



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

# SJH Newsletter

Compassion – Aspiration – Respect – Excellence – Determination – Faithfulness – Optimism – Reconciliation  
10 November 2023



## Headteacher's Introduction

Welcome back to the second half of our Advent term. I hope that you and your families had a restful half term break. It was lovely to see all our students back on Monday ready for the term ahead.

Today we held a two-minute silence within school for Remembrance Day, all students behaved impeccably. Mr Poland held an Act of Worship for Remembrance Day which was very powerful.

Rachel Rose – our Lay Chaplain held our Service for the Dead yesterday, all students who helped Rachel were a credit to our school. We also had a Mass for the Dead this morning led by Fr Paul.

**Important upcoming dates**  
**29 November 2023 – Year 10 parents evening – further info to follow**  
**13 December 2023 – Year 11 GCSE Accelerating Progress evening**

We held our first SEND coffee morning this week, thank you to all parents/carers who attended.

I attended the first SJH Jubilee planning meeting as our school will have been providing Catholic Education for 50 years in 2025. Lots to celebrate!!! More information to follow.

Thank you to all parents/carers who completed the Parent Survey, we have had a fantastic response with more than 200 responses and 92% of parents/carers would recommend our school to others. We greatly appreciate the feedback given and the Senior Leadership team will be working on this. The survey can still be completed, the link is below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/hEq8DMuXrP>

Garde ta foi! Guard your faith!

**Mr Brogan** Headteacher

*'Inspiring ambition and excellence, guided by Christ'*

Telephone: 0115 9322896

email: [schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk)

# School News



## **School vacancies:**

We are currently recruiting for the following vacancies to join our school, please click on the links for further information:

### **Cover Supervisor:**

<https://www.srscmat.co.uk/work-with-us/vacancies-single/?Category=Cover%2520Supervisor&Advert=aW3iaakHjNdFXKoR3Vqtcw%3D%3D&Region=SaintJohnHoughtonCatholicVoluntaryAcademy>

## **Cleaner vacancies:**

### **Cleaning vacancy #1**

DE7 4HX

Monday to Friday

15.30-18.00

Monthly pay, £10.42 per hr

Experience preferred.

Contact via email only.

[Phil.hunt@vertas.co.uk](mailto:Phil.hunt@vertas.co.uk)

### **Cleaning vacancy #2**

DE7 4HX

Monday to Friday

15.30-17.30

Monthly pay, £10.42 per hr

Experience preferred.

Contact via email only.

[Phil.hunt@vertas.co.uk](mailto:Phil.hunt@vertas.co.uk)

## **Attendance reward:**

The rewards you could receive for having amazing attendance:

End of term certificate for attendance above 95%

Each term, every student with attendance above 95% will have their name put into a lucky draw for the chance to win a £20 voucher of their choice.

One student from each year.

Attendance will be considered between 6 Nov - 15 Dec 2023



# School News



## **Term 1 Rewards Morning**

On the 9 November, 72 students who were the top scoring students in terms of positive points were taken up to free screening of Ruby Gillman Teenage Kraken. The students were excellent ambassadors for the school and thoroughly enjoyed the trip

## **U13's Unlucky Defeat**

On Wednesday 8 November, SJH U13 girls played away to Arnold Hill Academy. The game started off well, the team kept their shape, and the ball was moving comfortably through the challenges. Unfortunately, the squad couldn't keep that consistency in tempo and Arnold took their chances in front of goal and were successful, scoring three past our temporary goal keepers, Isla (first half) and Maggie (second half). The team battled through till the full-time whistle, but unfortunately, the ball just wasn't flowing for us. The final time score was 3-0 to Arnold Hill Academy. The girls were a credit to the school and showed respect and good sportsmanship throughout the fixture.



## **Year 11 GCSE**

The GCSE Accelerating Progress session for year 11 students and their parents/carers is being held on Wednesday 13 December 2023, further information about this event has been emailed earlier in the week.

# School News



## English Department News

It has been a busy term for students in English this term.

