

St Joseph's RC High School



Year 7 Welcome Guide 2020

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Welcome from the Headteacher

Congratulations on choosing St Joseph's and securing a place at our school. Welcome to our community! Whether your family are already members of the St Joseph's community or you are being introduced for the first time, we hope that you will sense the warmth of our vibrant community, even though we are not able to welcome you face to face this year. Being part of our community is a life changing adventure.

Over the last 18 months at St Joseph's we have been on a journey of continual improvement. We are excited to announce that our new Year 7 will benefit from a £3 million building and refurbishment program and a brand new refreshed curriculum, coupled with a drive to further improve standards in learning and teaching. In our view, there has never been a better time to join our community and we have no intention of standing still!

All our new initiatives and improvements have come from suggestions from our young people and their parents and carers, governors and staff. We are a listening school and by joining our community you become part of our decision making processes in making our school the best it can be. We look forward to you joining the adventure. We hope that this guide will help you to familiarise yourself with our school and help you to feel at home. Please subscribe to our YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkBa-KncnQpFtCqKVDcr1_Q/ and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StJosephsRCHS> so that you can be kept up to date with our vibrant community.

Five years from now the young people reading this will be preparing for GCSEs and life beyond our school. It is our aspiration to prepare you to achieve as well as you possibly can so that you can take your part as a game changer in our world. Let's pray for God's blessing and protection on us as we live our mission to "dream the impossible and achieve beyond our wildest imagination."

Mr McCabe, Headteacher

**Welcomes from our Transition Coordinator, Head of Year 7 and
Assistant Head of Year 7.**

Hi Year 7!

I'm Miss Prunty and I'm the Transition Coordinator here at St Joseph's. It's my job to ensure that your move across to secondary school is as smooth as possible. Usually, I would be very busy organising visits and transition activities for you all to participate in and am so disappointed that we can't do things as usual this year. However, this doesn't mean that we can't help you to feel part of our community from a distance! I hope this guide helps you feel a bit more at ease about joining us in September.

I'm really looking forward to meeting each of you and helping you to start your exciting journey at St Joseph's.

Take care and I will see you all soon.

Miss Prunty, Transition Coordinator

Hello Year 7!

A big welcome to the family of St Joseph's, from Miss Dougan, your Head of Year.

I know that many of you will be nervous about starting 'Big School' and it's my job, along with the Assistant Head of Year 7, Mr Hodgson, to help you to settle in and make sure you are happy and enjoying yourselves. The best way to get the most out of St Joseph's is to join in and take advantage of all the many opportunities that you will be given, to learn and experience new things. There will be lots to find out in lessons, but also lots of other things to discover, by joining clubs and sporting groups. Mr Hodgson and I are very excited to meet you all and we will be with you every step of the way through your Year 7. So take care, be safe and see you in September!

Miss Dougan, Head of Year 7

Hi, my name is Mr. Hodgson and I'm delighted to be your Assistant Head of Year in September. At St Joseph's, we want you all to dream the impossible and achieve beyond your wildest imaginations and you'll have the privilege of being taught a rich curriculum by some of the finest teachers in the country. We're also looking forward to you joining us in prayer and building God's kingdom here in our school during our collective worship whether that's in forms, assemblies or in Mass. All of the staff and students here at Joey's are really looking forward to meeting you all in September.

Mr Hodgson, Assistant Head of Year 7

The School Day

You should be on site by 8.25 am at the latest. You are expected to remain on the premises until the end of the afternoon session at 2.45pm.

At St Joseph's, we have a two week timetable. Please see below the times for the different sessions throughout the normal school day. In each day, there is morning registration, five sessions where you will be with a specific subject tutor, a lunchtime break and a mid-morning break.

8.25 Warning Bell

8.30 – 08.45 Morning Registration in Tutor Groups

8.45 – 9.45 Lesson One

9.45 – 10.45 Lesson Two

10.45 – 11.00 Morning Break

11.00 – 12.00 Lesson Three

12.00 – 13.00 Lesson Four

13.00 – 13.45 Lunchtime

13.45 – 14.45 Lesson Five

14.45 End of School Day

Any student leaving the premises during the school day must have permission from their Head of Year.

Holiday Dates 2020/2021

AUTUMN TERM 2020

School re-opens: Tuesday 8th September 2020
Break up for half-term: Thursday 15th October 2020
School re-opens: Monday 26th October 2020
School closes Friday 18th December 2020

Autumn Term = 68 days

SPRING TERM 2021

School re-opens: Tuesday 5th January 2021
Break up for half-term: Friday 12th February 2021
School re-opens Monday 22nd February 2021
School closes Thursday 1st April 2021 (Maundy Thursday)

Spring Term = 58 days

SUMMER TERM 2021

School re-opens: Monday 19th April 2021
Bank Holiday Monday: 3rd May 2021
Break up for half-term: Friday 28th May 2021
Bank Holiday: Monday 31st May 2021
School re-opens: Monday 7th June 2021
School closes: Friday 23rd July 2021

Summer Term = 64 days

STAFF INSET DAYS

Monday 7th September 2020
Friday 16th October 2020
Monday 4th January 2021

Uniform

Year 7 Pupils:

- Dark blue embroidered blazer with white shirt/blouse underneath and tie. Each year group has their own style of tie which they keep for the duration of their time at St Joseph's.
- Black trousers (plain black, not skinny style or jean cut) or a black skirt (if you wear a skirt to school it must be the school black pleated knee-length skirt with the school badge).
- Black socks (ankle or knee length)
- Black shoes (plain and sensible – no coloured logos, stripes or fabric. We are defining a shoe as something that you can put black polish on and the ankle is uncovered – no boots please).



