



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

Easter Newsletter 2024

www.stjosephscollege.co.uk

New Website Coming Soon!



A Message from the Head Teacher

Spring has arrived and with it a well-deserved Easter break! As always, it has been a busy term, not least for our Senior Phase pupils who have been very busy completing practical assessments, portfolios and written assignments as part of their Sottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) courses. We wish them well for their ongoing revision and upcoming exam diet.

A break from study is always a good thing and as you will see from this newsletter there have been plenty of opportunities for involvement in health and wellbeing activities. Over this winter period much fun and success was had by many on the ski slopes of Italy, on ice-skating and curling rinks across the UK and indeed for a few as far away as France, Finland, Switzerland and even South Korea! It is great to see that St. Joseph's pupils have the confidence, ability and work ethic to fly the flag not just for themselves, the school and Dumfries but for Scotland and Great Britain! Congratulations to all!

As well as focussing on our Skills Framework this term we have also been working on addressing environmental issues and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. I am delighted that we have now achieved an Eco-Schools Green Flag as well as a Bronze Rights Respecting Schools Award. Well done to the respective steering groups for helping to lead the whole school to this stage. We look forward to fully implementing our RRS Action Plan and aiming for Silver as we progress through next term and beyond.

As this term ends we see the beginning of a new chapter in the Diocese of Galloway with the recent appointment of Bishop Frank Dougan. We send our very best wishes to him in his episcopal ministry and look forward to meeting and working with him in the future.

In the meantime I wish you all a very happy Easter.

Mrs. Jones

Key Dates

Friday 22 March	School closes at 3.15 pm
Monday 25 March	Easter School 9—12.15 pm
Tuesday 26 March	Easter School 9—12.15 pm
Wednesday 27 March	Youthwork Revision Session 11—3 pm
Monday 8 April	School re-opens at 8.50—Pupils return
Tuesday 17 April	PFA Meeting at 7 pm
Monday 22 April	SQA Exams begin
Friday 26 April	S2 Tracking Reports issued
Monday 29 April	S4/5/6 Formal Study Leave Begins
Monday 6 May	School closed—May Day Holiday
Wednesday 8 May	Parent Council Meeting at 6.30 pm
Wednesday 15 May	S3 Tracking Reports issued
Tuesday 21 May	Sports Day
Thursday 23 May	S3 BGE Celebration of Learning Event
Monday 27 May	Start of the new timetable
Wednesday 29 May	SQA Exams end
Wednesday 29 May	S3 Full Reports issued
Tuesday 18 June	School Show
Wednesday 19 June	School Show at 7.30 pm
Thursday 20 June	School Show at 7.30 pm
Friday 21 June	School Show at 7.30 pm
Tuesday 25 June	Awards Evening (provisional)
Monday 1 July	School closes at 3.15 pm
Tuesday 6 August	SQA results issued
Monday 19 August	Staff return — INSET
Tuesday 20 August	Staff INSET
Wednesday 21 August	School re-opens at 8.50—Pupils return

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Robert Burns Celebration



In celebration of the 275th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, Senior Pupils Alana Nosratzadeh, Scarlett Willacy, Niamh Stainthorpe, and School Captain Peter Whitelaw attended the Dumfries and Galloway Burns Association Commemorative Service at St Michael's Church. Well done to Niamh on her excellent rendition of 'By Yon Castle Wa'.

Alana and Scarlett also represented St Joseph's College during a wreath laying ceremony at Burns Statue in the town centre.

Marist Leaders

The Marist Leadership team in St. Joseph's College have been looking at ways to make the Marist Values more visible within the school and encourage pupils to be familiar with them in their everyday lives.

The school English Department has a "Reading Programme" for both S1 and S2 pupils to encourage reading daily. This term the Marist Leaders have produced bookmarks, with the Marist values on them, and they have gifted these to the S1 pupils.

Their intention is to make the Marist values more visible to pupils and support the English Department in their quest to encourage pupils to read more.

Marist Leaders have also approached the Art Department in relation to creating an art space in the school reception area. The Marist Leaders would like to display work on the walls to tell the story of Marcellin Champagnat's life through the different mediums of art, using the artistic talents of members of our school community.



CRY Charity Cycle Ride

This term welcomed the Cycle4David Team, led by Mr Rodger Hill, father of past pupil David Hill. The team completed a cycle ride in memory of David and to raise awareness of Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY). Tragically, David died two years ago while playing rugby for the Scottish Parliament against the Irish Parliament in Dublin, before the Six Nations match.

While at the school, pupils presented a cheque to the charity CRY for £2225.66. These funds were raised through our very successful Christmas Market, organised by our pupil-led Events Committee, our Marist Leaders Quiz, and a donation from the Parents and Friends Association.

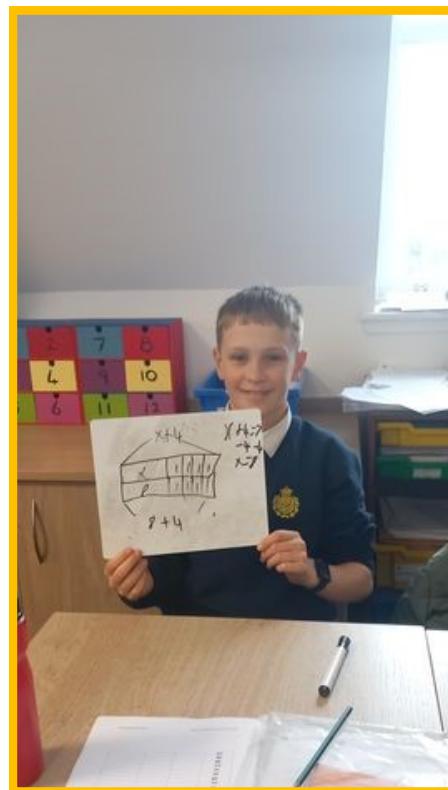
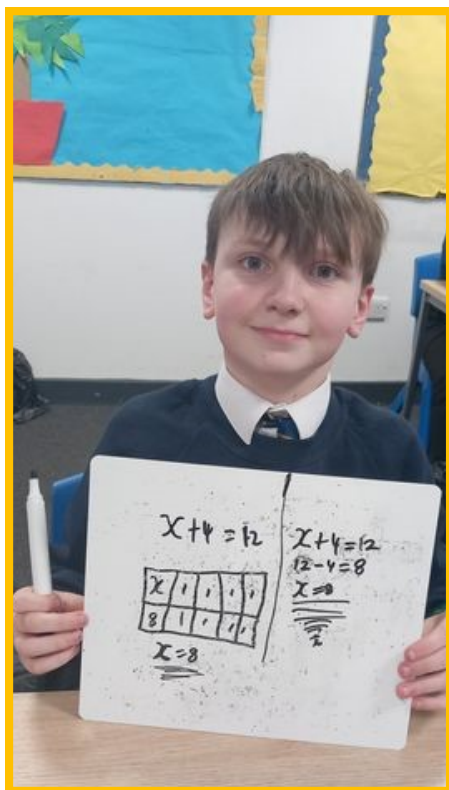
The Cycle4David Team was accompanied on their journey around the town and out towards Dalbeattie by S4 pupils, Mrs Read, and Mr Brown. The team transported the match ball for the game between Scottish and Irish Parliaments on 16 March 2024 from their start point at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh all the way to Dublin.