### Year 7s – Villains

Our Year 7s have been developing their analysis skills through exploring villains over time. For an assessment, they wrote about a villain's lair. Here are two great examples:

In the dark, dull and dusty hall, was the most mysterious machine. I had ~~you~~ <sup>you</sup> would ever see. Black, green, and red, everywhere. The scent of the room ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> filling full of flashing lights and nuclear waste. Just like a bin lorry, the ~~viscent~~ <sup>viscent</sup> of the room makes ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> gag. Smoke. Fish. Rott. Who could own this disgusting, damp dump?

At the very far corner, a desk. A desk and a chair. A desk, and a chair and a cobwebbed computer. You could try to turn on the computer, but all the dust, <sup>and</sup> all the spiders would probably block out the screen. No light. No sound.

As Sylvia cautiously walked into the dining room, the air chilled, nipping at her skin. She looked over to the windows - they were closed and barely let light in. The windows, which were neatly arranged across the vast expanse of the wall, had a dark tint to them as the frost gathered at the corners. Sylvia thought that Cornea, the lady of this mansion, had simply ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> demanded that they were to be covered by the long, velvet curtains that the maids hurriedly tied them. Sylvia stumbled ~~thru~~ <sup>thru</sup> the further into the large room, wondering why it was so poorly lightened. Blowing up ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> the chandelier, it she noticed that its golden coating seemed to be rusting, and the candles

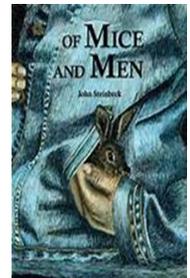
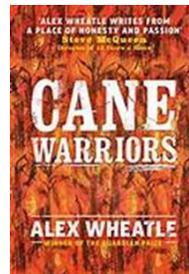
*The light rebounded of the cold brick wall and lit up the whole room.*

*Suddenly the lights flickered on and off leaving the room in darkness each time.*

*The cool wind entered into the room giving it an even stranger feeling of sadness and emptiness*

### Year 9 – Novel

Year 9 have started their work on comparing two novels. Over the next two terms, students study John Steinbeck's 'Of Mice and Men' and Alex Wheatle's 'Cane Warriors'. Students are exploring symbolism within the books and how they reflect the idea and themes of the time they were set and written in.



### Year 8 – Gothic Horror

Our Year 8s have been busily working on writing gothic horror and ghost stories. The following examples from students writing sentence to create atmosphere.

*Bitter and icy air filled the room, I began to shudder.*

*Darkness and emptiness filled the room leaving a cold atmosphere*

### Year 10 – GCSE Paper 1 and Poetry

Our Year 10s have started their GCSE course and have been looking at war poetry and the reading section on GCSE English Language Paper 1.

Students have studied five poems in the Power and Conflict Anthology. They include 'The Charge of the Light Brigade', 'Exposure', 'Bayonet Charge' and 'Remains'. Alongside these poems, students have been exploring other poets and seeing how they treat war differently.

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# School News



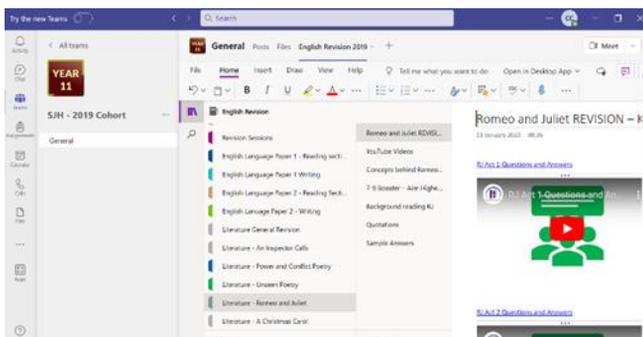
One student introduced Edward Thomas' Rain to the class:

Rain, midnight rain, nothing but the wild rain  
On this bleak hut, and solitude, and me  
Remembering again that I shall die  
And neither hear the rain nor give it thanks  
For washing me cleaner than I have been  
Since I was born into this solitude.  
Blessed are the dead that the rain rains upon:  
But here I pray that none whom once I loved  
Is dying tonight or lying still awake  
Solitary, listening to the rain,  
Either in pain or thus in sympathy  
Helpless among the living and the dead,  
Like a cold water among broken reeds,  
Myriads of broken reeds all still and stiff,  
Like me who have no love which this wild rain  
Has not dissolved except the love of death,  
If love it be towards what is perfect and  
Cannot, the tempest tells me, disappoint.

