



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

SJH Newsletter

Compassion – Aspiration – Respect – Excellence – Determination – Faithfulness – Optimism – Reconciliation
15 December 2023



Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter as we hurtle towards Christmas.

This afternoon, we will be holding our Advent Service for our school family, which is an opportunity for us to come together as a school community and reflect deeply on our preparation for the season of Christmas. Advent is what is known in the Church as a 'penitential season,' making that we take stock and ask for forgiveness for our mistakes. As 'Reconciliation' is one of the core virtues of our school family, I would ask for your own forgiveness for any mistakes we have made this year and hope that we can move into 2024 renewed and fully supportive of your children.

Important upcoming dates

22 December 2023 – School closing at 1.30pm
8 January 2024 – Inset day

Last Friday, Year 11 students took part in a 'drop-down day' where they spent the day looking at some really important topics, namely healthy relationships, drugs and alcohol. The day concluded with a celebration of the Mass. It was a tremendous day. The students were a credit to our school.

I'd like also to take the opportunity to congratulate our Parish Priest, Father Paul Newman, who was made an honorary Canon of the Church last Thursday evening. Father Paul is such a source of support to our school, our local primary schools and to the parish. No one could be more deserving of the honour and we are so proud of you CANON Paul!

More next week, as we break for Christmas! A reminder that students will depart at 1:30pm next Friday and will return on TUESDAY 09 JANUARY from the Christmas break.

Mr S Brogan - Headteacher

'Inspiring ambition and excellence, guided by Christ'

Telephone: 0115 9322896

email: schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

School News



Non uniform days:

On Thursday 21 December 2023, the PTA are holding a non-uniform day for a voluntary contribution of £1, students must wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions. On Friday 22 December 2023, students are able to come into school in Christmas jumpers/Christmas themed clothes if they wish to, a reminder that school will be closing at 1.30pm.

School dinner accounts:

We kindly ask that parents/carers check their child's school dinner accounts on a regular basis to ensure there are sufficient funds available to buy lunch so their accounts do not go into arrears. Students are only able to go into arrears to the value of one meal only.

Please see below link to apply for Free School Meals if any families are needing help with school meals as they may be eligible:

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

Christmas dinner:

Christmas dinner will be on Tuesday 19 December 2023, therefore there will be no breakfast bar in this day.

Number 11 bus users:

Kirk Hallam Community Academy are finishing for the Christmas holidays on Friday 15 December 2023, therefore the Number 11 bus will not be running week commencing Monday 18 December 2023, students who use this bus service will need to make alternative arrangement, we apologise for any inconvenience caused

Flu vaccinations:

The Immunisations team will be attending school on Wednesday 20 December 2023 to complete the flu vaccinations for those who were missed on Wednesday 29 November 2023. They will only be able to vaccinate the students who were missed on the original day that they attended and had consent. They are unfortunately unable to offer to any further students.

Consultation regarding the Proposed Secondary Admissions policy for 2025-2026:

Please see below link to the Trust website regarding proposed changes to the wording for the 2025-2026 Admissions policy, the consultation closes on 19 January 2024.

<https://www.srscmat.co.uk/governance/admissions/>

School News



Meetings with staff:

The constraints on school resources make it essential that parents and carers use authorised school procedures to avoid diverting time and attention that must be invested directly in students' learning and wellbeing. We ask that any meeting requests with members of staff are pre-booked and agreed in advance. Parents are kindly requested not to turn up at the school unannounced as a meeting may not be possible without making an appointment. In the first instance, a call to the school office would be much more effective in ensuring that an issue is dealt with as quickly as possible. Members of staff are not expected to change their calendars to accommodate a parent who demands a meeting without prior agreement. Parents are politely reminded that all teachers in school have a timetable of lessons and their days are often planned in advance.

Derbyshire County Council Household Support Fund:

As part of the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund Scheme, Derbyshire County Council is distributing funding to household's struggling to pay for food, energy and essential living costs.

As part of the scheme, the Council will again be distributing grocery vouchers to low-income families. Information about who is eligible for the vouchers is available on the website and they hope to start distribution in early January 2024. They will update the website when all vouchers have been distributed and provide details of what parents and carers should do if they haven't received their voucher.