If you would like to make a donation to the charity, please visit www.c-r-y.org.uk/david-hill/



What Have We Been Learning?

Mathematics



Mrs Stoppard's S1 Mathematics class has used two methods to solve equations – one using bar models and the other more traditional algebraic method. Combining the two methods makes pupils more confident in their problem-solving skills. As you can see from the photographs, the pupils have been using mini whiteboards to demonstrate their learning.



Twenty-nine of our S3 and S4 mathematicians participated in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. As a last-minute replacement our S1 Junior Challenge Champion from 2023, Euan Riddick, also formed part of the group. Everyone enjoyed the experience with special mention going to Donald Whitelaw and Manus Munaraju who both achieved gold awards and qualified for the Pink Kangaroo follow-on round. They completed this challenge in the last week of term and we keep our fingers crossed for even more amazing achievements on results day for this!



In mathematics, our S2 pupils have been on a journey of self-discovery. As part of the Geometry Unit, pupils have been learning about circles. The pupils discovered that when the circumference of a circle is divided by the diameter, they always end up with 3.1415926535, known as Pi. Self-discovery always helps in retaining the learning of concepts in Mathematics.



Pupils in the Mathematics Club had great fun making origami Monster bookmarks to celebrate World Book Day. The pupils learned that the word origami comes from Japanese and means 'paper folding' (from ori meaning "folding" and kami meaning "paper"). The activity involves math skills such as symmetry and rotation. Visit this website to try it yourself:
www.mathsweek.scot/news/maths-tales-origami-bookmark

Music



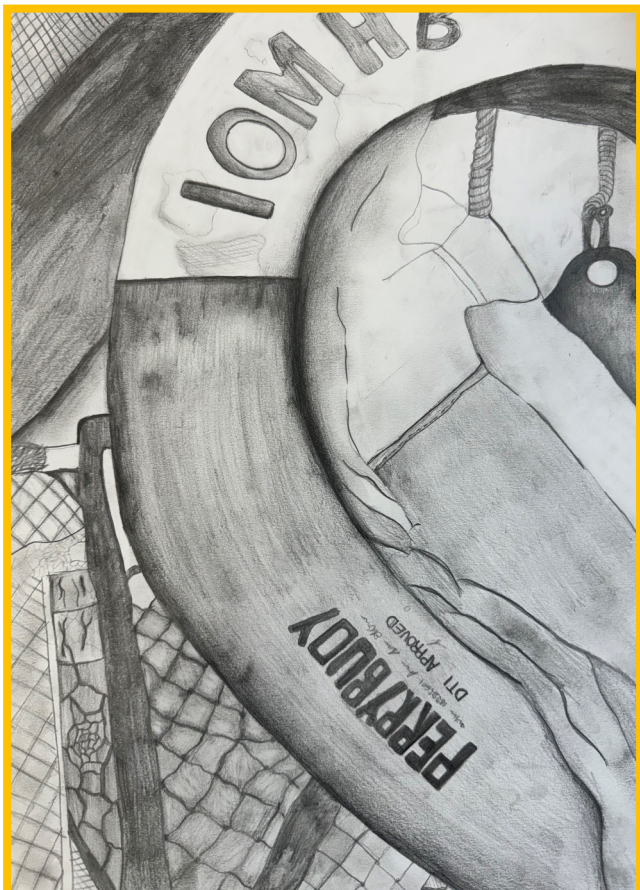
Some of our S1 pupils have been developing their creative skills, cooperating with classmates to perform Shotgun by George Ezra.

Art & Design



In Art & Design this term, S1 pupils have explored the visual elements of line and tone to create observation drawings of shoes. Wow! The drawings look fantastic.

