



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

Christmas Newsletter 2024

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A Message from the Head Teacher

Christmas has certainly arrived in St. Joseph's College! December has been very busy and much fun has been had at the Christmas Market, Christmas Lunches, Christmas Ceilidh's and Elf Junior, – an amazing musical production from our S1-S3 pupils ably led and directed by our Senior Pupil Leaders. At the same time work has continued both in and out of the classroom with senior pupils being particularly focussed as they prepare for 'prelims' post the Christmas break.

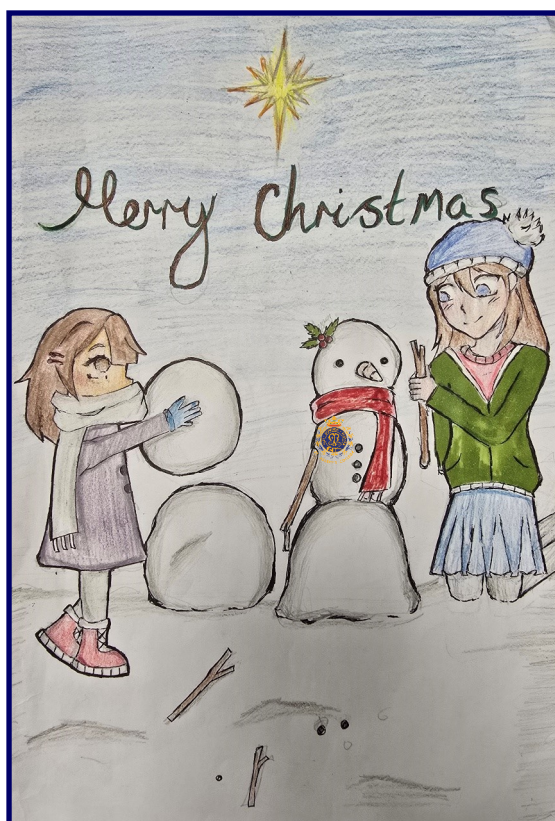
This term we warmly welcomed Mrs Neilson and Mrs Cussell to our Office team and Mrs Torbett as an additional Learning Assistant. As the term reaches its end so too does the exceptional career of Learning assistant, Mrs Paterson, as she heads for a very well earned retirement after more than 22 years of outstanding service to the pupils of St. Joseph's College. She will be very much missed by both staff and pupils but we wish her all the very best for good health and continued happiness in the future.

I hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and seeing what pupils have been involved in throughout this term. May I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all staff, parents and carers for all their extra support for pupils, particularly with the wide range of extra-curricular and social events of recent times. Here's to 2025!

Mrs. Jones

For Key Dates for next year please see the last page. Reminder: Pupils return TUESDAY 7 January 2025

very best wishes to all for a peaceful Christmas and happy 2025 from all at St Joseph's College.



Celebrating Catholic Education

In November, pupils marked Catholic Education Week 2024 with the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope.' They reflected on Hope and learned about the upcoming Jubilee in 2025. The week included assemblies led by Caritas students, RE lessons for younger pupils, and school representatives contributing to local church liturgies.



Dei Verbum Reflection

Some of our pupils have participated in a Deanery documentary, reflecting on a Bible character and their modern relevance. Guided by staff, Caritas students studied the Vatican document Dei Verbum and chose the Evangelist Mark, focusing on the story of the Widow's Mite (Mark 12:41-44). We are proud of their thoughtful reflections and look forward to seeing the documentary when it is released.



YPI Launch for S3

This term, our S3 pupils began the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI), a programme that empowers young people to develop leadership and teamwork skills while advocating for local charities. Mark Chambers, a Programme Officer from YPI, introduced the project and shared valuable advice to guide pupils in the competition.

As part of their introduction to the programme, pupils participated in a challenge to build the tallest tower using marshmallows and uncooked spaghetti. Congratulations to the winning team, who achieved an impressive height of 328cm!



PFA Carol Service 2024

The festively decorated College Memorial Chapel proved the perfect venue for our annual Carol Service. The Service was a well blended mix of readings, prayers, community carols and individual pieces. It began with the Advent Wreath being lit by S1 pupils. As always the school band, ably conducted by Mrs Somerville, provided the backbone for the music. Special mention also to senior pupil Donald Whitelaw, a talented musician. The staff/pupil choir sang two beautiful Christmas songs, while Mr. Taylor's Guitar Group and Mr Boyum's African Drummers further enhanced the proceedings. There was also room for a recitation of Carol Ann Duffy's poem, "The Christmas Truce", within which School Captain, Adele Widner's delivery of German phrases added to its poignancy. Our school Chaplain, Father Donnelly, introduced and ended the service with appropriate prayers. The cast of Elf kept us in the festive mood up with a rousing rendition of "The Christmas Song".

A collection at the end of the service to help towards the upkeep of the Chapel raised £229.55. A big thanks to everyone who contributed and the PFA for providing refreshments afterwards.



S6 MasterChef Competition

The S6 House Group Masterchef competition highlighted the impressive culinary talents of our pupils.

After a tough contest, Teju Chaudhary and Kevin Rayen of Stewart House claimed victory with their marinated minted lamb served with potato mash and seasonal vegetables, followed by the Indian dessert gulab jamun.

Congratulations to all participants, and special thanks to Mrs Mika and Mrs Reilly for judging and helping to make the event a success!



FutureChef Success

Amelia Lockhart (S3) showcased her culinary talent at the local final of the Springboard FutureChef competition, held at Braehead Foods in Kilmarnock. Competing against tough opposition, Amelia impressed the judges with her beautifully crafted dish: Spicy Sesame Lamb Koftas, served with Garlic & Mint Flatbread, baba ganoush, tzatziki, and pomegranate molasses.