PE Kit (all St Joseph's P.E kit must be branded from our suppliers):

Compulsory girls

- T-shirt
- Legging/shorts
- Black football socks or white sport socks
- (hair must be tied up if past ears)

Compulsory boys

- T-shirt
- Shorts/tracksuit bottom
- Black football socks or white sport socks
- (hair must be tied up if past ears)

Optional kit

- Full zip tracksuit top - female
- Quarter zip tracksuit top - unisex

Our suppliers:

- **Contract Schoolwear** (01204) 62464
- **Andrew Leach's Sports and Schoolwear**, Horwich (01204) 697624
<http://www.andrewleachschoolwear.co.uk/>
- **Whittakers Schoolwear**, Bolton (01204) 389485
www.whittakersschoolwear.co.uk
- **Aspull Village Embroidery**, Aspull (01942) 830153
<https://www.aspullvillageembroidery.co.uk/stjosephs/>

Pastoral Care

Pastoral System

Our Deputy Headteacher **Mrs Yorke-Robinson** and Assistant Headteacher **Mr Singleton** work with all of our Heads of Year and Pastoral Tutors to ensure that you have the very best of care during your time here at St. Joseph's.

Our Pastoral system provides the care and guidance to allow you to flourish and grow. Each cohort group has a Head of Year who is responsible for caring for all of the year group. Each year is split into seven form groups. Each form group is headed by a member of staff who you will see every morning during registration. They will also be with you during assemblies and educational days. Your form tutors will aim to build up your self-confidence in your new surroundings and will encourage you to mix with your new classmates so that you feel part of the community.

Year Group Assemblies

Each year group has an assembly once a week, on a designated day, at 8.30am. This assembly is usually led by the Head of Year or a member of our Senior Leadership Team. They will also sometimes be led by a particular form or group of students. The venue is the school hall, although on occasions, especially during the examination period, the sports hall is used.

Sacred Space

Each morning will begin with prayers in form tutor groups. This is called Sacred Space. Pupils are encouraged to take an active part and on occasions lead the reflections and prayers. The school day ends with a prayer too. Prayers are sometimes led by the teacher or by the students and take a variety of forms.

Saint Joseph

Our Patron Saint is Saint Joseph, husband of Mary and foster-father of Our Lord. We know that he was a good man who took care of Mary and Jesus. Tradition says that Joseph was a carpenter. He is the Patron Saint of all workers.



“Justitia sine timore”

You will see these words written on our school badge and on our letter headings. This is our school motto. It is a Latin phrase which means ‘justice without fear’. We like to translate it as – “Be just and fear not”.

It reminds us that, like Saint Joseph, we should always do what is right and then we will have nothing to fear.

Our Form Patrons

As members of the St Joseph’s community we all subscribe to the gospel values of caring, tolerance, patience and understanding. We actively and consistently promote the words of Christ when he spoke of the greatest commandment “Love God with all your heart, with all your mind and all your strength and love your neighbour as you would love yourself.”

Form groups are named after inspirational Christian role models of...

Saint **Bernadette**

Blessed Oscar **Romero**

Sean **Devereux**

Saint Mother **Teresa of Calcutta**

Martin Luther **King**

Saint **Vincent** de Paul

Saint Maximilian **Kolbe**

Saint Bernadette Soubirous

Bernadette Soubirous was born in 1844 in Lourdes, France. 11th February 1858 marked the first of 18 apparitions of “the lady” to St Bernadette at the rock of Massabielle in Lourdes. The lady later confirmed herself as the Immaculate Conception – the mother of Jesus. Bernadette was 14 years old at the time.

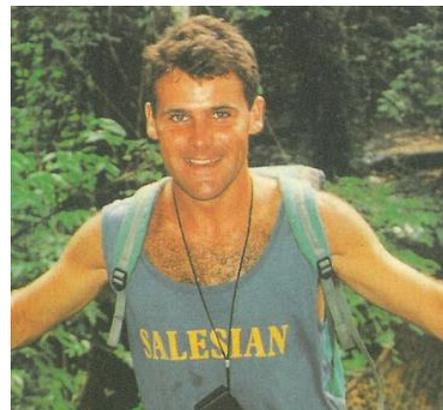


Following the apparitions, St Bernadette joined the Sisters of Charity of Nevers and dedicated the rest of her life to God through service and prayer.

“Love overcomes and love delights.”

Sean Devereux

Sean was a teacher who in February 1989 went to Liberia as a Lay Volunteer working with the Salesian Community. When his school closed in 1990 as a result of the Civil War, Sean stayed to work with the United Nations in relief operations.



On 2nd January 1993, Sean was shot dead, assassinated by a hired gunman at the age of 28. Sean died coming to the aid of children and had spent nearly five years helping the poorest of Africa’s youths.

“While my heart beats, I have to do what I think I can do – and that is to help those that are less fortunate.”

Martin Luther King

Dr. Martin Luther King was born in Atlanta, Georgia, USA in 1929 and never backed down in his stand against racism. As a Baptist Pastor he lived out his Christian faith by dedicating his life to achieving equality and justice for all Americans of all colours through peaceful means. In 1964 he received the Nobel Peace Prize. He was assassinated by James Earl Ray on April 4, 1968.



“Faith is taking the first step, even when you don’t see the whole staircase”

Saint Maximilian Kolbe

Maximilian Kolbe was a Polish priest and a prisoner in the [Auschwitz](#) concentration camp. When a prisoner escaped from the camp, the Nazis selected 10 others to be killed by starvation in reprisal for the escape. At this Father Kolbe stepped forward to give his life so that one of the men chosen could survive. His request was granted.

