



Manufacturing Competition

Last week eight Year 9 students took part in a manufacturing competition run by the Manufacturing Institute. Their role is to promote the manufacturing sector in Great Britain. Each team consisted of eight students and each member was given a specific task. These tasks mirrored the roles of a real design team and had job titles such as Managing Director, Design Engineer and Quality Control Manager to name but a few. This particular competition was sponsored by Survitech who make emergency survival equipment. The students had to design a Survival Pod which could be transported and used in the case of a disaster. They were judged on their designs, teamwork, ability to keep to deadlines and also on the quality of their presentation at the end of the day to the panel of dragons, as in Dragons Den. The team gave a very confident pitch in front of the Dragons and came second out of twelve competing schools. This was good enough to get through to the regional finals next June. This is the first time a team from SJP have reached this stage of the competition, so congratulations to all involved.



Sixth Form Information Evening For Year 11 Parents

Sixth Form Information Evening will take place at 6.00pm on Tuesday 15th January 2013. During the evening Year 11 pupils and parents will have the opportunity to meet the Director of Sixth Form, Sixth Form Heads of Learning, the Sixth Form Learning Coach, representatives from Higher Education institutions, specialist subject teachers and current Sixth Form students. Our SJP Work Related Learning Co-ordinator and a Connexions representative will also be available to give you advice. You will be able to view our exhibitions and speak to staff about choosing relevant Level 3 courses in Sixth Form. This will enable you to make an informed decision on how best to choose A Level subjects and plan for your future career.

If you have any queries, please contact Year 11 Head of Learning in the first instance.

SJP Becomes an Academy



We are delighted to announce that, this December, SJP becomes an academy. Following on from our earlier consultation, you will know that we believe that academy status will allow us to strengthen our current provision. We will not be changing the name of the school or the uniform or, most importantly, the ethos and high standards you have come to expect. SJP prides itself on preparing young people for life and we are more committed than ever to nurturing individual talents and aspirations as well as stimulating and developing a passion for learning which will last a lifetime. Acquiring academy status is part of our on-going journey of continued success, working in partnership with families, other schools, our local parishes and our wider Diocesan community.

As a Catholic school, academy status could only be granted with the permission of Bishop Mark and we are the first Diocesan school in the North West to be granted such status. We are grateful to the Bishop and his Trustees for this permission and look forward to this exciting next phase in the continuing story of SJP.



Geography News



PC Rose Wise has been visiting Year 8 pupils in Geography this week to help them with their study of the 'Geography of Crime'. She talked about the work our police offices do and she enthralled us with some of her personal stories; in one story rose recalled an encounter where "He flew at us like something out of Twilight!" Pupils enthusiastically asked Rose a whole variety of inquisitive and meaningful questions. We may even have some future PC's among Year 8.



On Tuesday 27th November and Wednesday 28th November, Year 11 Geography pupils completed a fieldwork investigation in New Ferry and Bebington. Prepared with clipboards and a waterproof coat, pupils were conducting questionnaires, pedestrian counts and shop use surveys.

The pupils were investigating the range of facilities at both locations and how popular they were with shoppers. The data collected and skills learnt will now be used for their controlled assessment and summer examination. Pupils showed great enthusiasm and were a credit to St John Plessington Catholic College. People from the local community complimented pupils on how respectful and well-mannered they were.

Literacy Corner

BOGGLE BONANZA!

Boggle requires you to look at the letters provided in the grid.

Your challenge is to create as many words as you can out of the letters provided. You can pick the letters in any order, but you may only use the letter ONCE in each word.

The person who finds the longest word wins a prize!

See Mrs Connolly with your answers.

K	L	X	W
D	M	O	J
S	A	Y	C
P	O	G	L

Maths & ICT Competition



The national competition is run by the University of Manchester & open to all students up to Year 11. You need to enter a team of at least four in order to solve a series of cryptographic puzzles beginning in January 2013 with prizes for chapter winners and an overall winner. For more information please see Mr McGrath or Mrs McGagh

Coming Up

- Carol Service: 19th December
- Half Term 24th December - 7th January
Pupil Return Tuesday 8th January

Next PTA meeting:
7pm Tuesday 22nd January 2012
in the College Staff Room.
All are welcome.

Why Advent?

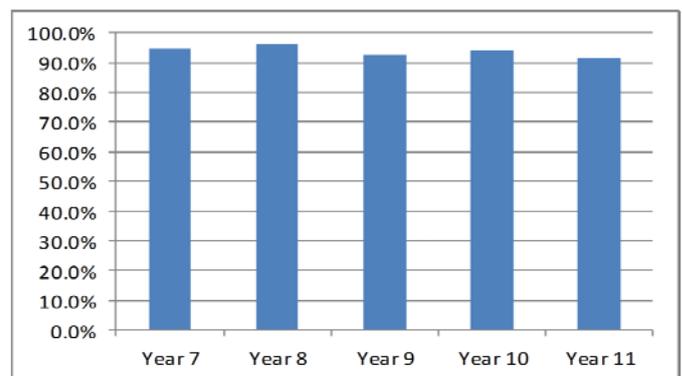
The countdown to Christmas seems to start earlier and earlier each year, as soon as the summer is over the shops start preparing for Christmas. When did you see the first Christmas decorations in the shops?