Her outstanding skills and exceptional flavours earned her first place and the chance to work with mentor chef Tony Budde. Amelia will now represent the school at the Regional Final in Glasgow this coming February.

We wish Amelia the very best as she continues her journey in the competition!



Cooking with Scotch Lamb

Our S1-S3 Home Economics pupils took part in Tasty Little Lamb Week and Lamb for St Andrew's Day. We were delighted to welcome Tracy Martin, QMS Health & Education Coordinator, and Molly Beattie, a local beef and sheep farmer, to see pupils in action.

Using lamb donated through the Lamb for St Andrew's initiative, pupils cooked delicious dishes while learning about the journey of Scotch meat from farm to fork. Tracy and Molly were impressed with the pupils' efforts and skills, with some S3 pupils showcasing their garnishing talents for a chance to win a Scotch-branded apron.

Well done to everyone who took part!



GCHQ Christmas Challenge

The Mathematics Department has been busy tackling the GCHQ (Government Communications Headquarters) Christmas Challenge! Pupils worked in teams to crack codes across seven questions, including hidden secret tasks, showcasing their teamwork and problem-solving skills.

This engaging activity brought a festive twist to learning, encouraging collaboration and critical thinking.

For anyone interested, information packs can be downloaded by visiting the GCHQ website at

www.gchq.gov.uk/news/xmas-2024-schools-pack.



National Maths Competition

Earlier this term, Euan Riddick, Layla Martin, Lillianna Sudol, and Manus Muniraju, accompanied by Mrs Haining, travelled to the Glasgow Science Centre to participate in the Enterprising Maths in Scotland (EMIS) Competition.

The event brought together teams from over fifty schools across the country to solve challenging STEM-related tasks designed to test problem-solving, teamwork, and critical thinking skills. Our pupils tackled the competition with enthusiasm, collaborating effectively to meet each challenge.

The group thoroughly enjoyed the experience, gaining valuable insights into STEM fields and the importance of innovation and creativity. Competing at such a high level is a fantastic achievement, and the pupils represented the school with pride.

Well done to the team for their hard work and dedication!



Exploring Maxwell's Legacy

The St Joseph's College Mathematics Club recently embarked on a fascinating educational trip to Edinburgh, delving into the life and legacy of one of Scotland's greatest scientific minds, James Clerk Maxwell.

The day began at the striking Maxwell statue on George Street, where pupils reflected on the revolutionary Maxwell equations inscribed beneath. From there, the group visited the historic James Clerk Maxwell building on India Street, his birthplace, where they enjoyed a captivating presentation on his family's history and ground-breaking contributions to science.

A hands-on highlight of the trip was engaging in physics experiments that made Maxwell's theories tangible and accessible. The day concluded at the Scottish National Galleries, where pupils admired iconic Scottish artworks, beautifully rounding off a day of intellectual and cultural discovery.

The Mathematics Club extends heartfelt thanks to Catherine, Alan, and David from the James Clerk Maxwell Foundation for their warm hospitality, the St Joseph's College office staff for organising transport, and the Parents and Friends Association (PFA) for their generous support in making this memorable experience possible.



Business Competition Success



Two teams of St Joseph's College pupils showcased their entrepreneurial skills at the inaugural "Sweat The Asset Competition" at SRUC Barony Campus.

Both 'Late Night Lectures' and 'CineMarist' presented creative business concepts based on the school's building and grounds. Congratulations to CineMarist for winning "Best Trade Stand"!

Christmas Lunch 2024

Special thanks go to our catering team for the excellent Christmas lunches — over 300 served in less than 2 hours — no mean feat!





The Cèilidhs 2024

Our pupils really enjoyed taking part in our Junior and Senior Cèilidh's, having perfected traditional dances like the Military Two-Step, The Dashing White Sergeant and the Gay Gordons, and several new, fun dances through their PE lessons.

Our thanks go to the excellent band, Shore Road who played for the pupils on both nights and the PFA for their financial donation. Also, huge thanks to Mrs Reilly, the PE staff, the Cèilidh Committee and the staff who assisted with serving refreshments.



www.shoreroad.band





DofE Adventurers Begin



Our new group of Duke of Edinburgh Award participants has hit the ground running with their training, mastering essential expedition skills such as map reading, route planning, and safety.

In mid-November, the group embarked on their first single-day walk. Starting from the heart of Dumfries on a damp winter morning, they successfully navigated a 17km route to New Abbey. The journey took them through roads, cycle paths, and the scenic Mabie Forest, exploring lesser-known trails along the way. Despite the shifting weather, spirits were high, and the teams thoroughly enjoyed the experience while learning valuable lessons.

Beyond expeditions, participants are also progressing in the volunteering, physical, and skill sections of the award, embracing new challenges and broadening their horizons.

With their next walks scheduled for May 2025, there's plenty of training and growth to look forward to. We are proud of their achievements so far and excited to see what they will accomplish in the months ahead.



GSK Virtual Insights Programme

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) is a globally renowned biopharmaceutical company dedicated to improving health through the discovery and delivery of innovative medicines, vaccines, and treatments. With a mission to positively impact the lives of millions worldwide, GSK addresses a wide range of diseases, including cancer, HIV, and malaria. Earlier this term, one of our S4 pupils, Leena Samer Ramadan, had the exciting opportunity to participate in GSK's Virtual Insights Programme. Below, Leena shares her reflections on this inspiring experience, which offered valuable insights into the world of science, technology, and corporate responsibility.

During the first week of this term, I attended the online GSK Virtual Insights Programme- a series of webinar presentations hosted by a range of employees from the internationally leading biopharma company, GSK.