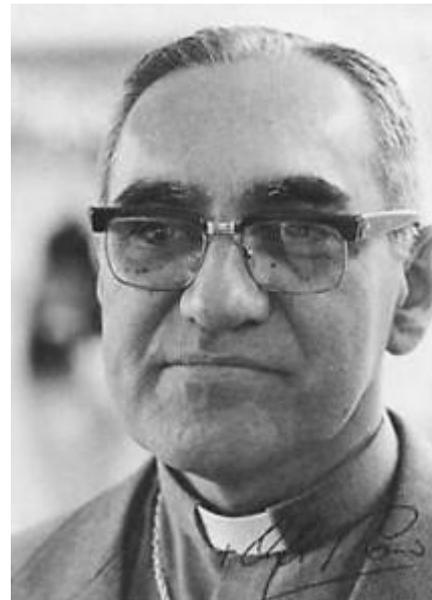


As the ten condemned men were led to the death Block, Father Kolbe supported a fellow prisoner who could hardly walk. Father Kolbe was the last to die on August 14, 1941.

“God dwells in our midst...He remains among us until the end of the world. “

Blessed Oscar Romero

Oscar Romero was Archbishop of San Salvador in Central America. He sided with the many poor people of his country and spoke out against poverty, social injustice and torture carried out by the new Government. In 1980 He wrote to the US president asking him to stop sending guns to his country as they were being used to kill innocent people.

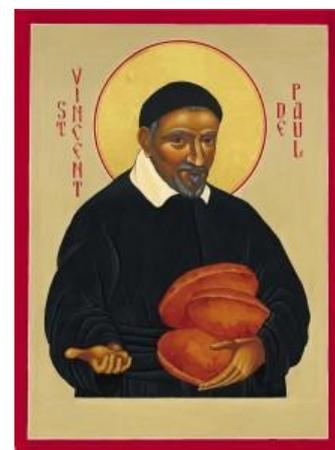


He was assassinated on 24th March 1980 whilst saying mass. He was beatified by Pope Francis on 23 May 2017 and so is now called Blessed.

“Aspire not to have more...but to be more”

Saint Vincent de Paul

Vincent was born in 1581 and at the age of 24 was captured and sold as a slave. In 1617 he founded the “Ladies of Charity” within his own parish, which was to be the first of his many charitable organisations established to aid the poor, to set up hospitals, to care for victims of war and to free slaves. Saint Vincent de Paul dedicated his life to serving the poor and the needy.



Vincent died in Paris in 1660, but in 1833 the ‘SVP’ society was started by Fredrick Ozanam which sees him as its Patron.

“Let all things be done with charity”

Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Mother Teresa was a teacher as a Sister of Loretto when she heard God telling her to leave and work with the poor, living among them. Mother Teresa started a school in the slums to teach the children of the poor and also learned basic medicine. In 1950, the group officially became known as the Missionaries of Charity.



Over the years the number have grown from 12 to thousands serving the “poorest of the poor” in over 450 places around the world.

“Before you speak, it is necessary for you to listen, for God speaks in the silence of the heart”

When you find out your form grouping, why not do some additional research into your Form Patron?

Subjects at St Joseph's

Over the next few pages you will learn more about the subjects that you will study throughout Year 7. We hope this gives you more information about your learning and gets you excited about all of the progress that you will make and knowledge that you will discover in your first year with us.

Religious Education

In Religious Education in Year 7 we look at Religion historically - starting with the Prophet Abraham and the beginnings of Judaism we work our way chronologically through: Abraham's life and covenants; Moses and his covenant; beliefs and practices of Judaism; the birth of Jesus; Jesus' life, death, resurrection, miracles and teachings; how the Apostles spread the Word of God; the establishing, spread and development of Christianity in England up to the reformation in England. We then finish off the year by looking at 'Religion in Society' which explores issues such as stewardship, human rights and prejudice. Throughout the year we also do in-depth media studies looking at religious themes found in the films 'The Prince of Egypt', 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe', and 'Wonder'.

To prepare for RE this year you may want to read the books that our media study films are based on - 'Wonder' by R. J. Palacio and 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' by C. S. Lewis. You could also do a little bit of research about Jewish Festivals and how they are celebrated.

The basic equipment you must have every lesson is a black or blue pen, a purple pen, a pencil, a ruler. However, ideally you will also have a rubber, sharpener, a highlighter and some colouring pencils.

RE offers excellent extra-curricular activities and opportunities for trips (Year 7 have a chance to go to Savio House for 3 days on retreat). Our most popular club is the Mission Team, who have written the following to describe what they do:

Were you a member of the GIFT Team or a Caritas Ambassador in Year 6? Do you like working in a team? Do you enjoy helping others and making a difference? If you answered 'Yes' to any of these questions, come and join the St Joseph's Mission Team. We are a student led group supported by Mrs Pepperday and Mrs Horridge along with many other staff who help us prepare and take part in activities.



We meet once a week and take part in various activities in and out of school. In the last couple of years we have:

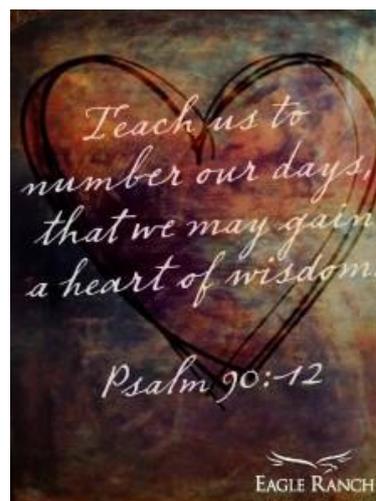
- *Visited sheltered housing and made eco-bricks with residents*
- *Held a community Christmas party*
- *Attended FLAME 2019 in London*
- *Supported various charities*
- *Helped organise liturgies and Masses in school*
- *Attended youth events*
- *Led planning days with some of our feeder primaries*
- *Helped prepare the primary GIFT Team retreat day*

We are always looking for new members, new ideas and enthusiasm. We look forward to welcoming you!

The RE department cannot wait to meet you and get to know you all next year.

Maths

A big hello from the Maths Department here at St Joseph's! We are looking forward to welcoming you in September and cannot wait to get you started on exploring different ways of solving lots of mathematical problems! Below is some information to hopefully help you before you join us, but don't worry at all! Anything that you need will be answered and sorted, when you arrive.



