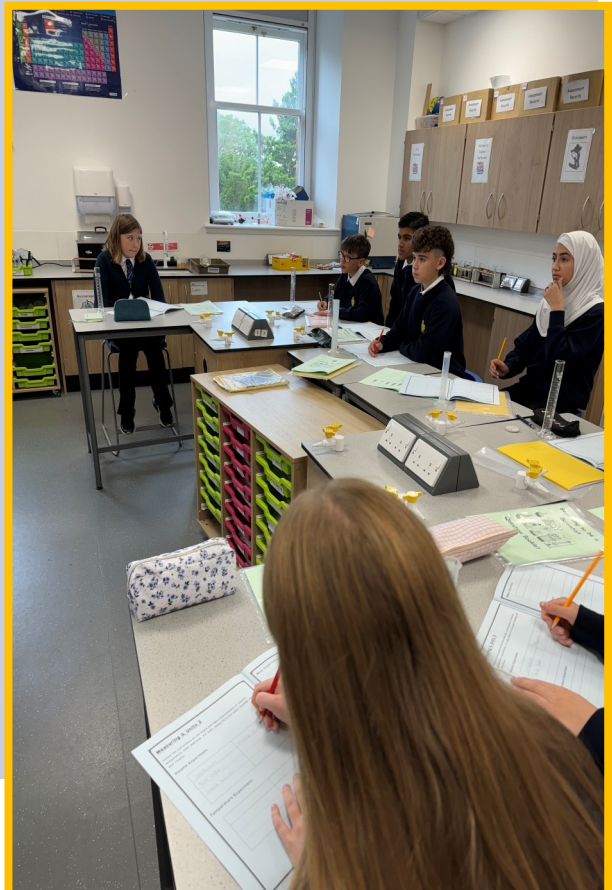
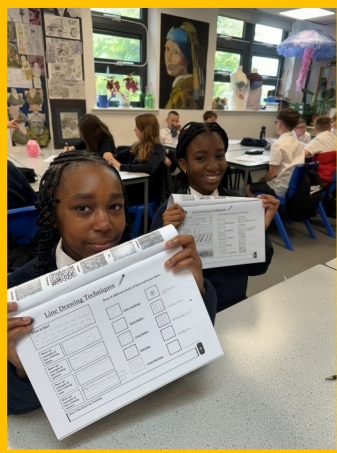
A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making the day such a success.