GlaxoSmithKline is an acclaimed company that strives to find and deliver innovative cures, vaccines, and preventative treatment for a huge variety of diseases and conditions that afflict people from around the world(such as cancer, HIV, and malaria). I was delighted to be selected to take part in this programme alongside almost two hundred other secondary students from across Britain. This opportunity turned out to be a truly valuable experience.

The online sessions were spread across four days covering a wide array of subjects including insights into GSK's mission, culture, and its global impact; in-depth explanations of the supply chain journey of a drug (from discovery in the lab to launch and distribution into the global market); delves into the Engineering and manufacturing technology incorporated by GSK in their production chains as well as the vital role of digital data and Artificial Intelligence in these processes.

I also had the chance to interview real engineers, experts, and professionals working with GSK from apprentices to PhD scientists. I learned about their own personal career journeys from school to their important positions today and the benefits and challenges of their day-to-day jobs such as researcher medicinal scientists to individuals working on international corporate relations from GSK's HQ in London.

I was surprised to find the absolute plethora of careers that are available in the expanses of such influential organizations, and it is certainly not limited to work in the lab. In fact, the scientific pharmaceutical side of GSK is a small section of the work that they cover. I was also pleased to learn from the individuals from GSK that one of their greatest satisfactions of being with GSK is knowing that they are improving the lives of millions of patients around the world through whatever work that they do. I realised just how patient-focussed GSK is and their responsibility of controlling their own sustainability and the social impacts they may have as a multi-billion company. The webinars also stressed the numerous advantages that GSK apprenticeships have like supporting you in further education and personal development after leaving school and providing precious work experience(paid) to gain important skills.

All in all, I have found this experience greatly inspiring and enlightening. I would recommend it to anyone who is perhaps unsure of what they would like to do in the future but are also interested in making an impact in their career since, as implied by GSK, all you need is to be passionate and ambitious for yourself to succeed in whatever aspirations you may have.

Leena Samer Ramadan (S4)

8th Annual STEM Event

On Friday, 22 November, the 8th Annual STEM Speed Dating Event gave S4 pupils the chance to speak with a variety of STEM ambassadors, asking questions about their careers and the industries they represent. As S6 journalists, we spent time interviewing a selection of visitors to learn more about their STEM backgrounds.

Past pupil Cait Purdie, now a university student studying Forensic Science at Abertay University, and Nairn Scobie, a senior lecturer in Sport and Exercise Science at the University of Glasgow, shared what drew them to their chosen paths. Cait said she “fell in love with Chemistry” during National 5 and was inspired by TV shows like *CSI*. Nairn was fascinated by “how the body functions during sport” and stayed connected with his former lecturers, which led to his current role.

Fraser Kerr, a past pupil and now Composite Repair and Reconstruction Specialist, explained how his work repairing boats supports UK rowing communities by keeping boats on the water. Similarly, Joseph Templeton, a landscaping company manager, and Ryan Johnson, a civil engineer and another former pupil, shared how they progressed in their careers through hands-on training and apprenticeships.

S4 pupils enjoyed interactive activities, including handling equipment and viewing resources brought by the ambassadors. They unanimously agreed the event was interesting and useful, opening their eyes to new career possibilities.

Principal Teacher Mrs MacGregor praised the teamwork behind the event, thanking S4 and S6 pupils, staff, visiting ambassadors, and Donald, the janitor, for their contributions to its success.

Article by Lucy Waugh (S5) and Zoe Armitage (S6).





A huge thank you to all our STEM Ambassador visitors, including our past pupils, pictured on the left.



Gavin Stephenson	NHS D&G
Ely Blyth	SRUC
Mark Sheerin & Caroline Davidson	Developing the Young Workforce D&G
Annabel MacGregor	University of Edinburgh
Mr Nairn Scobie	University of Glasgow
Maeve Reekie	Self Employed
Mrs Callie Inglis (RVN)	SRUC Barony Campus
Hamish Bremner	Gates Power Transmission
Lesley McCallay & Morgan Mercer	NHS D&G
Mr Kevin Jones	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Triston Templeton	Protea Landscaping LTD
Allana McWilliam	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Lisa Rafferty	Covetrus
Gayle Johnstone	NHS D&G
Prof. Martin McCoustra	Heriot-Watt University
Dr Ben Porter	NHS D&G
Duncan Jennings	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Bill Mackay	SRUC
Kali Mclean	Morgan Stanley
Aaron Linden	Leeds City Council
Chris Eio	Keysight Technologies
Brooke Wells	Gates UK Ltd
Paul Keeton	Gates UK Ltd
Kerry McCole	RWE Renewables
Sandy Cowan	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Duncan Dunbar	Dunbar Race Engineering Ltd
Hayley Gell	Dumfries & Galloway College
Tessa Winstanley	SRUC Barony Campus
Thomas Carruthers	Gates UK Ltd
Duncan Curtis	Alive Radio Academy
Dr Greg Black	Environment Agency
Liz Kent	NHS D&G
Cait Purdie	Abertay University
Steven Coull	Marmalade Game Studio Ltd
Dr Ben Rayen	NHS D&G
Mark Robertson	Gates UK
Dr Mark McGrady	Mylar Specialty Films
Ellen MacLeod & Lauran Scott	Boots Plc
Mr Fraser Kerr	Resurgence Composites
Richard Earle	Renewable Energy and Sustainability Services
Mr John Taylor	Cancer Research Horizons
Grace Dillett	NHS Lothian
Eric McClurg	Eric McClurg Joinery
David Graham	Gates
Ryan Johnston	Asher Associates
Dr. Kit Carruthers	Ninefold Rum Distillery

P7 Enjoy STEM Transition

S6 Young STEM Leaders organised and delivered engaging activities for P7 pupils from St Teresa's and St Andrew's Primary Schools.