But it's not until these days of December that the real build up to Christmas begins with the season of Advent. This special time of year helps us to focus on the true meaning of Christmas and the real reason why we celebrate with such enthusiasm on 25th December. Advent asks us to wait and slow down and to be still, so that we can prepare peacefully, gently and prayerfully for the birth of Jesus. Over the next three weeks our daily prayer invites us to think about who we are waiting for. In the Old Testament the prophets about the promises, looking forward to the future anticipating the hope and salvation God would bring to the world. In the New Testament, the arrival of Jesus puts flesh and blood on the promise and Jesus' presence in the world is shown fully.

Each day in advent we will take one of the images, titles or phrases given to describe Jesus and think about how his life makes a difference to us and enables us to bring about change in our world today.



Attendance



Year 7 - 94.7% Year 8 - 96.4% Year 9 - 92.9%
Year 10 - 94.0% Year 11 - 91.7%

Language Corner

French fact of the fortnight

Napoleon Bonaparte was a French military and political leader during the French Revolution in the 18th Century.

Your challenge: Which animal is it illegal to name 'Napoleon'?

- a) Frog
- b) Cow
- c) Pig
- d) Horse



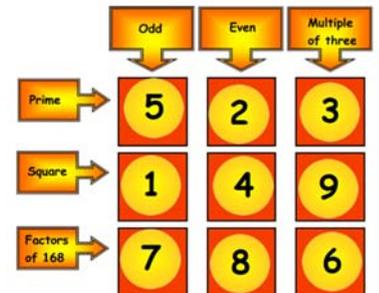
The first 5 correct entries to Madame Smart in MFL 5 will receive a house point.

Maths Corner



- DIVISION
- HALVE
- DEPTH
- MINUS
- SPEED
- EQUIVALENT
- FUNCTION

- ADDITION



Weekly Theme - 'Freedom'

Luke 21:25-28

There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

To be free, is what we all want. To be loved. That too!" These are the two greatest human values. Doing what I want all the time, getting my own way, however, is not real freedom, just as real love is not self centred.

Only Jesus can give us real freedom by following his words – "love one another"- and his example of unselfish caring.

Advent is the season when we think about just how 'free' and 'loving' we really are.

**Father in heaven,
In these days of Advent, help us to look forward to the birth of your son, Jesus.
Give us your freedom so that we think less about ourselves and more about others.**

Amen



PRIVACY NOTICE
Data Protection Act 1998

We, St John Plessington Catholic College, a Voluntary Aided Academy, are a data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. We collect information from you, and may receive information about you from your previous school and the Learning Records Service. We hold this personal data and use it to:

support your teaching and learning;
monitor and report on your progress;
provide appropriate pastoral care, and
assess how well your school is doing.

This information includes your contact details, national curriculum assessment results, attendance information and personal characteristics such as ethnic group, any special educational needs and relevant medical information. If you are enrolling for post 14 qualifications we will be provided with your unique learner number (ULN) by the Learning Records Service and may also obtain from them details of any learning or qualifications you have undertaken.

We will not give information about you to anyone outside the school without your consent unless the law and our rules allow us to.

We are required by law to pass some of your information to the Local Authority (LA) and the Department for Education (DfE).

We are required by law to pass some of your information to the Department for Education (DfE) and, in turn, this will be available for the use of the Local Authority (LA).

If you want to see a copy of the information about you that we hold and/or share, please contact Mrs C Lamb, Office Manager.

If you require more information about how the LA and/or DfE store and use your information please go to the following websites:

- Wirral Council website - <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/childrens-services/about-childrens-services/childrens-records>
- DfE website – <http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/datatdatam/b00212337/datause>

If you are unable to access these websites, please contact the School Office for the LA information or the DfE as follows:

Public Communications Unit
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

Website: www.education.gov.uk

email: <http://www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus>

tel: 0370 000 2288

In addition for Secondary Schools -

Youth Support Services

Once you are aged 13 or over, we are required by law to pass on certain information to the provider of youth support services in your area. This is the LA support service for young people aged 13 to 19 in England. We must provide both the name and address of you and your parents (and your date of birth) and any further information relevant to the support services' role.

However, until you are aged 16 or older, your parent(s) can ask that no information beyond your name, address and date of birth (and their name and address) be passed on to the youth services provider. This right transfers to you on your 16th birthday. Please inform Mrs C Lamb, Office Manager if this is what you or your parents wish.

For more information about young peoples' services locally please go to the LA website shown above, or the Directgov Young People page at www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/index.htm.