Y7 Curriculum

The Year 7 curriculum consists of building upon the knowledge you bring with you from primary school. You may find that there are some topics that you have touched on before and will continue to build on, along with some completely new concepts to get your head around. Either way, we will be delving into our deeper mathematical understanding, solving lots of new problems and focusing carefully on our mathematical reasoning. Below is a brief outline of some of the topics you will come across. We aim to allow you to open your mind, explore new techniques and expand your mathematical knowledge regardless of your ability.

Term	1	2
Autumn	Introduction to Algebra Number Facts Calculations	Rules of Mathematics Angles and Geometrical Shapes Sequences
Spring	Fractions, Decimals and Percentages 2D and 3D shapes Conversions and measurement Fractions	Percentages Further Algebra Estimations
Summer	Area and perimeter of 2D shapes Volume Problem Solving	Statistical graphs and Measures Coordinates Transformations

You will work in sets in Year 7, which will be reviewed on a regular basis at assessment points. There will be a baseline assessment early in Year 7, which is nothing to worry about but will give us some information about which group suits

you best. No matter what your group, rest assured there will be lots of opportunity for success and challenge.

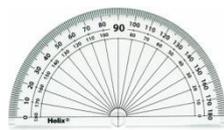
Opportunities for Extra Curricular in Maths

For our bucket list opportunities in Year 7, we run a puzzle club, which is open to any year 7 pupil who finds puzzles and challenges interesting. This year, our current Year 7 pupils have enjoyed facing new challenges and have even had times where they have set the challenges for other pupils in the group. If you like the sound of this, then join up to puzzle club in September!

Equipment List

It is really important that you are fully prepared when attending your Maths lessons. You will have 8 lessons over a two week period, so it is really important that you are prepared for each and every one. Below is a checklist of equipment that you will need:

- ✓ Pen
- ✓ Pencil
- ✓ Ruler
- ✓ Rubber
- ✓ Sharpener
- ✓ Protractor
- ✓ Compass
- ✓ Scientific Calculator



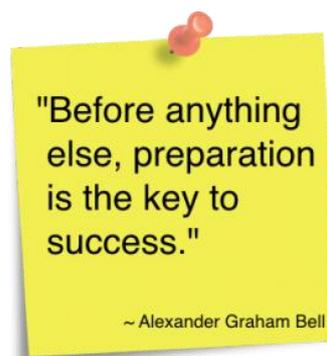
With your calculator, it doesn't really matter which one as long as it is scientific. Casio models are very good and are popular amongst our students and are ideal for GCSE. A good calculator will last the duration of your school life, with good care! Examples are as follows:



Not a Casio model but a slightly less costly, yet as effective calculator

How can you prepare for September?

We know that at the moment life is very different so you will be currently working from home. You could use the curriculum outline above to do some reading around the topics that you will be covering. You could use websites like BBC Bitesize and Corbettmaths to access information for these. Alternatively, to keep your minds ticking over mathematically, there are a few activities below which might help, alongside the work you will be completing from Primary School:



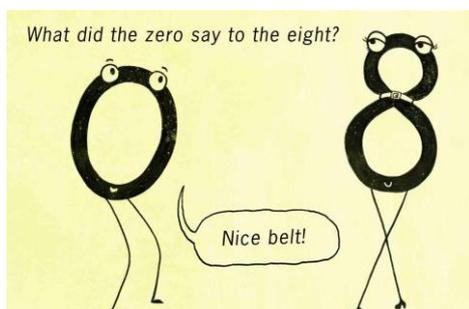
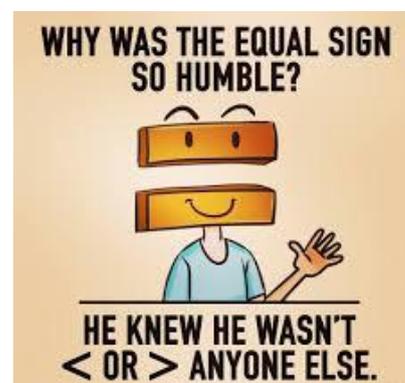
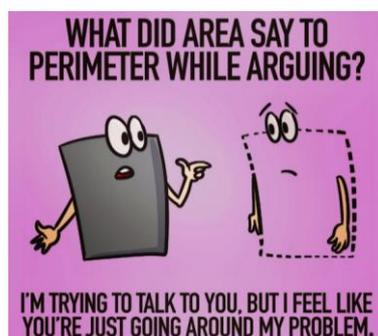
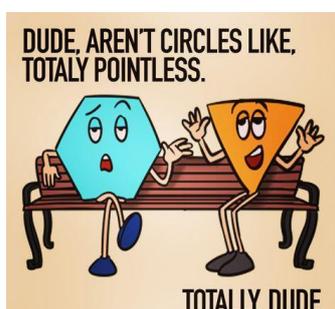
<https://corbettmaths.com/5-a-day/gcse/>

This is a website called Corbettmaths. Whilst the link does say GCSE, the numeracy section may just help to keep fluent with the basics ready for September. There are 5 questions per day and you are able to access the answers to see if you are correct. Feeling brave? Why not try some of the ones labelled Foundation? See how many you can answer.

https://www.transum.org/Software/SW/Starter_of_the_day/index.htm

Another link called starter of the day. These are usually more problem solving questions, which can require some 'deep thinking.' If you fancy a challenge, these are definitely worth a look.

We are really looking forward to welcoming you into our community in September! In the meantime, a few of our favourite mathematical jokes...



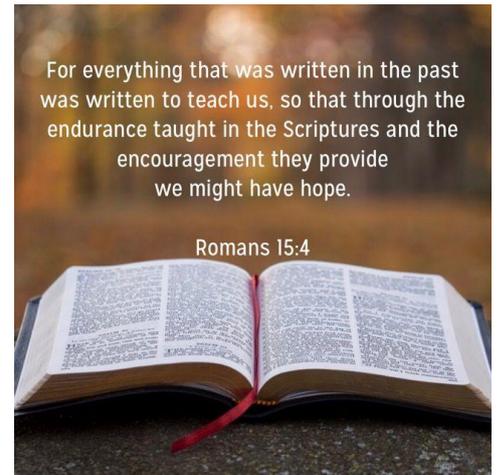
We will look forward to hearing yours...