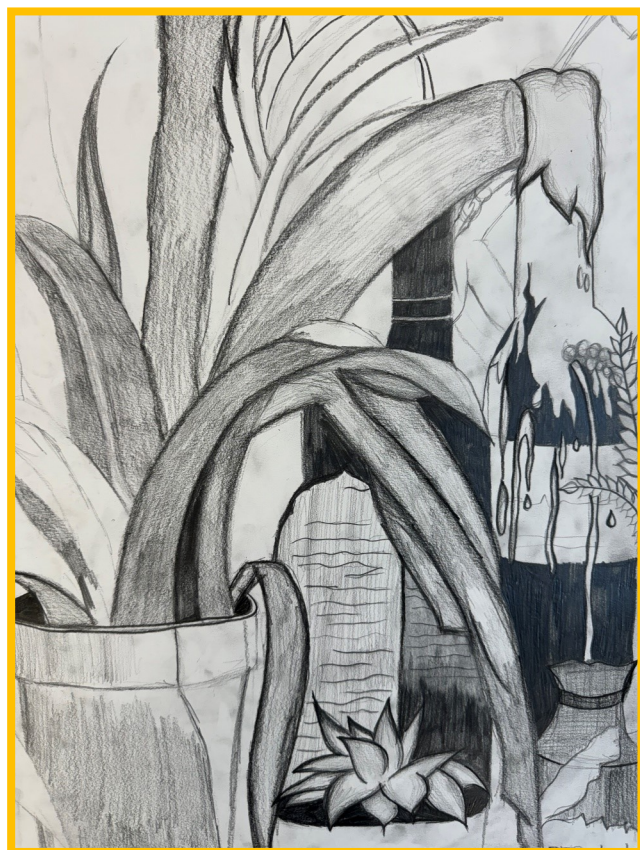
S3 Artwork



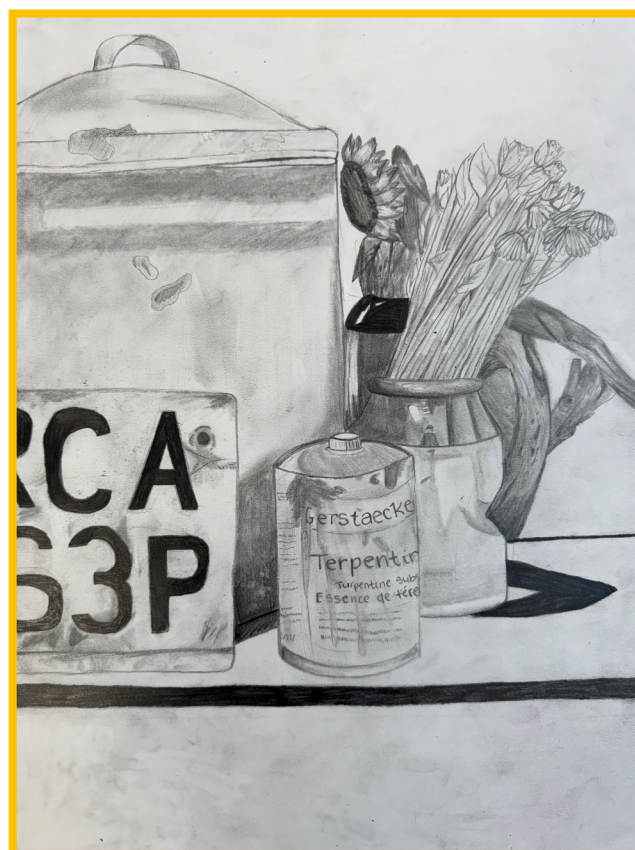
Aimie Ferguson



Annissa Seton



Zainab Naqvi



Orlaith Currie



Emily Dobie



Isla McKenzie



Natalie Baird

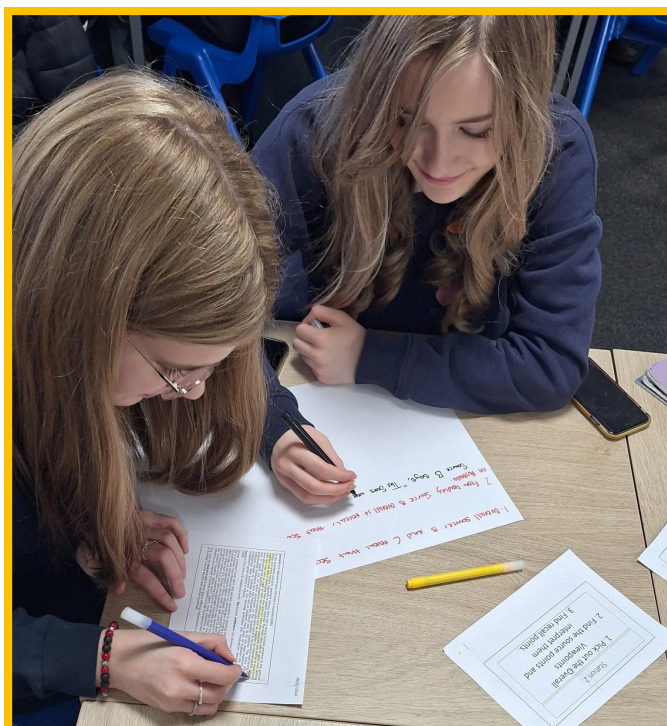


Joe Warwick

Social Subjects



Pupils in S1 have been learning about natural disasters. As part of the Geography learning block. They learned how buildings could be made earthquake resistant by using base isolation systems or mass dampers as used in the Taipei 101 tower.



Working in groups, pupils in Higher History took part in different station activities revising their Migration and Empire Topic. The pupils developed their ability to work under pressure and their teamwork skills.



Senior Pupils participated in a competition run by the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society. They were required to write a 2000-word essay on something of local historical importance. Sophia Earle of S5 wrote a report on the death mask of the last person executed in Dumfries. The mask is part of the collection of items held at Dumfries Museum. The essay was very well presented and won the top award. Congratulations also to Luka Stores, who was runner-up with his essay discussing the Cholera outbreak that hit Dumfries in 1833.

Our thanks to the Society for their generous prizes and for joining us at an assembly to celebrate the pupils' achievements. Pictured is Professor David Dutton handing over the certificate.

Physical Education



All year groups have been working independently and with peers to develop their personal fitness. Pupils have been using the fitness suite, completing circuits and looking at different methods of training.



In PE this term, pupils have challenged themselves by retesting various aspects of personal fitness. During the fitness block, young people have experienced various approaches to fitness, including interval training, fartlek training, selfie orienteering, CrossFit, boxercise and circuits. There have been lots of improvements in pupils' level of fitness - well done to all of those involved! Photographed are S3 pupils from the Health and Wellbeing Group completing the 10m sprint test.



Our Under 14 Girls Football Team recently played in the seven-a-side Scottish Cup. The girls demonstrated an excellent level of skill and determination. Despite missing out on qualifying, the girls were a credit to the school. Pictured is the team in their new football strips. Many thanks to the PFA for their financial assistance!



Our S1 Football Team recently played Dumfries High School in the Cup. The match finished 1-1, so the tie was decided through a penalty shootout. The boys kept their cool and won the shootout. They thoroughly deserved the win, and each player performed exceptionally well. Onwards and upwards to the semi-final, where we play against Dumfries Academy.

Home Economics

A small selection of lovely textile work from talented S1 pupils. Well done everyone.



Scottish Future Chef



Brooke Garside (S5) represented St Joseph's College at the Glasgow and Central Scotland Springboard Future Chef Finals. Brooke did an amazing job against thirteen other competitors and was commended by the professional chef judges on producing two fabulous dishes. Special thanks to Chef Tony Budde for being a great mentor. Well done, Brooke.



Mrs Reilly's S1 pupils have been making cheeseburgers using local produce. Quality Meat Scotland provides Secondary schools with vouchers yearly to spend at a local butcher. We used the voucher at Houston's for high-quality steak mince and tasty Lockerbie Cheddar cheese. The verdict from the pupils was, 'Delicious!'. Pupils were surprised at how quickly and easily the homemade burgers could be made. Pictured are Lucy Pullen and Lily Skimming enjoying their burgers.



S1 pupils have been making Chinese Chicken Soup in Home Economics. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed using the chopsticks.



S2 pupils have been making Beef and Mushroom Stroganoff and developing their presentation skills. Our pupils used local Scottish beef to produce their tasty dishes.



S3 pupils have been making the popular Indonesian dish, Nasi Goreng. Pupils enjoyed eating their dishes in class and said how tasty it was. Pictured: Christina Irvine, Islay Magee, and Lily Kirk.

Scottish Cup Drama



Our senior football team were sadly knocked out of the Scottish Cup in the quarter-final stage in yet another captivating, and incredibly tense, game against a high-quality Grange Academy side. The match, which ended the boys' undeniably impressive run in the tournament, went right down to the wire as they were defeated on penalties after scoring four goals to match the opposition's tally before the end of the second half.

The game began near 14:15 with a similarly large number of supporters for the squad as in their previous game in the competition. The boys gave their fans a chance to take the lead early on due to an Alex O'Hagan volley from just outside the box, which was denied by an opposing defender's block. Shortly after this, the hopes of an early lead for St Joseph's were put to bed when a Grange Academy attacker was able to slip through the home side's defence and slot the ball into the net to make the score 0-1. The next key moment of the game happened to be another attack by Grange as a ball was put across St Joe's box which Rocco Maxwell knocked away for his fellow full-back Calum Beattie to fully clear. Rocco followed this moment by a run down his side of the pitch, after receiving the ball from Lewis Downie, but this sudden attack was defended well by the opposition resulting in a goal kick for them.