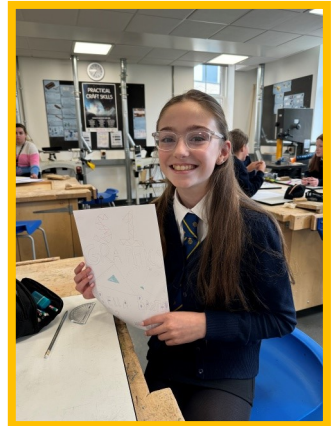
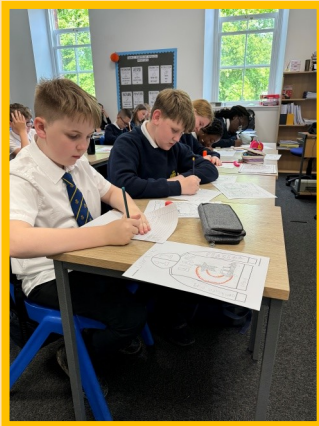
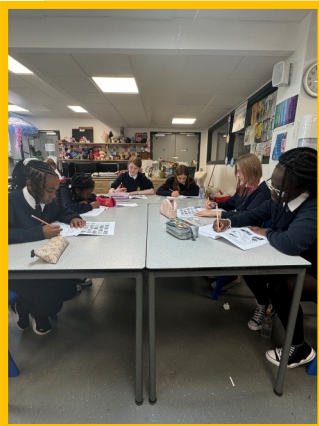
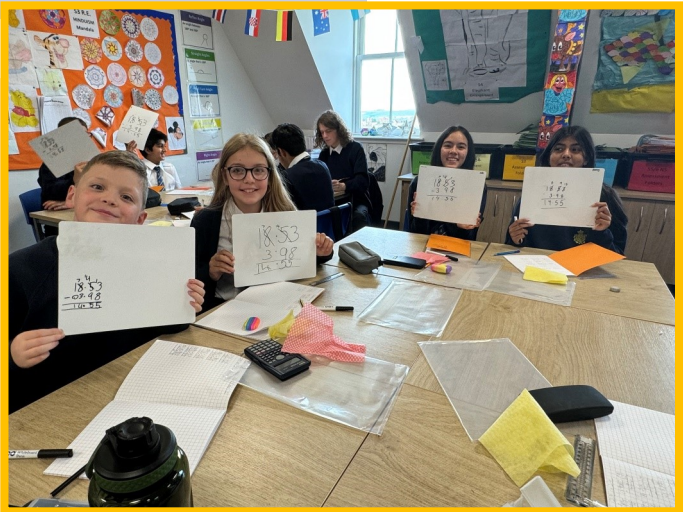
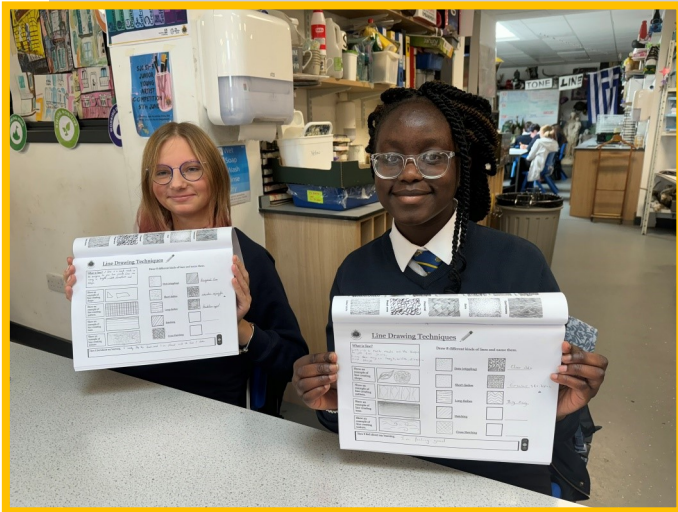




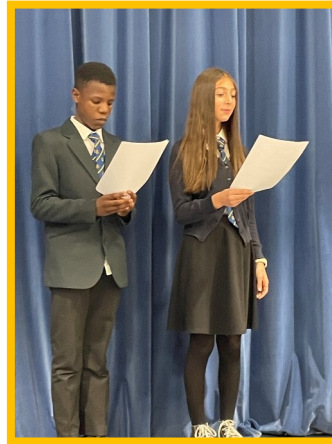
Our New S1

Thanks to Sophia Earle (S6) for her photographs which showcase our new S1 pupils have settled into the exciting new experiences that St Joseph's College has to offer.





S1 Welcome Evening



My first week of school

There was so many new school rules.

People at drama had a big voice.

For IDL you had a good choice.

In Art it was big and bright.

And Maths, top floor, what a height!

Then in football one would score.

In Science we learnt even more.

Home Ec you make loads of good food.

History the lessons are just so good.

At break there are slushies, coffee and hot chocolate.

At lunch the food was nice and hot!

A few more lessons to go.

At Chapel you had to line up in a row.

Last but not least there was band practice – what fun!

And as quick as it was, the first week was done.

Amirah Alam Kishore (S1)

Abernethy House Adventure



St. Joseph's College pupils recently enjoyed an exciting residential trip to Abernethy House in Barcaple. Our students engaged in a variety of outdoor and indoor activities, learning valuable teamwork skills along the way. The trip included canoeing, climbing and abseiling from treetops, mountain biking, and archery. We also worked together on orienteering tasks to enhance our map reading abilities. On our final night, we learned how to light a fire using flint and natural materials.

It was a fantastic experience where we overcame challenges and strengthened our teamwork skills. A big thank you to all the staff at Abernethy House for an unforgettable time.