Full details about the scheme and the support available for those experiencing financial hardship is available on our website at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund



Theology & Religious Studies Department News

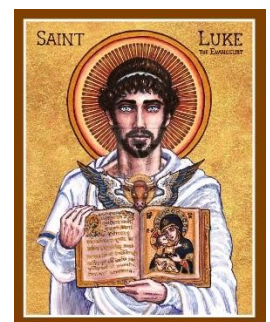
Year 7 – Theology:

The Advent term saw the beginning of the new Year 7 Theology course. Year 7 are the first year group to study Theology – Theology! From September this year, all Catholic primary and secondary schools throughout England began a new programme of study called “To Know You More Clearly.” For secondary schools, this is the first time that all schools have had the same programme of study. It is academically challenging and prepares students well for the GCSE courses in Religious Studies that they will eventually study. We called the subject Theology because of its precisely focussed and academically challenging content. We have been delighted to see Year 7 working so well to get to grips with this subject! They are confident with words such as omnipotent, transcendent, eternal and imminent. And they should be able to tell you what a literary form is! We have also invested in Kerboodle which includes access for all Year 7 students to the source and summit textbook online – this is accessed via the student homepage.



Year 8 – Luke’s gospel:

This term, year 8 have been focussing on Luke’s Gospel. Every student in Year 8 received a copy of the Gospel and students have been learning how to read the text of the bible through different lenses: background to the text, the events taking place in the text and what it means for us as Christians today. They’ve also had a reading log to help them to read through the whole gospel in a structured manner and to develop reading and interpretation skills.





Theology & Religious Studies Department News

Year 9 – Philosophers:

Year 9 began their year with a study of the philosophy of religion. They studied different arguments for the existence of God – for example the Cosmological and teleological arguments put forward by people such as St Thomas Aquinas. They have also considered reasons why people argue that God cannot be proven and reasons why some people suggest that evil in the world suggests there is no God. They are now onto the topic of Religion, Peace and Conflict which involves them in questions such as: Can WMD ever be justified? What are the rules of war? Should Christians always be pacifists?

In the Lent term, we will be moving on to religion, relationships and families and using some of the Ten Ten RSE resources to support our learning.

GCSE Religious Studies: EDUQAS Route B Catholic Christianity and Judaism

Knowledge Books And Revision Books:

All students in Year 10 and 11 receive knowledge books for each unit of the course to support learning at home. In addition, Year 11 receive guided revision activity booklets to support reteach and revision.

Year 10 – will receive a new homework calendar for Lent 1 term. This will be a combination of carousel learning quizzes and ‘yellow sheet exam practice’ questions on alternate weeks.

Year 11 – are well on course for completing their GCSE syllabus in good time! The RE team are planning a new structure for reteach and revision in advance of the next mock exams and final GCSE.

Christmas cards for our school neighbours:

Every year, we invite a group of students to make Christmas cards for our neighbours on Abbott Road. We see this as part of our mission as a Catholic community, but also because we know our neighbours are faced with heavy traffic twice a day – both on foot, in cars and the buses. This year, we asked Year 7 to make the cards and they will be delivered by some of our Year 7 students.

Farewell to Mrs Ryan!

We will be saying farewell to Mrs Ryan at the end of the advent term. Mrs Ryan joined us from New Zealand in 2017 and she and her family will be returning there during the Christmas break, where Mrs Ryan will take up a new RE post in her old school. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and contribution over the years and wish her every joy and blessing for the future.



Digital & Creative Technology Department News

It's been a busy week across design, food and art lessons as all year 7, 8 & 9 students have moved to their new groups. All the rotations follow the same principal:

Art go to Design

Design go to Food

Food go to Art

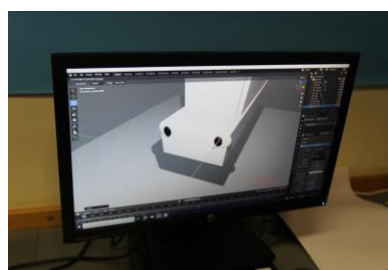
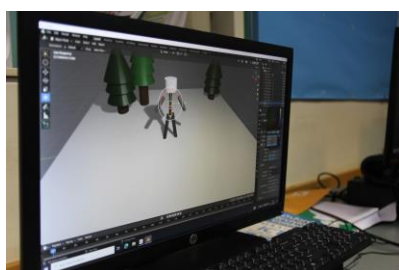
There's been plenty of projects, sculpting and models created and more still to come this term from the workshop.