The potential for a sure way back into the contest emerged due to a Liam Hawes header that hit the post, giving Owen Clanachan a chance to score on the rebound, which was not possible because of another block by an opposing defender. This sparked a counterattack for Grange as they quickly pushed toward the home side's goal. However, this threat was not to be worried about as the lads defended it successfully. The Senior Team's next chance stemmed from a free kick, which was hit into the box by Calum Beattie, then onto the head of Liam Hawes, who hit the ball in the direction of Owen Clanachan, who unluckily hit the ball wide of the goal. Despite St Joseph's fighting hard to bring the game back level, Grange scored again from an attack similar to the first, except this time the attacker hit the ball into his left side of the goal. The Grange also added a third goal to their lead with a shot from outside the box into the top right area of the goal.

With the senior team straying further behind their opponents, they needed an in before halftime to ensure the game was not over. Thankfully, St. Joseph's were awarded a penalty after Lewis Downie was fouled in the box. He then stepped up to take the penalty, which he placed very confidently into the bottom left corner of the goal. Downie's momentum after his first goal was shown in a counterattack from the opposing team's kick-off, in which he fired the ball at the net. Unfortunately, the keeper was able to act accordingly.

The Grange winger tried to take Calum Beattie on one-on-one. However, after cutting inside, he was met by Luca Rinaldi with a vicious challenge, which resulted in a free kick for the opponents. Fortunately, the visitors were not able to convert the free kick. After a defensive mishap, a Grange Academy forward started to chase the ball as it got closer to the St Joseph's goal. Luckily, goalkeeper Johnny Green came out of his box to clear the ball to safety. St Joseph's started showing much more promise of a comeback now, shown through attempts by Finlay Millar and Luca Rinaldi, which were not enough to get the team a goal closer to contesting the visitors' lead. However, they showed much greater signs that a comeback was still possible.

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A somewhat quiet period in the game was abruptly ended after a foul was committed on Owen Clanachan, which sparked much debate between the two sides and resulted in a brief pause in the game. A booking was also given when Lewis Downie was brought down again by a Grange defender. This displayed Grange's agitation, with St Joseph's showing a much more challenging approach for the opposition in the game. Luca Rinaldi took this free kick, but Liam Hawes' header that followed was just ever so slightly too high. Halftime was called soon after, allowing the home side to reconvene and Mr Kirk an opportunity to give the boys some further inspiration for the next stage of the game ahead of them. The game kicked off again with the senior team's increased motivation showing as Lewis Downie had a pop at the goal once again, but once again, a Grange defender blocked the shot.

After a threaded ball by Luca Rinaldi to Downie, who could not do anything with it, Finlay Millar scored the lads' second of the match by firing the ball at the roof of the net, making it very difficult for the goalkeeper to deal with. This increased the already extraordinarily high momentum of the boys, putting much pressure on Grange and threatening their lead with several attacks. The boys' constant attacks paid off as another penalty was given against Grange after a handball offence. Lewis Downie took this one as well and hit it at the left side like the last one. The Grange keeper was able to get a touch to it, but this was not enough as the ball went past the line, making it 3-3.

A close attempt came from Grange as a shot was hit towards the left side of Johnny Green's goal, but the ball went just over the crossbar for a goal kick. Both teams were pushing for another goal to emerge victorious in the game. The opponents were able to get through on goal another time, but Johnny Green saved the curled shot. After a continuous push to break down their opponent's defence, the defence was caught out with a sole defender forced to take on a Grange attacker who managed to get past them and put the ball into the net to have the upper hand once again on the home team.

St Joseph's were not finished as they tried to square the game once more with a couple of nail-bitingly close chances. However, a third penalty was given to the boys and for obvious reasons, Lewis Downie was the one to take it. He made it a hat-trick for himself by putting the ball well out of reach for the keeper and bringing St Joseph's level for the last time.

More attacks followed in an attempt to secure victory, but the whistle was blown to signal that penalties would be the way the game was decided. The visitors scored their first penalty, as did the St Joseph's striker Finlay Millar. The next penalty, taken by The Grange, was saved by Johnny Green to give St Joseph's the advantage. The next two penalties for the home side, taken by Alex O'Hagan and Calum Beattie, were scored as were those of the opposing team. Unfortunately, Luca Rinaldi's penalty was saved, which meant that the sides were now equal again, with three penalties scored each. Each team's next three penalties were scored, with the home side takers being Lewis Downie, Rocco Maxwell and Liam Hawes. After Grange scored their eighth penalty, Cole Henderson was to take the next for the senior team but unfortunately also had his saved, meaning that the visitors won after a truly magnificent performance from both teams.

A disappointing end to a fantastic run in the cup which the St Joseph's boys should be very proud of. Our best wishes to Grange Academy for the rest of the competition.

Match report by Shaun McGeachan S6.



Scottish Youth Football Squad

Congratulations to Grant Kerr of S3 who has just returned from a successful training camp in Salou with the Scottish Youth Football (2008) squad. Grant was delighted to be selected to participate in this event as he was one of only 5 boys born in 2009 to be invited to do so.

A great week was had by all, not just on the training pitches but also in friendly games against two Spanish Pro Youth Teams. Well done, Grant!



Table Tennis

Congratulations go to our pupils who recently competed in the Dumfries Table Tennis Club Championships 2024.

S1: Olivia Maxwell, Girls Champion.

S2 : Isaac Ishmael, U15 Champion, Cory Dawson, U15 Runner up and U18 Runner up, and Finley Boyd, Runner up Handicap Singles.

Also pictured is former pupil Shannon Brown, U18 Champion.



School Cross Country

Well done to everyone who participated in our S1—S3 cross country championship earlier this term. It was great to see such enthusiastic participation from all competitors!



S1 Girls

1st Nada Samer Ramadan
2nd Kacee Fairbairn
3rd Teyah Laidlaw



S1 Boys

1st Reuben McCloskey
2nd Moaz Elzagheir
3rd Dominik Czopek



S2 Girls

1st Amber Hinton
2nd Autumn Hodgins
3rd Lauren Dunlop



S2 Boys

1st Jackson Sloan
2nd Koen Burton
3rd Lewis Potts



S3 Girls

1st Islay Magee
2nd Sarah McQuire
3rd Eilidh Topping



S3 Boys

1st Finlay Hiddleston
2nd Nathan Lyagoba
3rd Liam Brown

Later in the term, the above pupils competed at the Regional Cross Country Competition. Amber Hinton finished 1st in the S2 Grils Race, Islay Magee finished 2nd in the S3 Girls Race, and Reuben McCloskey finished 2nd in the S1 Boys Race. We are also proud to share that our S1 Boys and S3 Grils won the team events. Well done to all our competitors.