English

A huge “HELLO!” from the English Department! We are SO excited to meet you all in September! As a team, we cannot wait to excite you with interesting topics to explore, help you unleash your imagination and creativity but most importantly...have LOTS of fun learning! English is such a wonderfully rich subject which means there will be lots of things we will be doing to help you develop your skills and achieve your very best, no matter your ability.

What will I study in English?

Throughout Key Stage 3, you will study Shakespeare, both classic and modern literature, poetry, drama, media and non-fiction as well as spoken language within each year. At St Joseph's, we match our topics, novels, plays and poetry clusters to the needs of our pupils and the year group. All topics studied during Key Stage 3 mirror the elements needed at Key Stage 4 so that you as pupils are continuously developing the skills you need for your GCSEs and beyond. In Year 7, you can expect to study topics such as Gothic Literature, Myths and Legends, Dickens and The Titanic as well as others! You'll also have weekly literacy lessons in our BRAND-NEW library! See below for a few more details...



Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>New Beginnings</u></p> <p>This topic pretty much says what it's all about in the title! We explore the scary but exciting experience of starting at St Joseph's, working up to a piece of descriptive writing.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gothic Literature</u></p> <p>This spooky topic is always a favourite! We will explore lots of spine-chilling texts and look at what makes Gothic different to horror. We will also help you create your very own Gothic story which is bound to scare the pants off your readers!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Titanic</u></p> <p>Yet another favourite topic of our students, studying the Titanic is incredibly interesting. We will look back at the events of the disaster, working on our non-fictional writing. We will particularly help you find your voice when writing to express a viewpoint. We just cannot wait for you to join us for a debate or two!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Myths and Legends</u></p> <p>This fun and exciting topic will have you exploring Greek mythology, studying heroes and villains, reading an exciting new text as well as drama activities (e.g. role-play). We can't wait to see what mythological monsters you create!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Different Cultures Poetry</u></p> <p>Another favourite topic of our students, this unit allows us to explore the whole world! We see what life is like in countries across the globe, reading lots of thought-provoking poems along the way. We also explore what your individual culture is and spend time celebrating it!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream and What the Dickens!</u></p> <p>Two amazing topics to finish off the year in style. Even though the language is challenging, we make it easy with lots of fun and games exploring the wonderful world of Literature. Prepare yourself for lots of drama in role as a Shakespearean actor or even the Artful Dodger himself!</p>

What else can the English Department offer me?

Students are also encouraged to take part in extracurricular activities as well as challenges in lessons. St Joseph's Reading Challenge is a fun and engaging programme which pupils can enjoy in their weekly literacy lessons. During lunch time and after school sessions, students can also take advantage of different clubs and activities on offer. Some of our most popular clubs include: The Big Book Quiz, Literature Lovers, Harry Potter club, Creative Writing club and the journalism club. Learning does not just happen in the classroom either! At St Joseph's we want to provide our students opportunities to participate in educational trips so be sure to look out for those too!

How can I prepare for September?

Every subject in school will require you to bring basic equipment and English is no different. We expect you to always have the following equipment:

- A blue or black pen (preferably a few spares just in case one runs out!)
- A ruler
- A pencil
- A rubber
- A purple pen (this will be used for corrections/improvements)

However, you may choose to bring some extra items with you too such as a highlighter, a pencil sharpener and colouring pencils. Please **do not** buy Sharpie pens, felt tips or correction fluid (Tipex) – we do not use these in our exercise books.

You can also prepare for September by doing different activities to keep your brain active and ready for study when you join St Joseph's. Why not read a series of books or even write your own? Challenge your friends and family to a quiz based on books/films or even become a reporter by writing articles about things happening in your local area. We would love to see what you have been up to so please send them in to our school Facebook page or for our school newspaper!

From all of us here at Team English at St Joseph's, we really cannot wait to see you all in September. We hope you have a lovely time through the summer and are ready for lots of fun on this exciting new adventure! 😊

Science

Your introduction to Science at St Joseph's will focus on the skills you need to be able to plan and carry out safe practical investigations and understand what the data you collect is telling us. Practical lessons are included in all the units of work in Y7 so that you can make the most of our science laboratories and can learn in a hands-on way.

The topics we cover in Year 7 are as follows (each of these is revisited on your journey through St Joseph's so that your knowledge and understanding builds):

- Skills for Science
- Forces
- Particle model
- Cells
- Electricity
- Reactions
- Electricity
- Ecosystems
- Waves
- Variation
- Energy
- Space

Year 7 pupils will need the usual pen, pencil, purple pen, ruler (ideally 30cm) and also a scientific calculator.

Extra-curricular opportunities:

Year 7 opportunities:

- Y7 and Y8 science club for students interested in hands-on science
- Eco Club for students interested in improving the environment for the school community, and looking at things like recycling, sustainability

For older pupils:

- Medical Society for students who want to pursue medicine, dentistry, nursing, midwifery or veterinary careers.

PC

In Year 7 we cover a wide range of skills and software to build upon existing digital literacy.

We start by looking at e-safety and cyber bullying, watching some age appropriate videos. We also script and record podcasts to demonstrate our learning.

We cover PC Basics such as what hardware is inside a PC and what this is used for, along with binary code and health and safety concerns when using PCs. Spreadsheets and databases are also introduced. We start with the very basics but quickly learn some of the more advanced tools and techniques which are useful.

We also create our own webpages and games using programming languages. All of the work is presented using e-portfolios and this strengthens skills using Office.

Through home learning, you will be challenged to complete qualifications in digital literacy, which are nationally recognised. It's a busy year with many fun new things to learn.