As part of the transition programme, pupils from St Andrew's visited for a combined Technical and Science session. In Technical, they designed personalised Christmas baubles, learning to shape and smooth their designs. In Science, they conducted flame tests, adding a hands-on element to their learning experience.

Both P7 pupils and S6 leaders enjoyed the activities, showcasing teamwork, creativity, and enthusiasm throughout the sessions. Well done to all involved!





S1 Clock Creations

S1 pupils have embraced their first workshop experience in Design and Technology, producing fantastic clocks. They researched design styles, developed ideas in their folios, and confidently used tools and machinery to create their models. Well done, S1!



S2 Storage Box Projects

S2 pupils have been busy designing and creating storage boxes in Design and Technology. After completing a folio and selecting their best designs, they worked hard in the workshop using tools and machinery to bring their ideas to life.

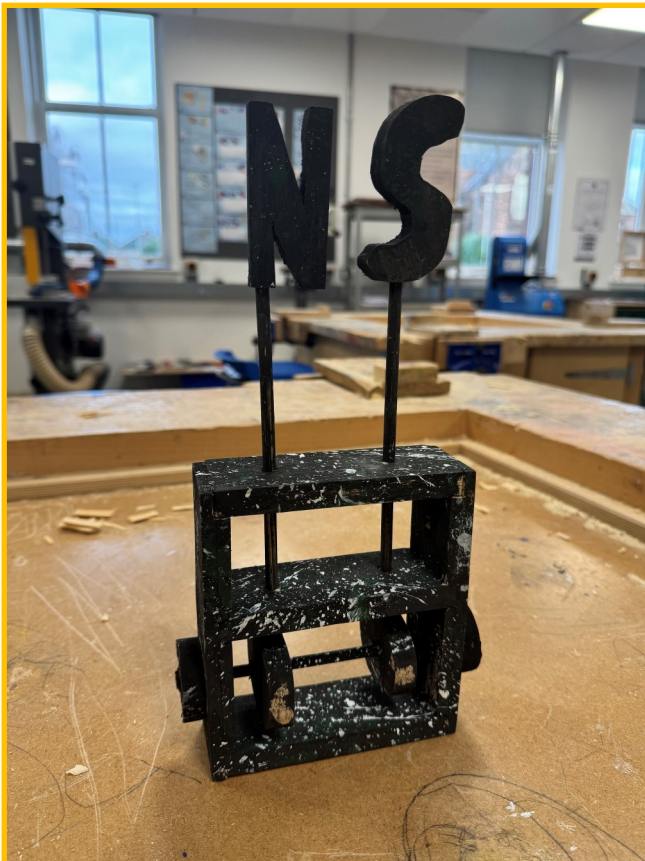
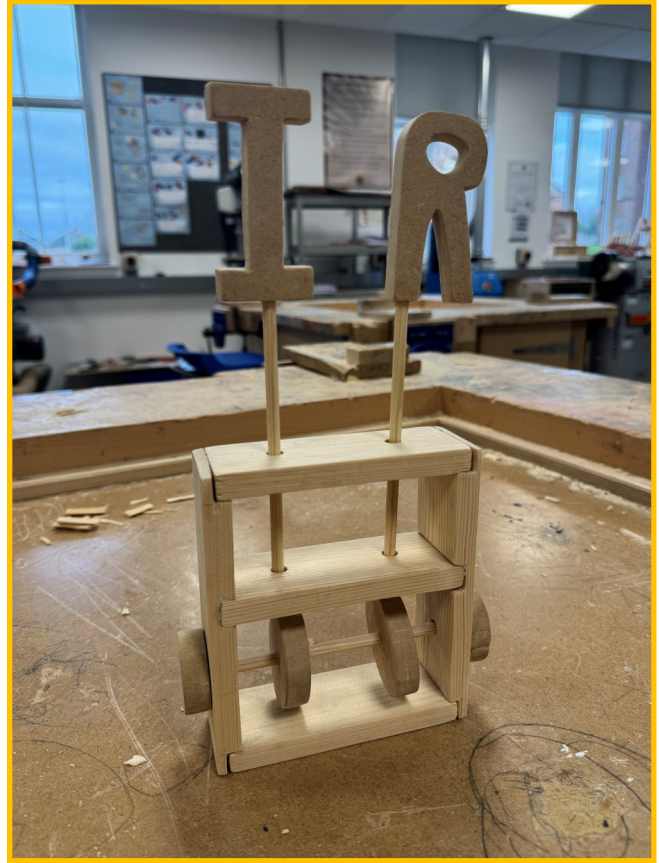
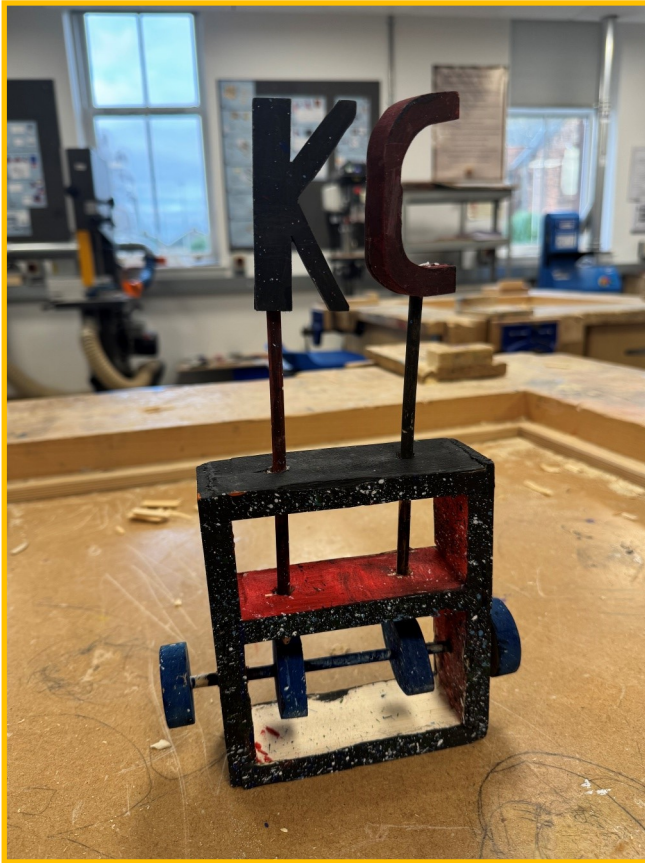
The pupils produced a range of creative designs while learning valuable skills in design and woodwork. Well done, S2!