Scottish Schools Swimming Championships Finals

On the 23rd of February 2024 several pupils attended the Scottish Schools Swimming Championships final at Dollan pool in East Kilbride. It was a very early start to the day as we left school at 6am to be there for our 8.30am warm up. There were 3 sessions with very little break in between. The atmosphere was loud and busy, but it was also very exciting to see competitors from across Scotland come together. There were lots of schools there and we were split up into areas with multiple schools in each area - there were just under 10 schools in the Dumfries and Galloway area (there were primary schools there too). We all did well, had a very good time swimming and we enjoyed spending time with friends and cheering them on. The event finished very late, so we stopped at Hamilton to get food for the way home. We arrived back to school about 9.30pm – we were all exhausted, but happy with our efforts. We were delighted to bring some medals home with us for that meet, in S1 Teyah Laidlaw was 2nd in the 12-years and under 50m butterfly and S2 Amber Hinton was 1st in both the 13/14 years 200m butterfly and 200m freestyle. Teyah and Amber are pictured below.

Struan Henry, S1, came 10th in the 100m backstroke. Lauren Dunlop, S2, qualified but unfortunately didn't get her reserve swim but was a fantastic cheerleader! Finlay Hiddleston, S3, finished 10th in the 200m freestyle and S4 pupil Rhys Edwards finished 4th in both the 100m and 200m freestyle events. Well done to all who competed and came along to support us!

By Amber Hinton and Lauren Dunlop



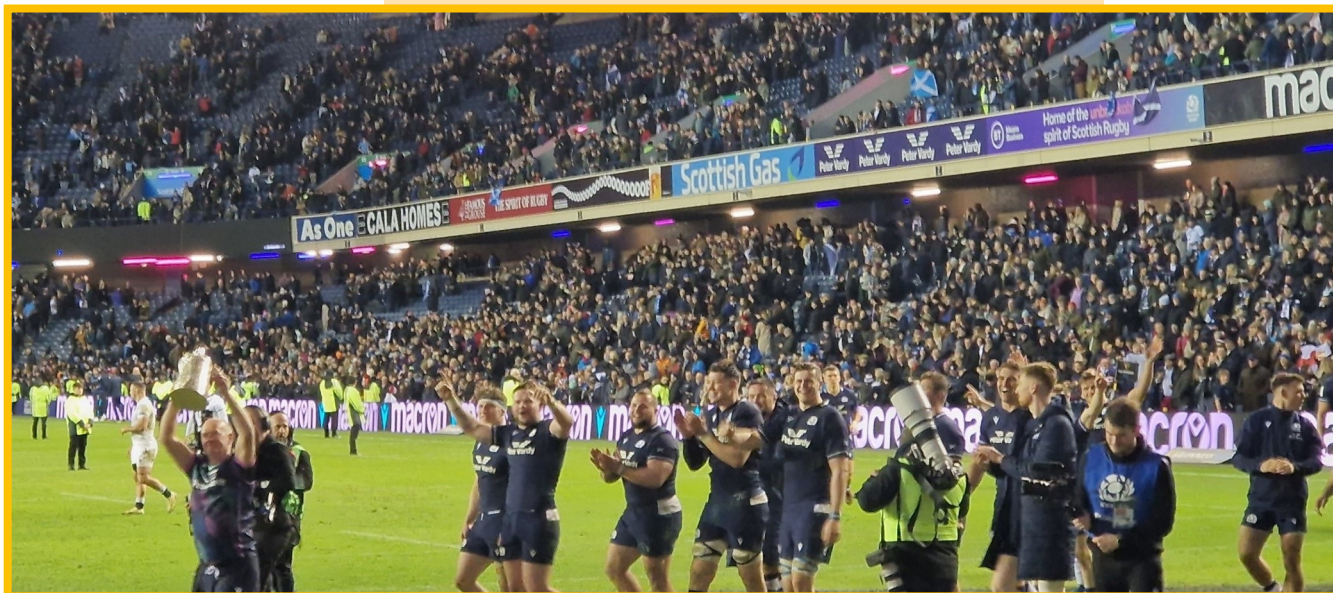
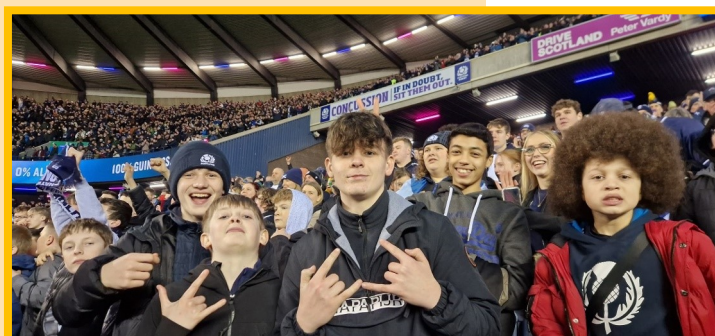
Calcutta Cup 2024

On Saturday 24 February, forty excited pupils set off from Dumfries heading to Scottish Gas Murrayfield, Edinburgh for this year's Calcutta Cup match between Scotland and England! There was a lot riding on the match; if Scotland won, it would be the first time since 1896 that Scotland has won four times in a row. Our driver from Houston's (David) dropped us right at the stadium entrance.

England were ahead in the first quarter and the Scottish crowd was quiet, until Duhan van der Merwe made it over the line with the first of three outstanding tries. At half time the score was Scotland 17-13 England. Half time entertainment was Tom Walker, who after performing was persuaded by the S5 girls to participate in their selfie!

The second half was nail biting, as England started within touching distance of the lead, if they managed to get a try. However, after just 6 minutes, van der Merwe secured try number three and conversion from Russell gave the Scots a 24-13 lead.

The game finished Scotland 30-21 England and with Scotland retaining the Calcutta Cup. An excellent day out, and all pupils were a credit to both themselves and the school!



Olympic Curling Gold

Young curlers Tia Laurie (S6) and Archie Hyslop (S5) did their school and country proud by winning Gold in the Mixed Curling event at the 2024 Winter Youth Olympic games in the Republic of Korea. Here they reflect on their amazing journey.

Our selection process involved applying through the British Curling website at the beginning of last year. The large number of applicants was cut down to twenty. The remaining athletes were invited to an interview day in September at the National Curling Academy in Stirling, where we took part in training drills to show our curling abilities and I also made a presentation in front of a panel. We were over the moon when we received an email saying that we had succeeded and would represent Great Britain at the Youth Olympics.

Arriving in the Republic of Korea, Tia was selected as a flagbearer for the entire GB team. It was a fantastic honour, something Tia will cherish forever.

We had such a good tournament in the lead-up to the final, and our spirits were high. Although Denmark was a tough opponent, we were confident that we could beat them and win gold.

Despite a challenging start, our team's resilience shone through. After a nerve-racking first end, we were forced to one point. Denmark, settling into the game, had an outstanding second end, scoring a massive 4 points. It was a tough moment for all of us, but we knew we were still in the game. As the saying goes, 'Success is not about how fast you run or how high you climb but how well you bounce back.' And bounce back we did.