Drama

Year 7 Drama is all about building confidence and giving you opportunities to work as a team. We also look at the basic skills that you need in Drama and for performance. In year 7, we look at storytelling, physical theatre, a fun script and character development.

We also host a weekly Drama club during lunch time. This is a great opportunity for you to work with other pupils from the school who all love Drama. In addition to this, there will be there opportunities each year for you to be a part of school shows.

Music

Music in Year 7 is a highly practical and interactive subject. Students will develop performance skills and creativity through both solo and ensemble tasks.

Students will learn a range of different instruments; from keyboard/piano to ukulele/guitar and drums from a variety of different musical styles and genres. Students will build confidence and communication skills.

There will be opportunities to be involved in extra-curricular music groups and choir as well as school concerts, masses and shows.

History

In Year 7 all pupils study History for three lessons over the two week timetable. You will study Neolithic Britain, Roman Britain, The Middle Ages, the change in the Church in England under Henry VIII and the Tudors 1485 - 1603 and the reign of the Stuarts 1603 - 1714.

All pupils will learn the same information but the tasks and length of the work expected will vary depending on your ability. You will usually be expected to complete one homework per week.

In KS3 History you learn four different skills: historical knowledge, communicating knowledge in essays and short answers, evaluating historical evidence and looking at different interpretations of events in history. Lessons involve a variety of different tasks including essay writing, group work and drama.

Geography

In Year 7 all pupils study the following topics: Making Connections (an introduction to Geography), Map Skills, Weather and Climate, Rivers, Seas and Ice and Travel and Transport.

We run the hugely popular Geography Film Club, where we study various nature documentaries in order to expand your knowledge of the subject. In order to prepare for September, you could spend some of your spare time looking at map skills on BBC Bitesize

(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z6j6fg8/revision/1> or <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvsfr82>)

PE

You will have three 1 hour lessons of PE over the two week timetable. This is split in the following way.

Term 1		Term 2		Term 3	
Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Baseline Assessment	Baseline Assessment	Gymnastics	Gymnastics	Rounders	Cricket
Netball	Football	Football	Football	Cricket	Rounders
Hockey	Rugby	Basketball	Basketball	Tennis	Tennis
Basketball	Basketball	Badminton	Badminton	Athletics Track and field	Athletics Track and Field
Badminton	Badminton	HRF	HRF		
HRF	HRF	Tennis	Tennis		

The department also offers an extensive extra-curricular enrichment programme where students are given the opportunity to enhance and extend their experiences further.

Physical Education is compulsory and all students will continue with their Physical Education throughout their time at St Joseph's. An element of choice is introduced at KS4. The choice is varied but students are expected to choose activities which cover the requirement of the National Curriculum.

Regardless of the activity it is hoped that each individual will develop the following areas:

- Enjoyment
- Confidence
- Healthy, active lifestyle.
- Stamina, suppleness and strength
- Commitment
- Thinking and decision making
- Understanding
- Participation
- Skills – including leadership
- Desire to improve.

Participation is obviously an important part of the curriculum but there are many other roles that students can be involved in even when ill or injured and they are expected to bring their kit to every lesson. A sound knowledge and understanding of fitness and health becomes even more important as does an awareness of sporting opportunities available in the community and post-16. Competitions and inter-form tournaments are held in many sports for all students. There is also the opportunity for pupils who attend practices and clubs to represent St. Joseph's in interschool fixtures. Many out of hours learning opportunities continue throughout Key Stage 4 and all students are encouraged to attend.

Some ideas for a career in sport include:

Sports Development, Physiotherapist, Teaching Physical Education, Sports Coaching, Sports Science, Professional Sportsperson, Sports Facilities Manager, Leisure Management, Physical Training Instructor in the Armed Forces, Journalism, Retail Management, Sports Management.

Art

In Year 7, we will focus on embedding some of the fundamental skills and understanding that the pupils will need to develop their artistic capability throughout their time at St Joseph's. You will undertake two projects across Year 7, the first based on ensuring that you have a fundamental understanding of colour theory and of various techniques. The second will build on these skills through the theme of 'Animals'.

In order to prepare for life at St Joseph's it would be great if you could spend some time looking at existing art work in different styles, either through books, the internet, or when time allows by visiting galleries. Any type of practice will help, this could be observational drawings, experimenting with different types of media to produce art work, learning about colour theory, taking photographs of interesting things, creating scrapbooks. This will all be beneficial in developing your understanding and appreciation of art.

There will be a lunchtime and after school clubs on offer for pupils, these are likely to be on a Monday, but this will be decided once we return to school.

Any equipment the pupils need will be provided in school. However, if you would like to purchase your own we would recommend starting with a small selection of drawing pencils (2H, HB, 2B, 4B), coloured pencils, pencil sharpener, rubber, fine-liner. These items will also be available to purchase through ParentPay when we return to school.

Languages at St Joseph's

“They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages as the Spirit gave them power to express themselves.” Acts 2: 4-6



In Year 7 at St Joseph's you will have the opportunity to learn to speak in Spanish straight away. You will use what you know from primary school language learning, whether you have done French, Spanish, German or any other language in order to help you learn to Spanish swiftly. We will use classroom activities, quizzes, games, and Spanish songs to help you learn the sounds and build up your vocabulary in the language. You will learn how languages work not only in Spanish and some French but also you will gain a better understanding of English.



When learning a language it will help you with your other subjects by helping you become a problem-solver and a better reader. It will also improve your memory and help you to get to know your other classmates quickly; feeling happy and safe and beginning to talk to them in Spanish or French.



For us at St Joseph's it is important that you learn about 'real life' abroad. Whether that is trying their food, looking at their art, learning their songs, watching their videos, reading their literature, or getting in contact with our Spanish friends at our partner school LaSalle, Palencia, Spain.