S3 Practical Woodworking

S3 Practical Woodworking pupils have successfully completed their mechanical toy models. Using provided drawings, they measured, marked, cut, and shaped each component with precision before assembling their creations.

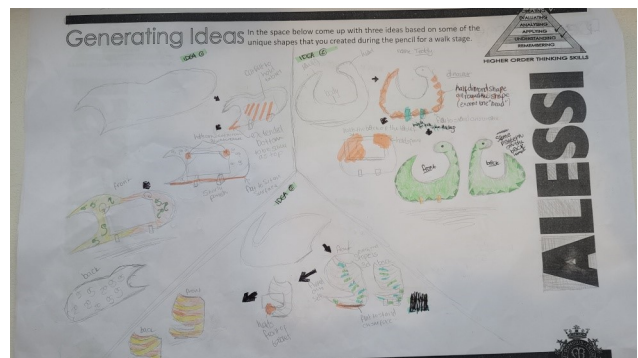
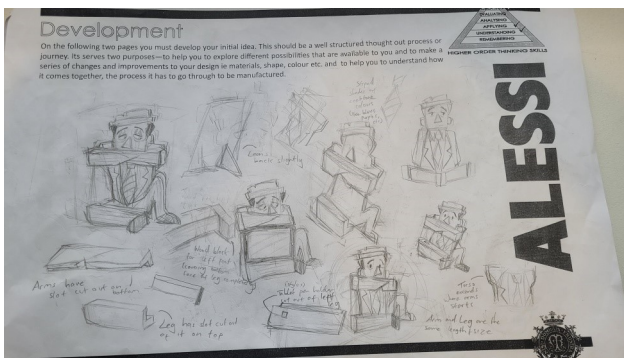
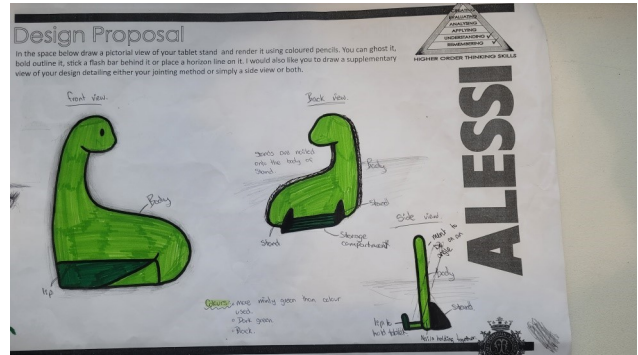
Well done to all pupils for their hard work and craftsmanship!



S3 Design and Manufacture

The S3 Design and Manufacture class have been busy designing and creating tablet stands. Pupils developed their creativity through sketching and model-making, using card prototypes to plan their designs and working drawings for accuracy.

They have been manufacturing their tablet stands in the workshop and are close to completing their projects.



N5 Design and Manufacture

The National 5 Design and Manufacture class have been hard at work designing and creating children's chairs. Pupils enjoyed developing ideas and learning through the design process while completing their coursework. Great effort, everyone!



Maker Club

The Maker Club worked hard this term creating products to sell at the Christmas Market, giving up their lunchtimes to design and craft items for the event.

Kyrran Maudling Wilson and Jack Cowan led the team with support from Miss Kerr. Thanks go to Willow Smith, Jake Mitchell, Alfie Watson, Lucas Black, Alex Mather, Daniel Fox, Sebastian Robinson, and Hugh Taylor for their efforts in making products and helping with sales on the night. Well done, everyone!

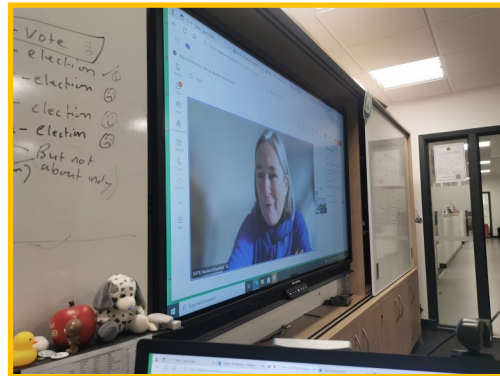


Higher Geography



Higher Geography pupils used free bus travel with their Young Scot cards to visit Glasgow for their assignment. They explored regeneration in Sighthill and conducted data collection in the Central Business District, including environmental surveys and traffic counts. The trip provided excellent data for analysing urban differences in Glasgow.

Pupils Quiz Peer



Higher Modern Studies pupils had the unique opportunity to engage with Baroness Suttie, a Liberal Democrat peer, in an online Q&A session.

Baroness Suttie, who attended Hawick High School and managed Nick Clegg's 2010 election campaign, provided insightful answers to questions about the Afghan conflict, Brazil, and the Lords Spiritual Peers. The session offered valuable insights that may assist pupils in their upcoming assignments.

Debating Success

Our debaters recently participated in the Donald Dewar Law Society debates hosted by Wellington School in Ayr. The topic required them to justify why zoos should continue to receive public support.