The magnitude of our achievement was not lost on us, especially with the presence of GB athletes from various sports, Olympic Gold Medallist Eve Muirhead, and our beloved family and friends. The shared joy and pride in our victory made it a moment to cherish forever. The medal ceremony, with our anthem resonating in the air and the gold medals around our necks, was a surreal experience, marking a significant milestone in our curling careers.

By Tia and Archie.



Scottish Schools Curling Final



Many congratulations to Zak Trotter, Jessica Trotter, Jason Mann and Teagan Smith, who recently won silver at the Scottish Schools Curling Final in Aberdeen. Earlier in the year, the team competed in the annual Secondary Schools Bonspiel and won The Andrew McClune Memorial Cup! Many congratulations.

Secondary Schools Bonspiel



Congratulations to Teagan Smith, Rowan Terrace, Jason Mann, and Owen Kennedy, who won the Andrew McClune Memorial Cup after competing in the annual Secondary Schools Bonspiel. A well deserved victory.

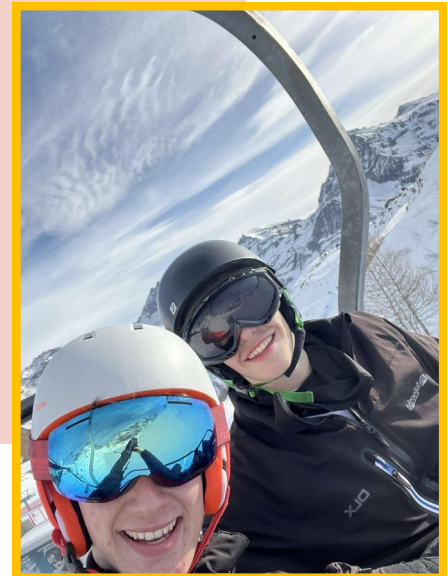
Ski Trip 2024 - Italy

The much anticipated St Joseph's College Ski Trip departed for Gressoney in Italy on the 27th January 2024. 112 pupils and 12 members of staff boarded 3 coaches for the long journey through the UK, France and Italy. Everyone was in great spirits and the pupils kept themselves entertained throughout the journey by watching movies, listening to music and even treating the accompanying members of staff to some singing - a particular mention must go to the S6 bus and their karaoke machine.

Arriving at our hotel on Sunday afternoon, we headed to ski fit after lunch and then had time to relax and recover. On Monday morning we walked the short distance to ski school, for the first of our five days on the slopes. The weather was fantastic for five days; blue skies, sunshine and amazing views of the surrounding alps.

Most evenings we were all pretty tired after a days skiing but we also managed to fit in ice skating, a karaoke night, a disco and a quiz. We all felt that our skiing vastly improved over the week with even those who had never skied before hitting the slopes with confidence at the end of the week.







Skating Success

Well done to our St Joseph's College Synchronized Ice Skaters Eva Lake, Evie Mccubbin, Sydnee Penny, Emily McCourtie, Isabel Hanna, Darcey McCubbin, Holly Robertson, Grace Scotney, Eliza McCourtie, Isabella Earle, Eedih Laidlaw, Jessica Hanna, Chloe Hiddleston and Teyah Laidlaw.

The pupils achieved remarkable success with their respective teams at The Steel City Trophy Event in Sheffield earlier this month.

Solway Stars took part in the ISU Junior International category with two beautifully clean skates, achieving a season personal best of 144.98 points.

Solway Eclipse competed for the final time this season, showcasing their dramatic Enola Holmes routine. They achieved a fabulous 57.93 points, bringing home a bronze medal!

Last to skate were Solway Lightning, who performed in the Intermediate category with their entertaining Ratatouille Medley. They set the bar high, achieving an all-time personal best of 44.19 points and bringing home a silver medal!

SJC Solway Stars skaters Eva Lake, Evie Mccubbin, Sydnee Penny, Emily McCourtie and Isabel Hanna recently represented Great Britain at the World Synchronized Skating Championships in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, finishing 15th overall out of twenty-four teams. We are delighted to share that the team achieved a GB Worlds personal best score.

Congratulations to our fantastic athletes and to coaches and past pupils Molly Coxon and Gemma Fergusson.



Newton Flight Academy



This term, eighteen of our S3 Physics pupils attended Glasgow Science Centre. They took part in the Newton Flight Academy programme, where they learned how to plan a flight as part of a search-and-rescue mission using their Physics, Mathematics, and Geography knowledge.

Streamlined Science

Some of our S2 pupils have been learning about friction and what shapes are more streamlined than others. They have been experimenting with different shapes, timing them as they move through water. Nina Grierson and Tori Trainor are pictured with their heart shapes as they tried to create a less streamlined shape than their previous test piece.



Lunch 'N' Learn

This term, our pupils have been developing their confidence and skill set by attending short lunchtime question & answer sessions with professionals who work in careers related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

These sessions build on the links established during our annual STEM speed-dating event for S4 and offer the chance for pupils in all year groups to meet STEM Ambassadors working locally and further afield.

To date our young people have heard from three former pupils:

David MacGregor – Mechanical Engineer, Osbit Ltd.

Rachel Cossar – Biomedical Scientist, NHS D&G

Chiara Copland – Deputy Administration Manager, Vigilant Security Ltd.

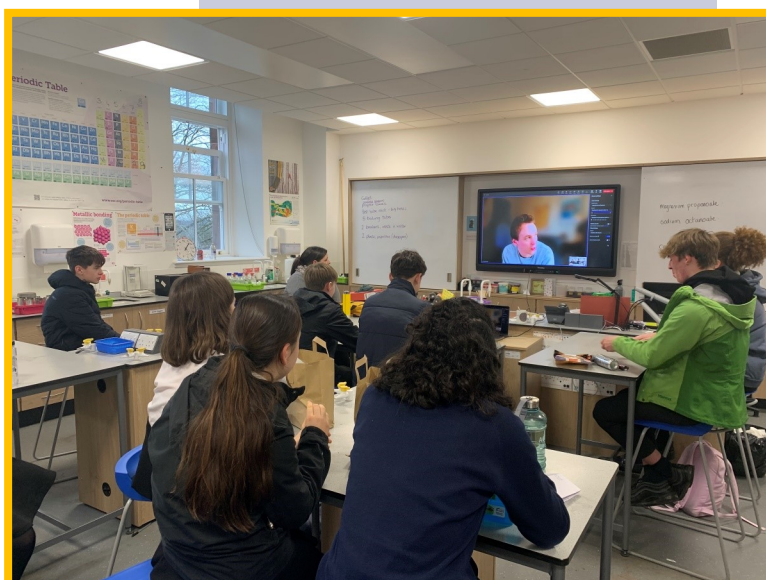
In addition, they were able to meet in person with David Webster who in the United States of America as Head of Design at Google Labs.

All have offered different perspectives and useful insights into the world of work.