## Year 11 – GCSE Exams

We have started preparations for the GCSE exams. So far 88 different students have attended our online revision session this term. Our revision sessions take place each Tuesday and Year 11 students will find the link on their Teams calendar.

Please direct your son or daughter to the dedicated English revision section on Teams. We place all past papers and revision materials on Teams so students can access them from home at time... and anywhere if needs be.



## Reading and Reading Logs

Nationally, there is a trend of students reading fewer books as they get older. The trend starts, usually, in Year 5 and we see this continue in secondary school. We want, as a school, to promote reading so therefore we use the reading logs to track reading and to identify and flag up students who need to read more for pleasure.



All GCSE exams rely on a student's ability to read correctly, and students have a greater chance of making fewer mistakes if they read on a regular basis. A student who reads is a student who succeeds.

Students should be reading for 20 minutes a day as part of their regular homework. We'd be grateful if you helped promote reading at home and helped build reading into the routines at home.

## Poetry By Heart Competition

For all years, we are running a poetry reading competition. The competition is simple. Students learn a poem and then read it aloud. The best performances are sent off to see if we, as a school, can compete nationally at the Globe theatre in London.

# POETRY BY HEART

For more information go to:

<https://poetrybyheart.org.uk/>

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# School News



## Careers update:

### Post-16 Roadshow

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October saw our Post-16 Roadshow held in school. It was great to see so many students considering their options for next year by taking the opportunity to chat with representatives from local colleges/sixth forms/apprenticeships. Feedback from the providers was very positive. If any students were unable to attend on the evening, please see individual websites for information on each Post-16 provider and try to attend any upcoming open evenings which interest you.

## University of Nottingham: Pathways to Medicine



### Pathways to Medicine

Pathways to Medicine is an exciting new initiative delivered at the University of Nottingham in partnership with the Sutton Trust.

This free programme is aimed at students who are interested in studying a medicine degree and following a career in the medical profession.

Running over a two-year period, the programme provides ongoing support and guidance through:

- medicine-related tasters, lectures and masterclasses
- an undergraduate medicine e-mentor
- advice and guidance sessions on UCAS, UCAT, careers and employability
- a residential summer school
- a supported work placement

All sessions will take place online or at the University of Nottingham.

Pathways to Medicine is an outstanding opportunity to enhance your university application.

Who should apply?  
All applicants **must**:

- be starting year 12 in a state school/college in September 2023
- live within reasonable commuting distance of Nottingham
- be studying three or more A levels, including Biology and Chemistry
- Have achieved at least five GCSEs at Level 6 (B), including Maths, English Language, Chemistry and Biology (or double science)

There are additional eligibility criteria outlined on the Sutton Trust website.

How to apply

Applications for the Pathways to Medicine programme are now open and will close on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

Visit: [www.suttontrust.com/our-programmes/pathways-to-medicine](http://www.suttontrust.com/our-programmes/pathways-to-medicine)

## Toyota Apprenticeship open Evenings

We are pleased to announce that bookings for our Production and Maintenance Open Evenings are **now open**.

To find out more or to book a place, please visit [@toyotamanufacturinguk](https://toyotamanufacturinguk.com) | [Linktree](#)

## Apprenticeship Open Evenings

This year we are also holding four apprenticeship open evenings.

**Production: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November & Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023**

**Maintenance: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November & Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

This is an excellent opportunity to visit Toyota in person. You will learn more about the apprenticeship scheme you are interested in, meet both current apprentices and apprentice teaching staff and see our outstanding training facilities.

If you have any further questions, please contact [recruitment@toyotauk.com](mailto:recruitment@toyotauk.com) and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

# School News



## **Fire cadets 2023 - Ilkeston/Derby**

- Want a new challenge?
- Want to gain recognised qualifications?
- Are you aged 13 to 17?

### **Then come and join Cadet Scheme at one of our units.**

Derbyshire Fire Cadets is an ongoing programme where young people commit to attend one night a week at one of our units during term time.

The programme provides young people with an insight into working within a uniformed service. It provides exciting and unique opportunities to develop skills in teamwork and citizenship through undertaking firefighter activities.