Netball Success



This term, 28 of our S2/3 netball players represented the school at the Regional Season Opener Festival. All three teams demonstrated excellent skills and determination, with our B and C teams advancing to the plate competition, and our A team securing a spot in the shield competition.

In the afternoon matches, our B team claimed 1st place, while our A team achieved 3rd—an outstanding result! Special mention to Zainab Fashina, Amy Igoshewe, and Autumn Hodgins, who were awarded Player of the Tournament for each of their teams. Well done to everyone involved!

Football Success

It has been an exciting time for football at St. Joseph's College, with several teams kicking off their campaigns in impressive style.

Dumfries and Galloway Schools Football

Congratulations to Logan Pike and Niall Shearman (S3), who have been selected to play for the Dumfries and Galloway Schools Football Under-15 Team this season.

Queen of the South U16s Victory

Huge congratulations to Hannah Simpson and Charlie Spencer (S4), who were part of the Queen of the South under-16 team that won the SWF League Cup recently. A fantastic achievement!

S2 Team Starts Strong

Our S2 football team also started their league campaign with an exceptional 9-0 win against Dumfries Academy. The team played brilliantly, and credit goes to Dumfries Academy for their perseverance throughout the game.

U16s Boys Secure Dominant Win

The U16s boys' football team began their league campaign with a 5-1 victory over Dumfries Academy. Special mention goes to the goal scorers, and Man of the Match Connal Smith, who had a standout performance.

Senior Team Advances in the Scottish Cup

Our Senior Football team kicked off this year's Scottish Cup campaign with a hard-fought win against St Matthews Academy of Saltcoats. Following last year's successful cup run, the team rose to the challenge against a physical opponent. Player of the Match, Finlay Millar, led the line superbly and secured a hat-trick, helping the team move on to the next round, where they will face Barrhead Academy at home.

Well done to all our footballers for their fantastic efforts and achievements on the pitch!



Hockey



Congratulations to both our senior and S3 hockey teams for their impressive performances at the Dr Turner Tournament recently. Every player demonstrated excellent skill, teamwork and determination.

Our senior boys' team finished in 3rd place, while the senior girls' team fought hard to claim 1st place—marking the first time the school has won the tournament since 1989!

Huge congratulations also go to our S3 teams. The boys' team drew all their games, securing 3rd place, and the girls' team battled to a well-deserved 2nd place finish.

Well done to all those who represented the school—your efforts have made us proud!

Dumfries ASC Awards



Earlier in the term, eight swimmers from St Joseph's College were honoured at the Dumfries ASC Annual Awards Ball, which was particularly special as it celebrated the club's Diamond Anniversary. The event was attended by Michael Gunning, who represented both Great Britain and Jamaica in the World Aquatics Championships, and Abbie Houston, a former Dumfries swimmer who competed for Scotland at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Amber Hinton was recently selected for the Scottish National Junior Team for 2024/2025 due to her excellent performance last season. This is a fantastic opportunity for Amber to further develop her skills and compete at a higher level.

Award Winners

Dumfries ASC Swimmer of the Year: Amber Hinton (S3)

Stroke Awards

12-13-year boys: Yassin Hatab (S2) – Butterfly, Freestyle & IM; Struan Henry (S2) – Backstroke; Nathan Zaoral (S2) – Breaststroke

12-13-year girls: Teyah Laidlaw (S2) – Butterfly

14-15-year boys: Finlay Hiddleston (S4) – Butterfly, Backstroke, Freestyle, IM, Distance & Open Water; Ali Hatab (S4) – Breaststroke

14-15-year girls: Amber Hinton (S3) – Backstroke, Breaststroke, Freestyle & Individual Medley

16-year and over boys: Rhys Edwards (S5) – Freestyle

These fantastic achievements reflect the hard work and dedication of our swimmers. Congratulations to all!

Workington Presidents Gala

During September, 18 St Joseph's swimmers travelled down to Workington to swim with Dumfries ASC in the Workington President's Gala. These were two long days of racing (plus the Friday night for 800m and 1500m) with them being in the pool by 8am and the events not finishing until 6pm in the evenings. They raced against teams from the north of England, including Cockermouth, which are always very tough opposition and have lots of excellent athletes.