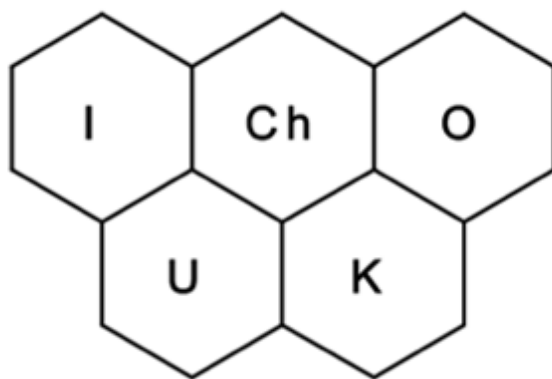
Over the coming weeks, we have further sessions booked with a design engineer, a chemical engineer and some research chemists. Pupils are also free to request a career they'd like to find out more about and we will do our best to find a STEM professional contact.

Any parents working in a STEM related field and who are willing to participate, should contact Mrs. MacGregor via the school office. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Our thanks go to all of these ambassadors who have willingly given their time to inspire our pupils.



Royal Society of Chemistry



In January Advanced Higher Chemistry students took on the challenge of extending their problem-solving skills by electing to sit the 2024 Chemistry Olympiad. For some pupils, this was in the same week as their prelim exams.

This year the paper contained questions related to bronze, fuel-producing bacteria, and contrast agents used to enhance MRI scan images. Certainly an opportunity to learn about the importance and application of Chemistry to everyday lives.

Scores have been submitted and we are awaiting results – fingers crossed!

During the February in-service training days, our Science Technicians, Mr. Cowan and Mrs. Subhadra, joined staff for some hands-on micro-scale Chemistry training. Following the session, they are now developing some small-scale sets of apparatus that allow individual pupil participation and reduced consumption of chemicals.

In June our new Higher Chemistry classes will face the RSC Schools Analyst Competition – this year the team challenge is based on Trading Standards. We are sure it will be every bit as enjoyable as last year's Sabotage at the Bake Off!



P7/S1 Science Fair 2024

This year the St Joseph's College Cluster Science Fair, organised in partnership with St Andrew's and St Teresa's Primary Schools, demonstrated our pupils' high standards of scientific thinking. Pupils completed projects on a topic of their choice. Experiments were carried out at home and findings presented in a poster.

Our S5 STEM Ambassadors judged the Primary school projects and the top 3 joined eight S1 class winners in the final.

S1 Class Finalists:

- 1.1: Sean Quinn - Bridge Experiment
- 1.2: Megan Borland - What Leaf Shape Falls the Fastest?
- 1.3: Yassin Hatab - The Melting of Ice
- 1.4: Catherine Kwok - The Time it Takes for Paint to Dry on Different Surfaces
- 1.5: Lucy Pullen - Cat VS Music
- 1.6: Alice Murphy - Golf Balls. Which One Goes Furthest?
- 1.7: Milli Kerr - Does Age Affect the Human Reaction Time?
- 1.8: Dominik Czopek - How Do Different Court Surfaces Affect the Ball Bounce?

Primary Finalists

Oliver McGeachan, Ollie Brown & Lukas Dolezal - Which Chemical Reaction Creates the Tallest Elephant Toothpaste?

Briagh Regatillo & Kasia Sonsnicka - How Long does it take for Skittles Colour to Dissolve in Different Liquids?

Abbie McRobert, Erin McCaughey & Esmae Duggan - Which Liquid Makes Pepper Travel the Furthest?

Our invited judges, Mrs Belille-Sharp, Dr James MacGregor and Dr Gavin Stevenson, all from science backgrounds, interviewed each finalist before coming to a decision.

Congratulations to our winners:

1st - Briagh Regatillo & Kasia Sonsnicka (St Teresa's)

2nd - Abbie McRobert, Erin McCaughey & Esmae Duggan (St Andrew's)

3rd - Dominik Czopek (S1 St. Joseph's College)





Technology Department



S1 Technical classes have been working hard on their designer clocks. Pupils created a design folio and used the tools and machinery in the workshop to manufacture their chosen design.

Pictured in the foreground are Logan Bridges, Innes Collins, Ben Johnstone, Sarah Peacock, Duncan Brown, Annabel Hart, and Fletcher Carruthers.



Mrs Black's S3 Design and Manufacture class completed their tablet stand project recently. Pictured is Leena Samer Ramadan, Zainab Naqvi, Mya Ward, Pavlo Novikov, Simon Capstick, Nathaniel Kirkpatrick and Finlay Hiddleston with their completed models. Keep up the good work!

Pupils in Mr MacKellar's S4 Design and Manufacture class recently completed their chair models. For this project, pupils produced a design folio, generating various designs. They then selected their best design and calculated the sizes and materials that they would require before manufacturing their model. Great work, S4!



Holly Robertson



Fergus Borland

Faith Uwadia



Finlay Riding

Shammah Williams

Isabella Ross



Drew Borland

Paul Storey



Mohammad Ahmad

Ethan Murray

Matthew Ainsbury

Young Enterprise

The Young Enterprise programme is coming to an end and we are proud to highlight the achievements of our pupils.



Two groups, Mission Meander and Googlys, are participating in the programme this year and with the finals on Thursday 21 March. We would like to congratulate them on their dedication and hard work and wish them the best of luck in the finals! Regardless of the outcome, the pupils have all gained invaluable experiences, shaping future leaders.



A bit about Googlys: this group produced and sold an array of house plants in uniquely decorated jars.

The group are in the process of winding up their company. They have worked effectively as a team and have received strong sales and healthy profit as a result. The group will now host an AGM and decide how to distribute the profits of their company. The members of this group can now update their CVs with their new skills - the experience will also be a great talking point at future interviews!

Well done to **Googlys** members: Annie Gamble, Samya Ishmael, Oliwia Skeats, Kelly Grierson, Mary Kennedy, and Dennie Caspari.



A bit about Mission Meander: this group are running a QR-code scavenger hunt around Dumfries, the competition is supported by local businesses and encourages locals to get out and about in the local area.

The **Mission Meander** members: Matthew Reid, Katie McGill, Caitlin McCaughey, Alyssa Kingstree and Yusif Bayaty.

Huge congratulations to Mission Meander who won the award for the Best Report and were also the overall Runner Up in this year's Dumfries and Galloway Young Enterprise 'Company of the Year'. They received their awards at a presentation ceremony hosted at the Cairndale Hotel where the guest speaker was Claire Primrose the new Spa Manager of the soon to be open Cairndale Spa. Our thanks go to the team's link teachers Mrs True and Mrs Plunkett from the Business Studies Department and to Mr McGill of Farries, Kirk and McVean, as business adviser.

Thanks also to Kenny Bowie, of Dumfries and Galloway Young Enterprise and Graham Galloway from Developing the Young Workforce for the support and sponsorship of the event.

We wish Bonnie Belties from Dalbeattie High School all the best at the Scottish Finals in May.