For us it is important that you get the opportunity to travel if you would like to and we offer trips to Barcelona in Year 8, Palencia in Year 9 and we have offered trips to the markets in France in Year 10.



We want to help you get a better understanding of the world and how other people live. For us it is important that you build your confidence in languages so that you can feel proud of how successful you are in a subject that will challenge you as a learner.



As a member of St Joseph's community if you want to get ready for your learning then why not log on to Linguascope and get practising:

Username: SaintJoe
Password: Horwich1

We are really looking forward to meeting you. If you have any questions in the meantime then why not get in touch?

We would love to hear from you: amcdonnell@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk

Design and Technology

At St Joseph's we teach the pupils through four main areas: Food Preparation and Nutrition, Graphics, Resistant Materials and Textiles. Other than Food Preparation and Nutrition, which stands alone at GCSE, the subjects interlink in many areas and ultimately the skills transfer between them all leading to a GCSE in Design and Technology.

The **Food Preparation and Nutrition** work in Year 7 is based on Healthy Diets. You will learn about the Eatwell guide and the healthy eating guidelines to enable you to make healthy choices and provide you with the knowledge needed to plan a healthy, balanced diet. You will take part in a range of practical learning experiences where you'll learn to prepare a wide variety of ingredients including fruit, vegetables, meat and meat alternatives. You will also be given the opportunity to bake some sweet treats.

Pupils are expected to bring ingredients and a tub to each practical lesson, an ingredients list will be provided during their first lesson. All equipment will be provided in school. Pupils will be expected to weigh, measure and prepare some ingredients at home for use in lessons.

Home learning to help with Food Preparation and Nutrition before starting at St Josephs could include:

- Learning the names and uses of common food preparation equipment
- Researching food safety and hygiene practices
- Weighing and measuring
- Washing, peeling and slicing fruits and vegetables
- Baking simple cakes or biscuits
- Helping to prepare family meals

The **Graphics** work in Year 7 is a project called 'Robot Me'. You will learn to research, develop designs and use computer software and manufacturing skills to create a printed t-shirt in custom-made packaging. Throughout the rotation, you will learn to use digital cameras, Adobe Photoshop computer software, a heat press and plastic bag sealing machines whilst improving your drawing and design skills.

Home learning to help with Graphics before starting at St Josephs could include:

- Practicing drawing household objects such as stationary, crockery and toys to build confidence and resilience in drawing and shading design ideas.
- Improving confidence on a computer by completing simple tasks on the computer/laptop/tablet at home or school such as creating posters, editing photos, organising photos, saving work and copying and pasting imagery.
- Measuring accurately

The **Resistant Materials** work in Year 7 is based on the introduction of practical skills, safe working practices and development of hand skills. You will research, design and make a practical piece of work which you will take home. Throughout the rotation, you will learn to use a variety of tools and equipment including hand tools, machines, and more modern CAD/CAM equipment. You are encouraged to work as accurately and carefully as possible demonstrating an eye for detail and a high degree of patience and care.

Home learning to help with Resistant Materials before starting at St Joseph's could include:

- Attempting tricky tasks to develop patience and resilience
- Researching safe working practices in a workshop environment
- Measuring accurately
- Improving manual dexterity and accuracy by completing simple tasks such as precisely cutting out shapes with scissors, drawing shapes precisely and accurately to given sizes.

The **Textiles** work in Year 7 is based on the theme of sweets. You will research, design and make a drawstring bag. Throughout the rotation you will learn to use a variety of practical skills such as tie dye, fabric markers and crayons, hand and machine sewing skills. You are encouraged to use several techniques in your final design to show progress in the skills they have learnt.

Home learning to help with Textiles before starting at St Josephs could include:

- Practicing threading a needle
- Tying knots in thread
- Practising hand stitching skills such as running and cross stitch
- Measuring accurately

There will be lunchtime and after school clubs on offer for pupils in Design and Technology, including Food, the exact timings of these will be decided once we return to school.

Any specialised equipment the pupils need will be provided in school. However, alongside the usual pens and pencils, you will benefit from having coloured pencils (not felt pens), a sharpener, rubber and a fine-liner. Also, an apron for use during practical sessions to keep their uniform clean.

These items, including an apron will also be available to purchase through ParentPay when we return to school.

Rewards/EPraise

At St Joseph's we use a system called EPraise to both record homework and reward our pupils. The system works by staff awarding pupils points for a wide range of everyday activities. These include being on time to lessons, having the correct equipment, having homework completed, effort and achievement in lessons, attendance in school, wearing uniform correctly and extra things such as sporting activities, helping out and taking part in masses and celebrations.

You can redeem the points that you receive in the associated shop which will contain functional items for use in school such as stationary items and calculators, but also items to reward you such as early lunch passes, pizza lunches and various activities as offered by staff.

We also hold regular year group rewards assemblies to recognise your academic achievements and progress.

Behaviour and Discipline

St. Joseph's has the reputation of being a well ordered community where effective teaching and learning can take place within an environment that is safe, secure and purposeful. Our Mission Statement is clear that "everybody is valued and respected" which allows us to build a learning community in which we 'strive for academic excellence'.

The school community expects the highest standards of behaviour from its members, and we encourage all to follow the St. Joseph's Way.

Joeys should always be;
On time to class and have an
Excellent attitude to learning.
Yearn to achieve the impossible and be
Smartly dressed.

The above has been devised for the good of everyone in our community. Students who respect our code of conduct are rewarded in a number of ways and we believe that our guidance in doing so prepares our students for life as a Christian adult in society. We firmly believe that a positive system of praise, encouragement and reward is the most important way of fulfilling our Mission Statement.

Students who choose not to follow the St Joseph's Way, and therefore fail to respect other students, staff, their property or the school site will be subject to sanctions. The one which concerns many parents new to the school is detention. This can be

given at lunchtimes or afterschool. Detention can be used as a sanction for a variety of misdemeanours, and can vary in length, but this is normally no longer than one hour. Where possible, parents will be given 24 hours' notice of a detention.