The following pupils were in attendance:

S1 - Beth Muldowney, Max Grierson (12yrs)

S2 – Teyah Laidlaw, Milli Kerr (12yrs), Nada Samer, Lameece Ewas, Struan Henry, Yassin Hatab, Nathan Zaoral, Ben Gray (13yrs)

S3 - Amber Hinton, Eedih Laidlaw (13yrs), Lauren Dunlop (14yrs)

S4 - Sarah McQuire (14yrs), Lois Grierson, Leena Samer (15yrs), Finlay Hiddleston, Ali Hatab (15yrs)

This meet gave some of our swimmers the chance to do some sprints before they begin their preferred distance events in the coming weeks, and others the chance to mix it up by doing a variety of different events over the two+ days. They all had great races, setting plenty of new personal best times, and their team manager praised how much team support they gave each other poolside. Nine swimmers also came home with 32 medals in total!

12 Year Age Group

Teyah - 50m Fly Gold, 100m Fly Gold, 100m Free Bronze; Max - 200m Free Silver

13 Year Age Group

Amber - 200IM Gold, 50m Back Gold, 100m Breast Gold, 100m Back Gold, 50m Breast Gold, 50m Fly Gold, 100IM Gold, 50m free Gold, 100m Fly Gold

Eedih - 200m Free Gold, 100m Fly Silver, 800m Free Silver, 100m Free Bronze

Nathan – 50m Back Gold, 200m Free Silver, 50m Breast Bronze

Struan – 100m Free Silver, 50m Free Silver, 1500m Free Bronze

Yassin – 200IM Gold, 50m Back Silver, 100m Breast Silver, 50m Breast Silver, 100m Back Silver

14 Year Age Group

Lauren – 200m Back Silver; Sarah – 1500m free Gold, 400m free Gold, 200m free Bronze

Well done to them all! Another great meet to start off the new season!



School Sport Award

We are thrilled to have been awarded the Silver School Sport Award for 2024-25! This recognition highlights our commitment to continuous improvement in school sport and physical activity within St Joseph's College. A big thank you to Sport Scotland for their support!



Hardrock Challenge Duathlon



We are proud to highlight the fantastic inter-school teamwork showcased by Joe Burnie (S3) and Findlay Robertson (Wallace Hall Academy) at the Hardrock Challenge Duathlon in Dalbeattie. Joe took on the biking leg, while Findlay tackled the running portion, and together they secured an impressive 2nd place finish after an outstanding performance.

Well done to both Joe and Findlay for their incredible effort and achievement!

Our Loudest Teacher



This term, the National 4 Physics Class held their annual Loudest Teacher Competition.

The students carefully planned their investigation to ensure fairness before enthusiastically visiting classrooms and offices across the school. Teachers were invited to shout “get out of my class” as loudly as they could manage. After collecting all the data, the students took part in an in-class competition to create graphs displaying the results.

Congratulations to Mr Brown, who participated for the first time this year and achieved a record-breaking volume of 115.9 dB—a new school record! Miss McCaughey secured second place with an impressive 112.1 dB. Special mention goes to Mr Bremner, who, with a volume of 88 dB, has room for improvement next year.

Congratulations also to Amber Keddie for producing the winning graph.

A big thank you to all teachers who were fantastic sports and took part in the competition!

Young STEM Leaders



This term, St Joseph's is excited to welcome a new cohort of budding Young STEM Leaders. An impressive number of S6 students have signed up to complete the SSERC Young STEM Leader Award, a nationally recognised qualification. This award empowers young people to support, engage, and inspire younger students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths (STEM).