Cadets have the opportunity to gain recognised qualifications including Duke of Edinburgh awards and First Aid.

Recruitment for our units is ongoing, once you have submitted your application form it will be added to a waiting list for your chosen unit. If and when a space at the unit becomes available all applications on the waiting list will be assessed and the highest scoring applicant will then be offered a place, with start dates in January, April and September each year. Please ensure you complete the application form in full and to the best of your ability to give you the best chance of being successful in the application process.

The Cadet units run at the following times and locations:

- Ilkeston Fire Station runs on a Wednesday from 18:15 - 20:30 hours
- Ascot Drive Fire Station runs on a Thursday from 18:15 - 20:30 hours

# School News



## Chaplaincy:

Faith in Action Award

17 Nottingham Road, Ilkeston DE7 5RF, Catholic Church Ilkeston.

We will gather in the house and meet in the 'living room'.

Wednesday: 22nd November 23, 6th December 23, 17th January 24, 31st January 24,

Time: 7.00pm – 8.30pm

You deserve time to 'Rest in the Lord'

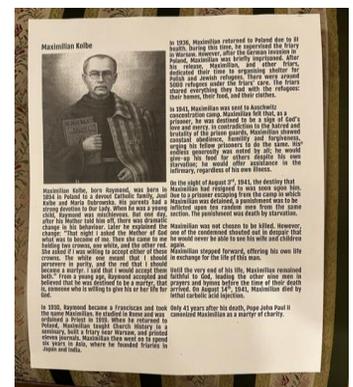
School Chaplain, Rachel, (St Thomas, Priory, SJH) will lead this National Award Scheme. You will be served refreshments and valued.

This opportunity is full of wonder and is ideal if you are new to faith, simply searching or fully committed to making the word a better place. Please email [Rose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:Rose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk) if you require more information. It is helpful if you book in, but you are welcome to just arrive – and bring a friend.



## Faith in Action - SJH and Parish - Round 1

What a beautiful second session this week. Ilkeston was full of angels and saints and fairtrade. We would love to see you in Round 2 Faith in Action – please see poster for more details and email [Rose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:Rose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk) so you can book your place and SJH Chaplain can organise your certificate and badge.



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# School News



## Chaplaincy:



Celebrating our harvest and bringing joy to others.



Can you find your poppy? Thank you for all the support!



Fr Paul, SJH Staff and Parishioners met to plan our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. You can share your ideas with Rachel or perhaps join our next planning meeting.

## Friends of Saint John Houghton Catholic Academy

“Be still and know that I am God.”

Psalm 46:10

We would love for you to join us for coffee and conversation on 1st December 2023 & 26th January 2024  
11.30am-12.30am

This is taking place at Saint John Houghton Catholic Academy, Abbot Road, Kirk Hallam, Ilkeston DE7 4HX

Contact – [schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk)

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# School News



## Chaplaincy:

Saint Anne's knitting Group were asked to support prizes for when then Christmas lights are turned on in Eastwood. We were delighted to say, 'yes'.



SJH CAFOD Club meet in HU2 each Monday – new members welcome.

### Candlelight Funds

Elsie's Candlelight Fund | CAFOD

Elsie & Mervyn

**no one beyond reach**

CAFD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Watch on YouTube

A Candlelight Fund is a special fund in memory of a loved one who has died, where all donations made in their memory are combined to create a beautifully lasting tribute to them.

### How do Candlelight Funds work?

A Candlelight Fund can be a private act of remembrance – donating to mark special moments like your loved one's birthday or anniversary – or you can invite others to join in too.

There are no targets, deadlines or minimum amounts involved. This is your fund and you can grow it in whatever way feels comfortable.

Create or donate to a Candlelight Fund

### Two inspiring families' stories

### Two inspiring families' stories

Read how these families have paid tribute to their loved ones while also building a brighter future for our brothers and sisters around the world.

**Lily's fund**

Christine and Frank set up a Candlelight Fund in memory of their granddaughter Lily to help give other children the chance of life that Lily never had.

**Kieran's fund**

Kieran's family say that the Candlelight Fund they created for their son has given them strength and a sense of purpose.