A massive thankyou to Miss Stevenson for the hard work she's put in helping to decorate the school's nativity scene on the stage.



In the computer rooms the new suite of computers are being put through their paces as the year 9 students are creating 3d animations using Blender - the same type of software that is used to create Pixar films such as Toy Story and Finding Nemo. We already have some excellent 3d designers showing a lot of potential!



School News



Chaplaincy:

Cathedral Church of Saint Barnabas, Nottingham.

It was a privilege to be invited to Evening Prayer of the Church on the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Patron of the Diocese of Nottingham on Thursday 7th December 2023 at 6.30pm when Fr Paul Newman was installed as a New Honorary Canon. School Captains, Sophie and Mickey, were wonderful ambassadors for Saint John Houghton CVA along with Sophie, Alfie, Lucy and Aoife. Thank you to the parents for their support to attend this special service.

We know Fr Paul was very pleased to have SJH staff and pupils present. Such a wonderful evening and our prayers are with Canon Paul.



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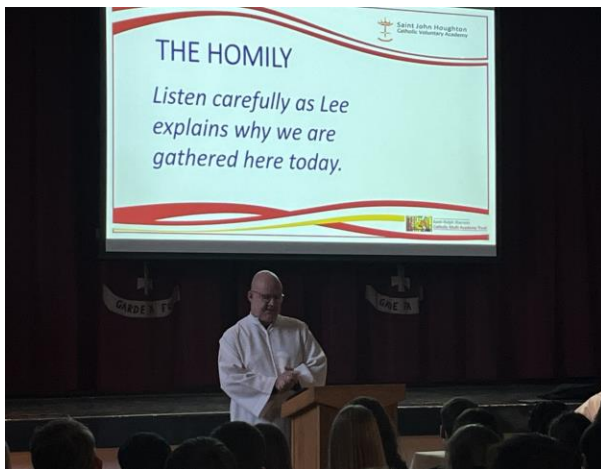
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Chaplaincy:

On Friday 8th December 2023, the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, principal patron of our diocese, we were blessed to have holy Mass for Year 11. On behalf of SJH community we would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr Paul and Lee for their time and love. We would like to thank Cathy, our Chair of Governors and Sophie, our School Captain, family for joining us for this lovely occasion. Lee gave his first homily in school and reminded us that Mary points the way to her son Jesus. Well done and thank you Sophie, Mikey, Simdi, Scarlett and Amelia who rose to the occasion and served us well.



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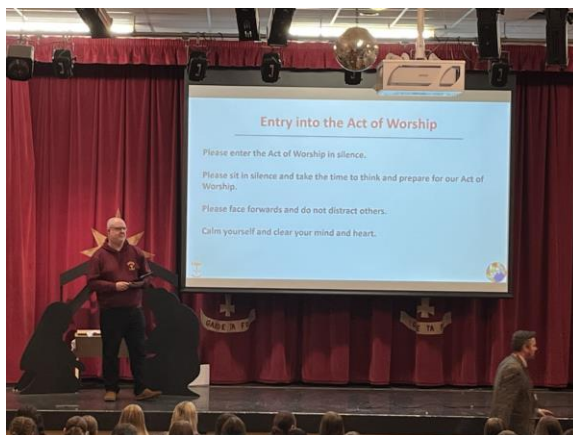
Reconciliation and Conversation in Advent:

We are most grateful to Fr Paul, Fr Joby and Lee for joining us in SJH this week from 8.00am to hear Reconciliation and Conversation. If you would like more information about this special sacrament please contact our School Chaplain, Rachel who would be delighted to support. Please join us and pray for Fr Paul, Fr Joby and Lee this Advent and ask God to bless them and keep them safe. Thank you.



Prayer:

Here in SJH we pray three times a day and our day begins with Act of Worship. We are always delighted when we have a visitor to lead us and a past student, Lee led us in prayer and worship this Tuesday. Lee spoke about looking after our mental health this time of year. Rachel offers time out with Mindfulness sessions and is always happy to support.



SJH staff like to pray this prayer - maybe you could give it a go too - let us know how you get on, we can grow in faith together.