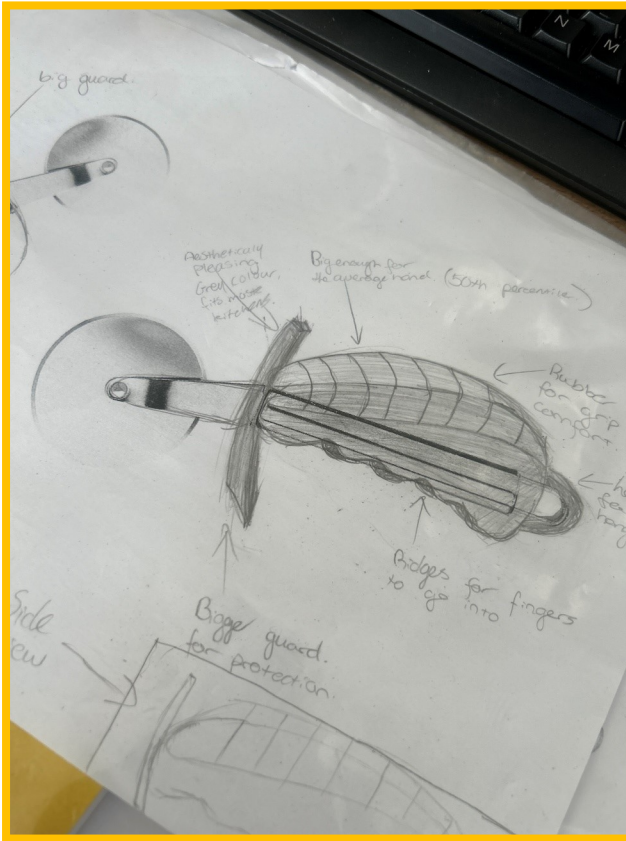
Throughout the programme, the students will develop strong leadership skills, act as positive role models, and challenge stereotypes, misconceptions, and outdated views that still exist in STEM fields.

To successfully complete the programme, students will need to show sustained commitment and enthusiasm. They will attend tutorial sessions, maintain detailed logbooks, and plan and organise a variety of STEM activities within the school.

We wish them the best of luck on this journey and look forward to celebrating their successes.

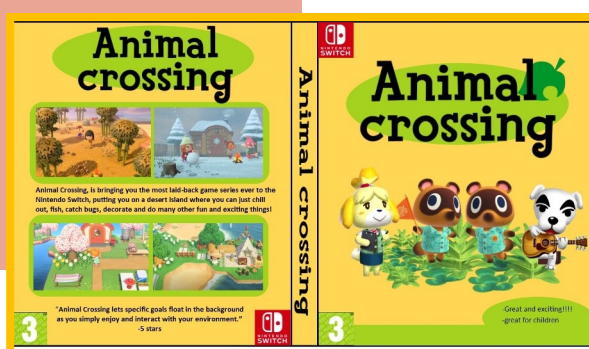
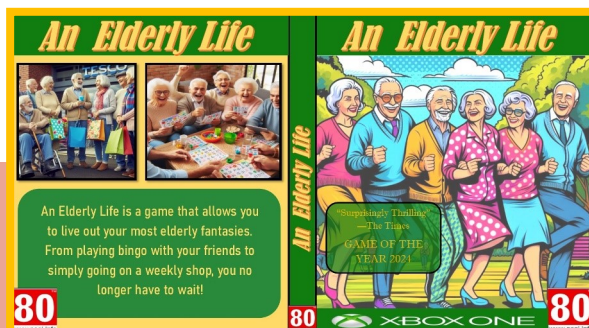
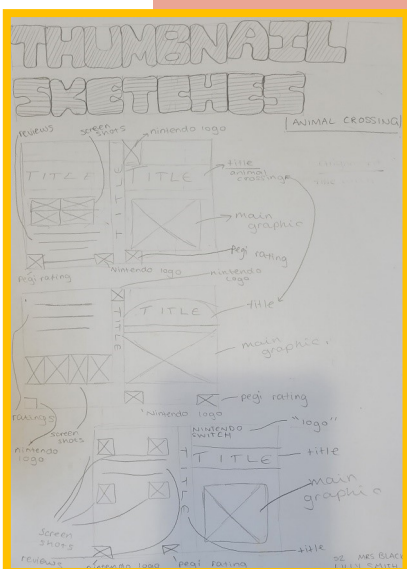
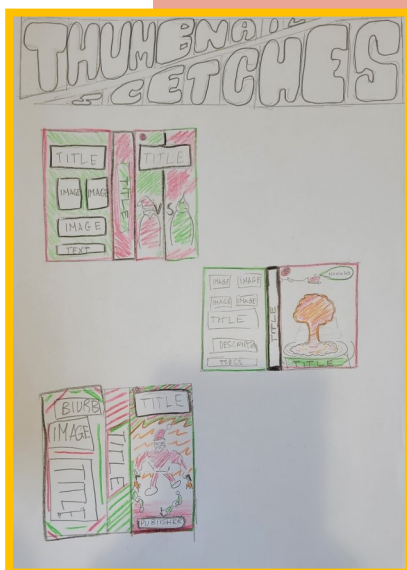
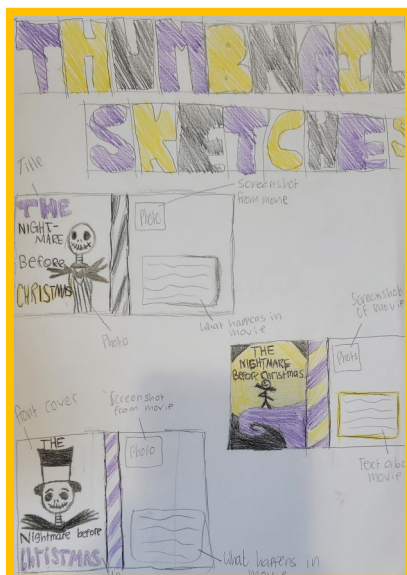
Design and Manufacture