### In loving memory

**In memory collection envelopes**

Please order these envelopes if you are holding a collection in memory of someone special, for example in lieu of flowers at a funeral.

**Give in memory**

There are many ways to celebrate the life of a loved one by making a donation in their memory.

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# School News



## Chaplaincy:

Knitting in Eastwood

Come along and have a 'yarn' on

30th November 2023, 7th December 2023, 14th December 2023, 21st December 2023

7.00pm – 9.00pm

Meeting in Our Lady of Good Counsel, 280 Nottingham Road Eastwood, NG16 2AQ. In The Meeting Room.

Bring your own project, make a Sophie Scarf or Santa Hat in time for Christmas or simply enjoy some company with coffee and cake.

All welcome.

For more information, please contact Rachel [Rrose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:Rrose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk)



## **Bereavement Retreat – Thursday 23 November 2023:**

During the month of November, we honour and remember our dead friends and relatives. Here in Saint John Houghton, we offer a morning retreat on Thursday 23 November 2023 for the students who have lost a parent through death in school. I will run this retreat in school, and it will not be a sad morning or a morning of sharing personal stories; it is an opportunity for the staff to say to your child, "We know, we have not forgotten, and we care. We cannot talk to you every day about the death of your parent, but we can show you how much we care by offering this morning retreat".

The retreat will end with lunch, provided by school and then your child will be expected to return to afternoon lessons, however, if you feel they could do with time in the afternoon I am happy to support them for the whole day.

If you would like your child to attend this retreat, please complete the below link by Friday 10 November 2023:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=OFYclXnjhUaRUhyDCcoxaR0PTVJ5WJFAqh9xDDsN\\_9ZUOVRFTUdMNUtKV1M0TUdLNVRPSjRRN0VFMS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=OFYclXnjhUaRUhyDCcoxaR0PTVJ5WJFAqh9xDDsN_9ZUOVRFTUdMNUtKV1M0TUdLNVRPSjRRN0VFMS4u)

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## Ilkeston Theatre Company:

**ILKESTON THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS**

# SPACE WARS

**May The Force Be With You  
THE PANTO!**

**22nd - 25th NOVEMBER 2023**  
**WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY EVENING 7.30PM**  
**SATURDAY MATINEE 2.30PM**

**AT ST. JOHN HOUGHTON SCHOOL, KIRK HALLAM DE7 4HX**

**TICKET PRICES £9.50 CONCESSIONS £7.50**  
**FAMILY TICKET £30 (1 ADULT, 3 CHILDREN OR 2 ADULTS, 2 CHILDREN)**  
**AVAILABLE FROM - [www.ilkestontheatrecompany.co.uk](http://www.ilkestontheatrecompany.co.uk)**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION TEL - 07753455773**  
**EMAIL - [ilkestontheatre@hotmail.com](mailto:ilkestontheatre@hotmail.com)**

**A PANTOMIME BY LIMELIGHT SCRIPTS - [www.limelightscripts.co.uk](http://www.limelightscripts.co.uk)**

This year we are supporting PASIC who provide emotional, social and practical support to families of children and young people with cancer living in the East Midlands, to improve the quality of their lives.



# School News



## Other useful links:

**Safeguarding concerns:** please email [safeguarding@sjh.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@sjh.srscmat.co.uk)

**Homework :** <https://www.stjohnhoughtonilkeston.srscmat.co.uk/curriculum/homework/>

**School lunch menus:** <https://www.stjohnhoughtonilkeston.srscmat.co.uk/students/school-meals/>

## **Free School Meals:**

Derbyshire - <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

**Link to School Calendar:** <https://www.stjohnhoughtonilkeston.srscmat.co.uk/news/calendar/>

## SJH School holiday dates and inset days 2023-2024

Christmas holidays	Monday 25 December 2023 – Friday 5 January 2024
Inset Day	Monday 8 January 2024
February half term	Monday 19 – Friday 23 February 2024
Trust Inset Day	Monday 26 February 2024
Easter holidays	Friday 29 March – Friday 12 April 2024
May half term	Monday 27 – Friday 31 May 2024
Inset Day	Friday 5 July 2024
Last day of term	Tuesday 23 July 2024

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