S6 pupils Hannah Murray and Connor Campbell presented compelling arguments and delivered excellent rebuttals. Their strong performance impressed the judges, who declared St Joseph's the winners of the round. The team now progresses to the final 33 teams in the competition. Well done, Hannah and Connor!



D&G Youth Awards

Abi Hart (S4) and Kelly Hart (S5) have recently been recognised for their exceptional efforts to support care-experienced young people. The sisters were honoured with the prestigious Equality Award at the Dumfries and Galloway Youth Awards, standing out among nominees from across the region.

Since January 2024, Abi and Kelly have been active members of a research group working alongside Glasgow University on a groundbreaking PhD project. The project focuses on improving the transition to adulthood for care-experienced young people, addressing challenges and shaping innovative solutions. Abi and Kelly meet fortnightly with the research team, offering invaluable insights to help shape the project's aims and objectives.

In addition to their regular contributions to the research group, Abi and Kelly played a key role in the "We Care" event, held just before the summer holidays. The event brought together care-experienced young people aged 12–25 from across Dumfries and Galloway. As workshop leaders, Abi and Kelly worked directly with attendees, helping to make the event both engaging and impactful.

Their dedication to influencing meaningful change within their community has been an inspiration to all. The award is a testament to their hard work and passion for making a difference, and we are incredibly proud of their achievements.

Congratulations to Abi and Kelly on this well-deserved recognition.



Dancing in the Street

Annabel Hart (S2), has had an outstanding year as part of Attitude Dance Group. She performed at events including YouthBeatz, her dance show, the Dalbeattie Christmas Light Switch-On, and the Winter Wonderland event in Dumfries.

Alongside her performances, Annabel completed an incredible 105.5 hours of volunteering, assisting younger dancers and leading classes. Her dedication has earned her a Saltire Award for 100 hours of volunteering.

Well done, Annabel! Your talent, hard work, and commitment are truly inspiring.



Monster Ball Fun

S1, S2, and S3 pupils enjoyed a spooky evening at the Monster's Ball, showcasing fantastic costumes and winning prizes for categories like scariest, funniest, most creative, best duo/group, and best homemade.

The Events Committee worked tirelessly to decorate the hall, sell tickets, and surprise everyone with a flash mob performance of the "Monster Mash." A big thank you goes to Joe Clark for DJing and to everyone who contributed to making the night a huge success. Both pupils and staff had a frightfully fun time!



Elf Jr. Shines



Elf The Musical Jr. has been our most pupil-led production yet, showcasing the incredible creativity, teamwork, and dedication of everyone involved.

The production featured a minimalistic set design, with a single flat painted by pupils to represent each scene. This approach kept transitions smooth while still bringing the story to life. Choreography was refined by the cast themselves, allowing their personalities to shine in every musical number.

Behind the scenes, props, stage management, and costume design were entirely handled by pupils. The costume team, in particular, did a fantastic job of capturing the festive spirit of the show.

This true team effort highlights the talent and hard work of our students, both on and off stage.

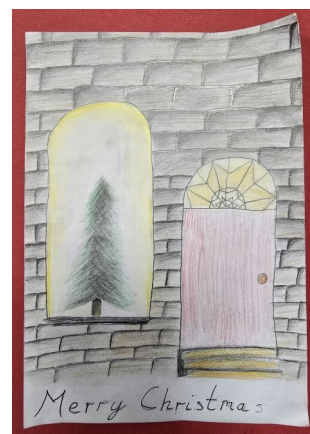
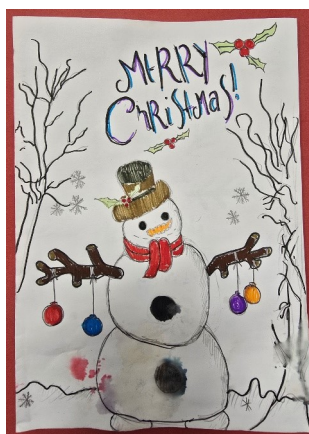
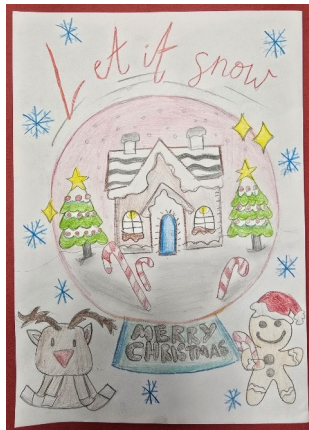
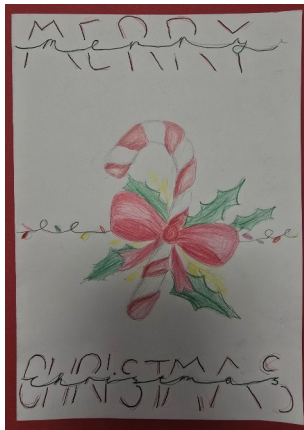
Article by Findlay Thorburn (S5).

Pantomime Success

Many congratulations to James Peacock, Beth Wright-Hall and Sophia Earle following their successful run starring in the pantomime Hansel and Gretel at the Theatre Royal in Dumfries.



Christmas Card Competition



In the run-up to Christmas, pupils showcased their creativity in the Interhouse Christmas Card Competition. The entries were outstanding, and here is a selection of some of the amazing work produced by our pupils.

Congratulations to the winners and runners-up:

Bruce House: Dara Fashola (winner), Katie Dobie and Kasia Sosnicka (runners-up).