The Higher Design and Manufacture class have been busy learning about product evaluation, and what better way to do it than by fully committing to the process! The product they evaluated was a pizza cutter, which they tested for grip, function, durability, ergonomics, and performance. After completing the evaluation, students re-designed the handle using styrofoam, with the brief: "Make it better."



S2 Design and Technology

S2 pupils have been learning about desktop publishing and effective layout design. They analysed promotional graphics, explored key design principles like alignment, dominance, and unity, and applied these to create game or movie sleeve designs. After sketching thumbnail layouts, pupils selected their best ideas and used desktop publishing software to produce their final designs. As shown in the photos, they've created fantastic work. Well done, S2!



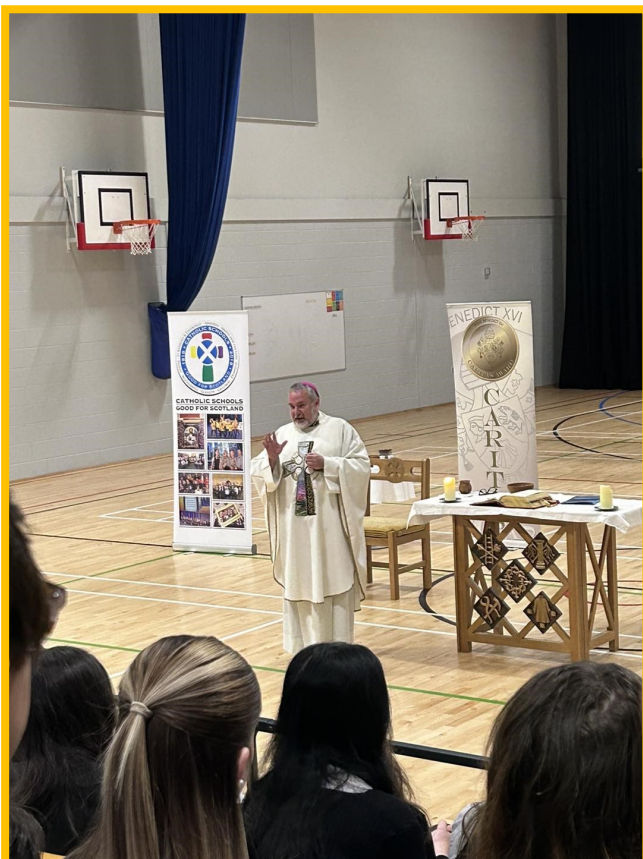
International Aid Fund

Earlier this term, the RE department was pleased to welcome Mark Brooker from the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) to the school. SCIAF is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland, working to alleviate poverty and promote social justice globally. Mark spoke to pupils across various year groups and spent time over lunch with our current SCIAF leaders to develop a plan for the year ahead.