Dear God,

Prepare me for today. Take away my worries and my regrets. Recharge my soul and renew my hope. Please go before me. Clear the way and protect me. Bring the right people into my life and move the wrong people out of the way. Guide me with Your love and give me Your Joy. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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Chaplaincy:

Praise:

Rachel would like to praise the following pupils who are going above and beyond preparing for Advent:

Ethan, Jack, Arlo, Charlie, Dominika, Betsy, Isabel, Maisie, Ava-May, Ava, Lucy, Matilda, Lucie, Jack, Callum, Blake, Geavannah, Mollie, Kornelia, Donald, Sonny, Tyler, Joseph, Coleena, Jaycee, George, Sophie, Mickey, Simdi, Felix, Jacob, Madison and Joseph.

More thanks to the Sound crew: Alfie, Harley, Lewis, Lennon, Honey, Eleanor, Ben, Dhillon, Oliver, Oliver and Daisy.

Rachel would like to acknowledge all the support the teaching staff, admin, catering, caretakers and ICT staff give to Chaplaincy; without their time, love and talent SJH could not be the best version of itself. *Here in SJH we understand that 'being the best version of yourself' is NOT winning everything and being noticed, it is shrinking so others can flourish and it is all about serving others. Please take time to reflect on this, pray about it and live it and then ask God to help you to be the best version of yourself.*

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

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

School News



Roll of honour in subject areas:

The following students have been identified by Curriculum Leaders for their hard work and effort in the following subjects. Well done to these students.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Maths	James E	Alfie S	Charlie B-M	Isabelle H	Harry S
English	Macy P	Amelia S-J	Connor H	George H-W	Alice B
Science	Jasmine-JO	Lois-Skye J	Isla F	Daisy S	Adam B
Religious Education	Jacob L	Matilda G	Luke C	Amy Q	Seth W
Geography	Skye G	Connor C	Nieve C	Tia A	Julia J
History	Remy K	Tamzin R	Scarlett L	Joanne S	Lilly-Ella M
Computing Business	Daisy W	Robyn R	Sonny K	Taner G Business: Georgina B IMedia: Aoife O'S	Matthew S Business: Tinotenda M IMedia: Isobel H
Music	Betsy R	Alicia K	Ellie-Mai R	Maja W	Sophie S
French	Sebastian K	Justin P	Harry B	Mollie J	James P
Spanish	Matilda H	Isaac T	Gabriella H	Billy S	Mya C
PE Health & Social Care	Cara J	Abigail B	Sophie L	Core PE: Liberty M Sports Studies: Lexie-Mae H GCSE: Jayden H H&S care: Rhodina K	Core PE – Miranda H GCSE: Phoebe H
Design	Jacob S	Sasha E	Ashlie L	DT: Raivo K Engineering: Luyando H Food: Charlie M Art: Eva M	Engineering: Ivan T Food: Amelia T Art: Georgia G

School News



Roll of honour from Year Leaders:

The following students have been identified by their Year Leader. Well done to these students.

Year 7 – Miss Turgoose:

Betsy R for being a brilliant role model whilst at Briars.

Year 8 – Ms Andrews:

Maggie A for consistently working hard.

Year 9 – Mr Thomson:

Charlie B-M, Caoimhe C & Kayla N for their excellent attitude to learning.

Year 10 – Mr Ritchie:

Year 10 members of the sound and light crew for all their hard work supporting Acts of Worship and other events in school.

Year 11 – Mrs Smith:

William S for hard work and determination.

The Saint John Houghton Awards:

Libby W in year 11 has been nominated by staff for this week's St John Houghton Award, she has been nominated for her optimism and determination to succeed.

School News



Other useful links:

Safeguarding concerns: please email safeguarding@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

Homework : <https://www.stjohnhoughtonilkeston.srscmat.co.uk/curriculum/home-work/>

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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SJH School holiday dates and inset days 2024-2025

Inset Day	Wednesday 4 September 2024
First day of term – all years return to school	Thursday 5 September 2024
Inset Day	Friday 27 September 2024
October half term	Monday 28 October 2024 – Friday 1 November 2024
Trust Inset Day	Friday 29 November 2024
Christmas holidays	Monday 23 December 2024 – Friday 3 January 2025
February half term	Monday 17 – Friday 21 February 2025
Trust Inset Day	Monday 24 February 2025
Easter holidays	Monday 7 – Monday 21 April 2025
May half term	Monday 26 – Friday 30 May 2025
Inset Day	Friday 4 July 2025
Last day of term	Thursday 24 July 2025

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