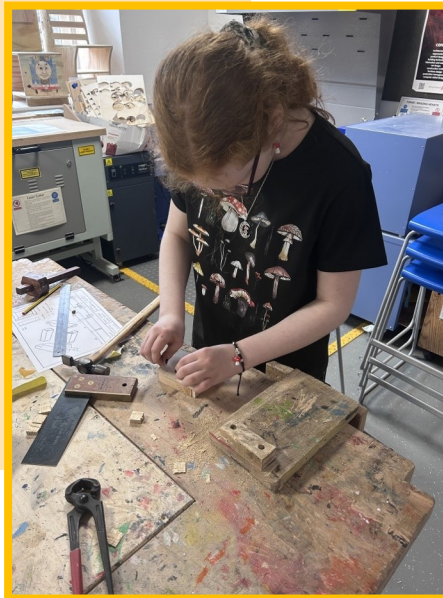
St Joseph's Day

St Joseph's Day was celebrated on the 19th of March to commemorate the patron saint of our school. The theme of the day was 'Family Spirit' which is one of our school's Marist Values. An activities afternoon was organised by the events Committee and S6 Caritas students.

Pupils selected the activities they wished to take part in, and the school show held rehearsals. We had a fantastic day full of Chess, Board Games, Ice Skating, Party Games, Table Tennis, Movies as well as two Creative Industries events in the form of a Silent Disco and Make a Movie Outfit (Junk Couture)....and so much more.

A Non-Uniform Day collected funds for SCIAF, and we had a theme of pink, black and Grease to help get into the spirit of our upcoming school show! Mr Kirk (History) won Most Creative Teacher, Devon Sinclair and Orla Fitzpatrick Most Creative Pupils and Ms Robinson and her S5 Maths students won Best in Pink.







Green Flag Status

Established in 2021, the St Joseph's College Eco-Committee worked towards earning a Green Flag. As a result, we are now the first Secondary School in the burgh of Dumfries to become an accredited Eco-School. This prominent award is accredited by 'Keep Scotland Beautiful' Eco-Schools initiative, which recognises schools' efforts towards sustainability and students' attentiveness towards environmental issues. To earn the award, Eco-Committees must determine what sustainability issues require action and create an 'action plan', focusing on three distinct areas. St Joseph's college Eco-Committee decided to investigate Litter and Waste, Biodiversity, and Energy.

Pupils took action towards their three chosen goals:

1. Upcycling materials to provide habitats for biodiversity.
2. Litter picking and waste audits on school grounds and surrounding local community. areas.
3. Investigating renewable energies and promoting energy saving incentives across the school community.

Eco-committees must also take action on one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. St Joseph's College made contributions towards goal (13) - Climate Action. Pupil work was kindly displayed at the COP26 open evening event in Glasgow. The work pupils displayed demonstrated their investigations in to the sustained use of renewable energy and the importance of taking action on Climate.

The overall success in achieving this award was due to the dedication and hard work of the Eco-Committee, however, this achievement would not have been possible without our two main supporters, Ms Benson and Mr Brown from the schools Science / Technology and Geography Departments.



Rights Committed School

What is the Rights Respecting Schools Award?

The Rights Respecting Schools Award puts children's rights at the heart of school life in the UK. The Award recognises a school's achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into practice within the school and beyond.

The difference that a Rights Respecting School makes goes beyond the school gates, making a positive impact on the whole community.

- Children are healthier and happier
- Children feel safe
- Children have better relationships
- Children become active and involved in school life and the wider world



Achieving the bronze award means that St Joseph's College is committed to embedding rights based learning across the school community.

How was this award achieved?

The Bronze Award was achieved as a result of the RRSA working group writing an action plan which detailed how the school will progress the award in three main ways:

- Strand A: teaching & learning about rights
- Strand B: teaching & learning through rights
- Strand C: teaching & learning for rights

What are the next steps?

The bronze award will be used as a launch pad to work towards the Silver Award: Rights Aware. This will involve sharing the leadership of the award with pupil-led groups such as the RRSA Steering Committee. This group will lead on projects such as writing a whole school rights-based charter, a document that will highlight the most important articles of the UNCRC as voted for by the students at St Joseph's College. Other examples include working with charity groups such as the Queen of the South Community trust as well as our local parishes to support the participation and empowerment of young learners to help support and help out the local community.

S3 Social Enterprise

Our S3 Business class has been running their Social Enterprise LAMP (supporting poverty and the cost-of-living crisis) and has held its first bake sale at school. Exchanging goods for money allowed pupils to see their business ideas as reality while championing women in business by demonstrating their excellent leadership skills. The crowds gathered, and all the goods were sold within ten minutes! The profits are being reinvested into the Social Enterprise project.





Dumfries & Galloway Youth Orchestra

Well done to SJC pupils who have been committed members of the Orchestra since 2018. However change is ahead and the Orchestra will now be run through the Authority Music Instrumental Service. Lots of opportunities to remain part of this successful group and information will come to you through our instrumental service about rehearsals and upcoming performances.



Scottish Rotary Young Musician Competition

Congratulations to Peter Whitelaw (S6) who won the vocal category of the Scottish Final of the Rotary Young Musician Competition. Peter will now compete in the National GB and Ireland final in Manchester in April. Peter was accompanied by his brother Donald (S4). Good luck to you both!



Appointment of Bishop Dougan

St Joseph's College pupils Kevin Rayen and Euan Sharp from St. Andrew's and St. Teresa's parishes' respectively, accompanied Headteacher Mrs Jones to the Ordination of Bishop Francis Dougan at St Peter in Chains, Ardrossan. We congratulate and send our very best wishes to Bishop Francis Dougan as he undertakes his episcopal ministry.



Competition Time

**SJC S1-3
JUNIOR
YOUNG
MUSICIAN
COMPETITION
5TH JUNE**

Application forms available
from the
Music Department
Closing date for entries Friday
31st May 2024

A poster for the SJC S1-3 Junior Young Musician Competition. The background is orange with a textured, splattered effect. On the right side, there is a large, stylized illustration of a guitar. Several white musical notes are scattered across the poster, including one large note near the top right and two smaller ones at the bottom left.

**SJC S1-3
JUNIOR
YOUNG
ARTIST
COMPETITION
5TH JUNE**

Closing date for entries Friday 31st
May 2024 to the Art Department

A poster for the SJC S1-3 Junior Young Artist Competition. The background is blue with a textured, splattered effect. On the right side, there is a large, stylized illustration of a pink jar filled with various art supplies, including pens, pencils, and brushes. At the bottom left, there is a small illustration of a paint palette and a paintbrush.

School Show

Rehearsals for this year's school show "Grease" are well underway.



Grease Poster Success

Pupils showed off their creative talents in a poster design competition, hosted by the school show's Promotion Team, to advertise Grease the Musical. Congratulations to Madison Urquhart (S4) whose winning poster design will be used in all upcoming show promotions. Judging was challenging as every poster showcased incredible talent. A massive thank you to every pupil who submitted a design. Grease will be showing this year on from 18-21 June. Stay tuned for more updates from the Promo Team.