Caritas Commissioning Mass

A wonderful Caritas Commissioning Mass and celebration took place earlier in the term, bringing together the four diocesan secondary schools, hosted by Queen Margaret Academy in Ayr, with Bishop Frank leading the service. After the Mass, pupils enjoyed fellowship and finished with a competitive quiz. Below is a photo of the winners proudly displaying their prizes, including two of our Caritas candidates who were part of the winning team. Bishop Frank left the Caritas students with one small challenge: Change the World!



Generation 2 Generation

Recently, the History Department welcomed Gloria Silver and Lesley Urbach from the Generation 2 Generation Charity. They delivered heartfelt presentations to our S3, Higher, and Advanced Higher pupils, sharing their families' experiences of the Holocaust.

One Higher pupil reflected, "The Holocaust talks were fascinating, and it was moving to hear from relatives of the survivors. You could really sense their passion for sharing their family stories."



History Club



Congratulations to the History Club for receiving a runner-up award in the Malcolm Doolin Memorial Award for Local History Research 1914-1918. The group conducted extensive research on Dumfries and Galloway during World War One, demonstrating a deep understanding of the local impact of the conflict.

Well done to everyone involved for their hard work and dedication!

Advanced Higher Geography

For three days, the St Joseph's College Advanced Higher Geography class explored the Lake District, working with the Blencathra Field Studies Centre to gather data for their Geographical Study portfolio. Led by Sam, a tutor with the FSC, the 19 students conducted research, took samples, and studied various physical environments.

Upon arriving at Blencathra, the students embarked on a trek up Blencathra Hill, where they investigated soil types, pH levels, and other environmental factors along a slope. Passing by stunning waterfalls and steep inclines, they returned to the centre in time for sunset and some lab work.

On Day 2, the group visited the coast at Mawbray to study sand dune formation and the associated vegetation. With sunny weather and views across the Solway to Criffel and Queensberry hills, the day was rounded off perfectly with ice creams.

The final day involved a study of the Glenderaterra River, where students investigated how different sections of the river affect its various elements. After three productive days in the Lake District, the students returned to school, where the data collected will be used to construct their Geographical Study, contributing to their portfolios and final grades.





National 5 Geography

Earlier in the term, National 5 Geography pupils visited the Lake District, travelling to the honeypot village of Grasmere to study the effects of tourism on local residents and the environment. Pupils conducted primary research, including environmental quality surveys, traffic counts, and land use surveys. They also hiked up to Easedale Tarn to observe a key glaciated upland feature – a corrie. Despite the bleak, rainy conditions, pupils showed great determination and enthusiasm.

Since returning, pupils have been using their primary data to write up their coursework, analysing the impact of tourism in the Lake District.



Futurechef Competition



Well done to the 11 S3 and S4 pupils who participated in the 2nd St Joseph's College Springboard Futurechef Competition.

The winner of the evening was Amelia Lockhart (S3), who impressed the judges with her pan-seared lamb, served with baba ghanoush, melba toast, and pomegranate molasses. In second place was Liana Daas (S3), who prepared crispy honey and chilli beef, accompanied by salt and chilli chips.

Pupils selected their own menus and, in their own time after school, competed to create a main course for two people within an hour.

We were fortunate to have local chef Tony Budde as the judge, who commented, "It was lovely to see so many enthusiastic pupils demonstrating such a high level of skill." Tony has generously offered to mentor the winners in preparation for the next round. Good luck to both Amelia and Liana!



Annandale Distillery

Earlier this term, S4 Practical Cookery pupils had the opportunity to visit Annandale Distillery as part of the Springboard Hospitality Careers event. Pupils explored the skills required for a range of roles in Hospitality, including front of house, food preparation, housekeeping, and finance.