Parents are informed about detentions via text or phone call and we are prepared to be reasonable with detention arrangements, parents can contact the school to talk about rearranging the date of a detention if there is any problem for their child getting home.

Bus Routes

Dedicated school buses provide convenient transport to St. Joseph's from the surrounding areas where our associated partner primary schools are located. Local service buses, principally the 575, also run regularly between Chorley, Horwich, Bolton, Westhoughton and stop close to the school, on Chorley New Road.

Bus Numbers and Locations

Locations and bus numbers can be found below. This is only a rough guide for you to choose the right service. Please check the websites below to find the correct route for you.

Adlington	811
Aspull	Wigan 3
Blackrod	615 AM, 617 PM
Bolton	915
Chew Moor	915
Deane	915
Farnworth (Return via Bolton Hospital)	996
Horwich	615 AM, 617 PM
Ladybridge	915
Lostock	915
New Springs	Wigan 1
Rose Bridge	Wigan 4
Westhoughton	918
Whelley	Wigan 2
Wigan	1-4

The services provided for travel to and from St Joseph's are arranged by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) Service Planning Department and Lancashire County Council (LCC) School Bus Services. Please find below contact details for TfGM, LCC and all the individual bus providers. You can visit the TfGM website <https://tfgm.com/> to find which bus route will work best for you. There are also additional links on our website.

TfGM Services Planning Department

0161 244 1640 or 0161 244 1652

TfGM Local Bus and Train Information Helpline

0871 200 22 33 (calls cost 10p per minute from landlines, lines open 7am – 8pm Monday to Friday, 8am – 8pm Saturday, Sundays and Bank Holidays) or visit www.tfgm.com

LCC School Bus Services – School Traveline

01772 849111

Wigan Transport

All 4 Grayways coaches from the Wigan area will collect £1 per student on both journeys to and from school. This means that the daily cost per student will be £2. (Therefore, £10 per week per student).

Igo Travel Pass

If you're aged 11 to 16 you need an **Igo pass** to pay the concessionary fare on buses in Greater Manchester.

Why do I need an Igo Travel Pass?

Your Igo pass proves that you are aged 16 or under and will be valid until 31 August after your 16th birthday. The Igo pass has replaced the ID-16 card.

How much does it cost?

The Igo pass costs £5. Your Igo pass also allows you to buy money-saving travel tickets such as the System One Junior Bus Saver season ticket.

Applying for the Igo Pass

You can only get an Igo pass if you live or go to school in Greater Manchester. You should receive your Igo pass by post within 10 working days. If you don't receive it please phone 0161 244 1050.

How to use your Igo Pass

Always show your Igo pass to the driver when getting on the bus, and to any other official who asks to see it during your journey. Please look after your Igo pass, as damaged, defaced or out-of-date passes will not be accepted and may even be confiscated. Replacements will be charged for. Never allow anyone else to use your Igo pass as it will be confiscated. Your Igo pass will be taken off you if you are caught misbehaving when using public transport.

Where can Igo?

You can use your Igo pass to travel anywhere on buses in Greater Manchester for the concessionary fare. If part of your bus journey is outside Greater Manchester you will pay the concessionary fare for the part of the journey in Greater Manchester and a higher fare* for the part of your journey that is not in Greater Manchester. *Costs vary depending on the bus company.

If you're using Metrolink in Greater Manchester, you can also use your Igo as a proof-of-age card for child fares. Visit <http://igo.tfgm.com/> for more information.

School Meals/ParentPay

Like many schools, here at St Joseph's, we use a biometric recognition system for the purchase of school meals at the point of sale. This was set up to complement our use of the online payment system 'ParentPay'.

Biometric Recognition

Biometric authentication is the automatic recognition of a living being using suitable body characteristics. By measuring an individual's physical features in an authentication inquiry and comparing this data with stored biometric reference data, the identity of a specific user is determined. There are many different biometric features that can be used for authentication purposes these include finger image, signature, iris, retina, DNA or any other unique characteristic. Once a characteristic has been chosen the next stage in the Biometric process is authentication. A biometric feature is saved on to a database. Once the data has been stored, a new scanning of the biometric feature is taken. If the comparison is positive, access to the appropriate application is granted.

Please be assured that a fingerprint image cannot be used by any other source for identification purposes. The system uses an image of the finger to create a mathematical algorithm and then discards the finger image; only the numbers remain and these cannot be reinterpreted back into a finger image.

The use of the biometric recognition system at St Josephs' has helped to speed up the payment process at lunch and break times and reduced the amount of time students and staff spend queuing. We encourage pupils to pay for their school meals at the till, by using their fingerprint, permission for this is sought on the Data Collection sheet which you may already have sent into school to confirm your child's place. Pupils are also welcome to bring in their own packed lunch.

ParentPay

ParentPay is a secure system which offers you the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like, safe in the knowledge that the technology used is of the highest internet security available. For added convenience, there is also an App which can be download and operated from your mobile phone.

Prior to the start of the new academic year you will be sent a letter containing details on how to activate your account and support on how to do this will be available through school if needed. For further information about Parent Pay please visit <https://Parentpay.com> or via the link on the school's website.

All About Me!

Well that's a lot of information from us...now we would like to know about you!
Please use this last page to tell us all about you. You can bring this with you on your first day so that you can share it with your new form group 😊

Name: _____

Age: _____

Primary School: _____

Favourite Subject: _____

Favourite Book: _____

Favourite Place: _____

Hobbies: _____

Pets: _____

Friends: _____

Have you ever received a certificate? If so what was it for? _____

What do you think you're really good at? _____

Have you ever won a prize? If so, what for? _____

What would you like to achieve at St Joseph's? _____

What are your aims for Year 7? _____

What would you like to find out during your first week? Think of 5 questions that you would like to know the answers to so that you can ask your form tutor/other students.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Take care and we will see you all soon! 😊