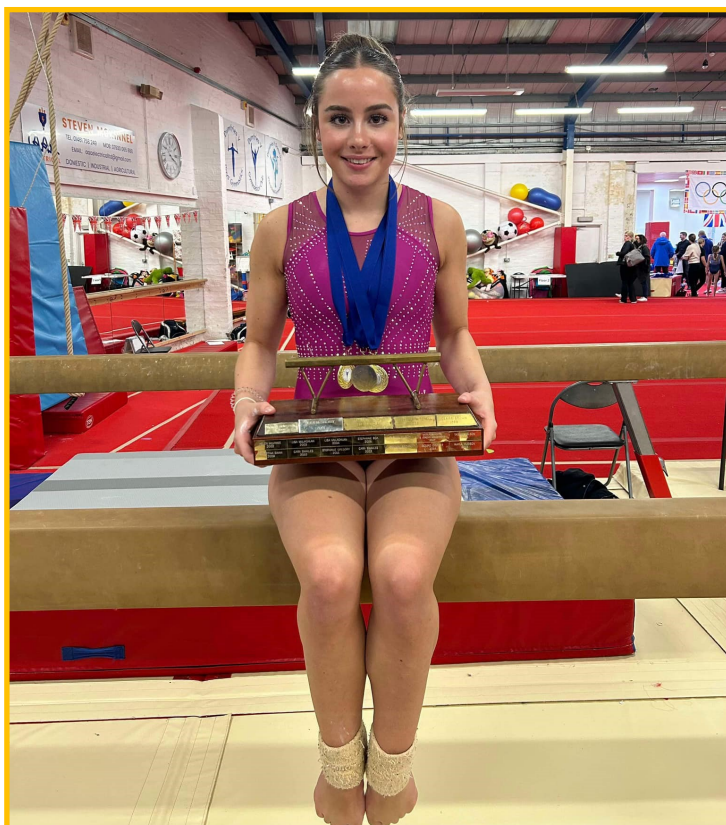
Douglas House: Esma Calisca (winner), Ella Weir and Charlie Edgar (runners-up).

Stewart House: Blessy Chaudhary (winner), Isla Riddick (runner-up).

Wallace House: Katie Drennan (winner), Sophie Montgomery and Mehr Sultan (runners-up).

Well done to everyone who participated. Your designs truly captured the festive spirit!

Sporting Success



Eilidh Ramsay (S4) has been named Dumfries Y Gymnastics Club Champion of 2024. This remarkable achievement reflects her dedication, hard work, and commitment to the sport. Congratulations to Eilidh on this well-deserved success!



Congratulations to Kieran Carson (S3) on his outstanding achievement in Judo. Competing in the cadet age group (-81kg) for the first time with armlocks and strangles, Kieran excelled, winning Gold in his debut competition at this level. Kieran trains every two weeks with the Scottish Pathway Squad at the JudoScotland National Centre, showing his dedication to the sport.



Congratulations to Nathaniel Kirkpatrick (S4), who has been crowned Scottish Champion in the 2009 Age Group, Novice Featherweight Category under Boxing Scotland.

Nathaniel showcased exceptional skill and resilience, winning three tough bouts from the Quarter-Finals to claim Gold in the Finals. This is a remarkable achievement, and we are incredibly proud of his dedication and success. Well done, Nathaniel!



During Catholic Education Week, a group of S1 pupils travelled to St Matthew's Academy in Ardrossan for the inaugural Galloway Diocese Basketball Tournament.

Both teams performed exceptionally well and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The boys' team reached the final but narrowly lost 8-4 to the hosts. The girls' team, however, went on to win their final 6-4 in an impressive display.

All pupils showed great resilience and motivation throughout the tournament, making St Joseph's proud. Well done to everyone involved, including our PE teachers Mr McMurtrie and Miss Craig!



Senior Scottish Cup Round 2

St Joseph's College 10 - 1 Inverclyde Academy

Recently, the senior football team progressed to Round 3 of the Scottish Schools Cup with an emphatic victory over Inverclyde Academy. Both sides came into the game off the back of strong wins in the previous round.

After a scrappy start, Daniel Fyall played a perfect pass to Grant Kerr, who calmly chipped the goalkeeper for an easy tap-in to open the scoring. Inverclyde responded quickly, equalising from a rebound despite a fine save by goalkeeper Johnny Green. Inverclyde looked stronger for a spell, but St Joseph's regained control as Joe Allison delivered a superb corner, met by Zak McGill's brilliant header. The momentum shifted further when Alex O'Hagan stepped up for a free kick from 35 yards, rifling the ball into the bottom corner to make it 3-1.

St Joseph's dominated the second half after an inspiring team talk from Mr Kirk. Early on, substitute Euan Sharp found Joe Allison, who hit a curling strike into the top corner. Alex O'Hagan continued his impressive form, scoring twice more to complete his hat-trick. Further goals came from Finlay Millar, Daniel Fyall, and another well-placed finish by Millar late in the game. A standout moment came when Joe Allison's cross found Fyall, whose firm header extended the lead.

Man of the Match Zak McGill delivered an outstanding defensive performance and capped it with a goal, helping St Joseph's to a well-deserved win.

The team now advances to Round 3, where they will face the winner of Johnstone High School vs Bocclair Academy.

Match report by "S5 School Football Journalist", Matthew Millar.

Rugby



Congratulations to Lucy Giles, Pagan Mitchell, and Mirryn Fergusson on their recent victory at Murrayfield. Representing Dumfries Saints RFC, they won the Girls U18 National Shield in a tremendous achievement. Well done to all involved!

Scotland Rugby Trips

Earlier this term, 28 pupils visited Scottish Gas Murrayfield to watch Scotland face Fiji and South Africa in the Famous Grouse Series.

Scotland dazzled against Fiji, securing a stunning 57-17 victory with eight tries. However, the world champion Springboks proved a tougher challenge, with Scotland falling 15-32 in a hard-fought match.

The pupils enjoyed the atmosphere of nearly 70,000 fans, representing the school brilliantly throughout both fixtures.

An excellent couple of days out, with all pupils being a credit to themselves and the school!