The day included a delicious lunch at the distillery, followed by a tour where pupils gained valuable insights into whisky production. Many thanks to Springboard for facilitating this informative and enjoyable experience.



Elf The Musical, Jr

18th and 19th December at 7pm

Come and support our first Christmas musical, performed by pupils from S1-3! Rehearsals have been underway since the beginning of September, and the festive spirit is already in full swing. This musical is a shorter production compared to our summer shows, lasting just 1 hour, and the cast and crew are eager to share it with you. We encourage you to come along and support this new venture.

Tickets will be available at our Christmas Market on 21st November and afterwards from the School Office. Stay tuned for more information, which will be posted on our school Facebook page.





ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

S2 /3

MONSTER'S



BALL



7

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 2024
7 - 8:30PM

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

FANCY DRESS



Session 2024/25 Key Dates

Friday 11 October	School closes at 3.15pm	Monday 14 April	School re-opens at 8.50am—Pupils return
Monday 28 October	School re-opens at 8.50am	Wednesday 16 April	PFA Meeting 6.30pm
Tuesday 5 November	S5/6 Tracking Reports issued	Thursday 17 April	School closes at 3.15 pm
Monday 11 November	S4 Parents Evening 4—6pm	Friday 18 April	School Holiday—Good Friday
Wednesday 13 November	PFA Meeting 6.30pm	Monday 21 April	School Holiday—Easter Monday
Thursday 21 November	Christmas Market 6.30—9pm	Friday 25 April	S2 Full Reports issued
Friday 22 November	STEM Speed Dating Event	Monday 28 April	SQA Exams begin
Monday 25 November	Flu vaccinations for pupils	Monday 5 May	School closed—May Day Holiday
Friday 22 November	S2 Tracking Reports issued	Wednesday 14 May	S3 Tracking Reports issued
Wednesday 27 November	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm	Wednesday 21 May	S1 Full Reports issued
Tuesday 3 December	S5/6 Parents Evening 4—6pm	Sunday 25 May	French Trip Departs (S2)
Wednesday 11 December	S3 Full Reports issued	Friday 30 May	French Trip Returns
Wednesday 11 December	Junior Ceilidh S1/2/3 7—9pm	Friday 30 May	SQA Exams end
Thursday 12 December	Senior Ceilidh S4/5/6 7—10pm	Tuesday 24 June	Awards Evening 7pm
Tuesday 17 December	PFA Carol Service 6.30pm	Tuesday 5 August	SQA Results Day
Wednesday 18 December	Elf The Musical	Thursday 3 July	School closes at 3.15pm
Thursday 19 December	Elf The Musical		SUMMER BREAK
Friday 20 December	School closes at 3.15pm	Tuesday 19 August	Staff training day
Monday 6 January	Staff training day	Wednesday 20 August	Staff training day
Tuesday 7 January	School re-opens at 8.50am—Pupils return	Thursday 21 August	School re-opens at 8.50am—Pupils return
Thursday 9 January	S1 Parents Evening 4—6pm		
Monday 13 January	S4-S6 Prelims begin		
Wednesday 22 January	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm		
Friday 24 January	S4-S6 Prelims end		
Saturday 25 January	Ski Trip Departs (S5/S6)		
Saturday 1 February	Ski Trip Returns		
Wednesday 5 February	PFA Meeting 6.30pm		
Monday 17 February	S4 Full Reports issued		
Tuesday 18 February	S5/S6 Full Reports issued		
Wednesday 19 February	Staff training day/Pupil Holiday		
Thursday 20 February	Staff training day/Pupil Holiday		
Friday 21 February	School closed—Mid-Term Holiday		
Monday 24 February	School re-opens at 8.50am—Pupils return		
Wednesday 26 February	S2 Parents Evening 4—6pm		
Thursday 13 March	S3 Parents Evening and Options Information Session 3.30pm - 6.30pm		
Wednesday 19 March	St Joseph's Day Celebrations		
Friday 28 March	School closes at 3.15 pm		