Record-Breaking Swimmers

Congratulations to our swim team for an outstanding performance at the Dumfries and Galloway Schools Swimming Championships held at the DG1 Leisure Complex. Their hard work and dedication resulted in an impressive medal haul.

Special recognition goes to Amber Hinton and Rhys Edwards, who broke Regional Records in their respective age categories. Amber set new records in the 200 IM, 200 Breaststroke, and 200 Freestyle, while Rhys set a record in the 100 Freestyle.

We also applaud the following pupils who achieved consideration times for the Scottish Schools Swimming Championships national finals: Amber Hinton, Ali Hatab, Yasin Hatab, Rhys Edwards, Lauren Dunlop, Brodie Jardine, Struan Henry, Teyah Laidlaw, Eedih Laidlaw, Nathan Zaoral, Finlay Hiddleston, Sarah McQuire, and our newest team member, Robyn Maxwell.

If selected, our swimmers will compete in Aberdeen on 24 January 2025 against schools from across Scotland.

Good luck to all of our swimmers—we are proud of you!



Skaters Shine at Trophy D'Ecosse



Congratulations to our synchronised ice skaters Emily McCourtie, Evie McCubbin, Eva Lake, Holly Robertson, Isabel Hanna, Isabella Earle, Eliza McCourtie, Darcey McCubbin, Eedih Laidlaw, Jessica Hanna, Chloe Hiddleston, and Teyah Laidlaw for their fantastic performances at Trophy D'Ecosse.

Solway Eclipse and Solway Stars both claimed Silver medals, successfully retaining their Scottish Championship titles. Solway Eclipse also wowed the audience, winning the award for the most entertaining performance of the weekend.

Solway Lightning delivered a strong performance with an excellent score, building momentum for the British Championships.

Medal Success at Skate London



Prior to competing at Trophy D'Ecosse in Dumfries this month the skaters also had much success at the Skate London competition in November. In the Junior ISU category, Solway Stars skaters Emily McCourtie, Evie McCubbin, Eva Lake, Holly Robertson, Isabel Hanna, Isabella Earle, Eliza McCourtie, and Darcey McCubbin earned a well-deserved Silver Medal after two stunning performances.

Solway Eclipse skaters Eliza McCourtie, Darcey McCubbin, Eedih Laidlaw, Holly Robertson, Isabella Earle, Jessica Hanna, Chloe Hiddleston, and Teyah Laidlaw secured Bronze in the Mixed Age category with their entertaining Rock of Ages medley.

In the Basic Novice category, Solway Lightning skaters Eedih Laidlaw, Chloe Hiddleston, Teyah Laidlaw, and Jessica Hanna also won Bronze with their delightful Dumbo medley. Well done to all the skaters for their outstanding performances and achievements!

PFA 100 Club

List of monthly prize winners

Month	1st Prize - £25	2nd Prize - £20	3rd Prize - £10	Christmas Prize Draw - £50
Jul-24	Mrs O Ison	Mr W Rennie	Mrs J Earle	
Aug-24	Mrs F Copland	Mrs K Glendinning	Mr L Gillespie <i>Donated to school</i>	
Sep-24	Mrs K Brown	Mrs A O'Hagan	Mrs F Purdie	
Oct-24	Mrs K Little	Mrs C Storey	Mrs S McCaughey	
Nov-24	Mr B Nosratzadeh	Mrs L Powell	Mrs R Moodycliffe	
Dec-24	Mrs S Rowan	Mr W Rennie	Mrs S Meek	Mrs M Kennedy

Session 2024/25 Key Dates



Friday 20 December	School closes at 3.15pm	Wednesday 16 April	PFA Meeting 6.30pm
Monday 6 January	Staff training day	Friday 18 April	School Holiday—Good Friday
Tuesday 7 January	School re-opens at 8.50am—Pupils return	Monday 21 April	School Holiday—Easter Monday
Thursday 9 January	S1 Parents Evening 4—6pm	Friday 25 April	S2 Full Reports issued
Monday 13 January	S4-S6 Prelims begin	Monday 28 April	SQA Exams begin
Wednesday 22 January	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm	Monday 5 May	School closed—May Day Holiday
Friday 24 January	S4-S6 Prelims end	Monday 12 May	London Trip Departs (S1)
Saturday 25 January	Ski Trip Departs (S5/S6)	Wednesday 14 May	S3 Tracking Reports issued
Saturday 1 February	Ski Trip Returns	Thursday 15 May	London Returns
Wednesday 5 February	PFA Meeting 6.30pm	Wednesday 21 May	S1 Full Reports issued
Monday 17 February	S4 Full Reports issued	Sunday 25 May	French Trip Departs (S2)
Tuesday 18 February	S5/S6 Full Reports issued	Friday 30 May	French Trip Returns
Wednesday 19 February	Staff training day/Pupil Holiday	Friday 30 May	SQA Exams end
Thursday 20 February	Staff training day/Pupil Holiday	Friday 6 June	Marcellin Champagnat Day 150th Anniversary Celebrations of St Joseph's College
Friday 21 February	School closed—Mid-Term Holiday	Tuesday 1 July	Awards Evening 7pm
Monday 24 February	School re-opens at 8.50am—Pupils return	Thursday 3 July	School closes at 3.15pm
Wednesday 26 February	S2 Parents Evening 4—6pm		SUMMER BREAK
Thursday 13 March	S3 Parents Evening and Options Information Session 3.30pm - 6.30pm	Tuesday 5 August	SQA Results Day
Wednesday 19 March	St Joseph's Day Celebrations	Tuesday 19 August	Staff training day
Friday 28 March	School closes at 3.15 pm	Wednesday 20 August	Staff training day
Monday 14 April	School re-opens at 8.50am—Pupils return	Thursday 21 August	School re-opens at 8.50am—Pupils return