



SJH Newsletter

Compassion – Aspiration – Respect – Excellence – Determination – Faithfulness – Optimism – Reconciliation
Friday 22 December 2023



Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Parents and Carers,
Thank you for reading our latest edition of our Newsletter and for your support over the last calendar year. This has been an extremely long term (15 weeks) and I am sure you, like us, are ready for a break over the festive period. I hope your work commitments allow you all to enjoy your children over the next two weeks and that you are able to celebrate and rest in equal measure!

As a Catholic school, this is a particularly special time of year for us. We remember and celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus, God made man, in the stable, born for us to bring light into the darkness of our world. It is a season of great hope, peace, joy and love. We hope the students enjoy the surprises we have arranged for them today!

Important upcoming dates

Monday 8 January 2024 – Inset day
Tuesday 9 January 2024 – Students return to school – Week 2 timetable
Tuesday 16 January 2024 – Year 11 photographs
Wednesday 17 January 2024 – Year 9 Parents evening

Today, we say thank you and 'au revoir' to Mr Parr (Teacher of Maths), Mrs Bentley (Teaching Assistant) and Mrs Ryan (Teacher of Religious Education) who are leaving us for pastures new. They have served our school with dedication and commitment and we are so grateful to them for all they have done for our students and staff over the years. They will all be sadly missed and they leave us with our very best wishes.

I wish you all the love and peace that Christmas brings. Students return to school on Tuesday 9 January after the two-week break and we look forward to seeing you all in 2024, which we hope will be an extremely successful year for our school.

Garde ta Foi! Guard your Faith!

Mr S Brogan - Headteacher

School News



School vacancies:

We are currently recruiting for a Maths teacher, two Science teachers and an RE teacher, please click on the link below for further details:

Maths Teacher:

[https://www.srscmat.co.uk/work-with-us/vacancies-single/?Category=Teaching%2520\(Secondary\)&Advert=1e41nYfCDwxFXKoR3Vqtcw%3D%3D&Region=SaintJohnHoughtonCatholicVoluntaryAcademy](https://www.srscmat.co.uk/work-with-us/vacancies-single/?Category=Teaching%2520(Secondary)&Advert=1e41nYfCDwxFXKoR3Vqtcw%3D%3D&Region=SaintJohnHoughtonCatholicVoluntaryAcademy)

Science Teacher:

[https://www.srscmat.co.uk/work-with-us/vacancies-single/?Category=Teaching%2520\(Secondary\)&Advert=mbC%2FDRYpJtVFXKoR3Vqtcw%3D%3D&Region=SaintJohnHoughtonCatholicVoluntaryAcademy](https://www.srscmat.co.uk/work-with-us/vacancies-single/?Category=Teaching%2520(Secondary)&Advert=mbC%2FDRYpJtVFXKoR3Vqtcw%3D%3D&Region=SaintJohnHoughtonCatholicVoluntaryAcademy)

RE Teacher:

[https://www.srscmat.co.uk/work-with-us/vacancies-single/?Category=Teaching%2520\(Secondary\)&Advert=rg6me6xoyBJFXKoR3Vqtcw%3D%3D&Region=SaintJohnHoughtonCatholicVoluntaryAcademy](https://www.srscmat.co.uk/work-with-us/vacancies-single/?Category=Teaching%2520(Secondary)&Advert=rg6me6xoyBJFXKoR3Vqtcw%3D%3D&Region=SaintJohnHoughtonCatholicVoluntaryAcademy)

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>

Attendance reward:

The following students have received this terms attendance award, for having 95% or above attendance, congratulations to these students:

Year 7 – Seb R

Year 8 – Ruby C

Year 9 – Rosemary S

Year 10 – Wiktoria P

Year 11 – Isobel H



School News



School uniform:

Can all parents ensure students are in full, correct uniform when they return in January. Please use the school website link below to check the uniform policy:

<https://www.stjohnhoughtonilkeston.srscmat.co.uk/parents/dress-code-and-equipment/>

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.

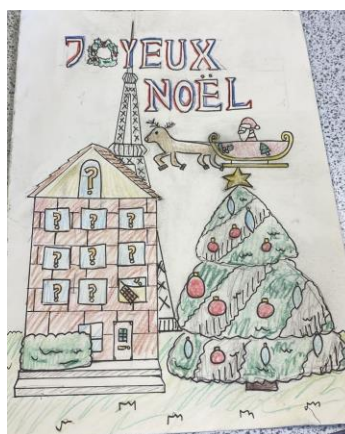
Full details about the scheme and the support available for those experiencing financial hardship is available on our website at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund



Modern Foreign Languages Department News

The MFL Department have held a competition to design a French or Spanish Christmas themed card. Well done to all students that have taken part.

Here are the 2 winning Christmas cards! Created by Ernest Y and Mishel C.



And the runners up prizes went to Lois-Skye J, Alicia K, Gabriella W and Oliver J.



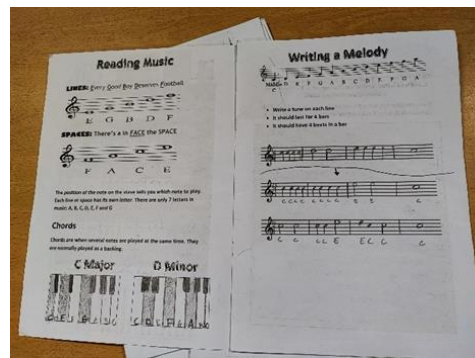
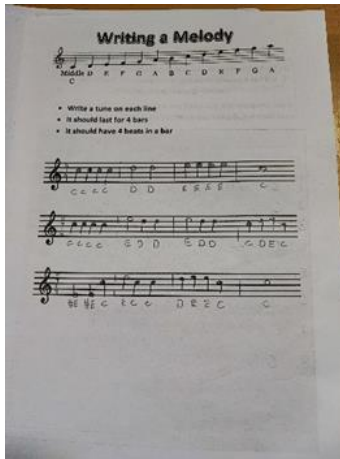
Feliz Navidad and Joyeux Noël
From the MFL Department



Music Department News

Year 7:

As we end on our Advent term, the year 7 students have just completed their first assessment in Music. This project saw the students compose a short melody with a chord progression and perform their compositions to their peers.

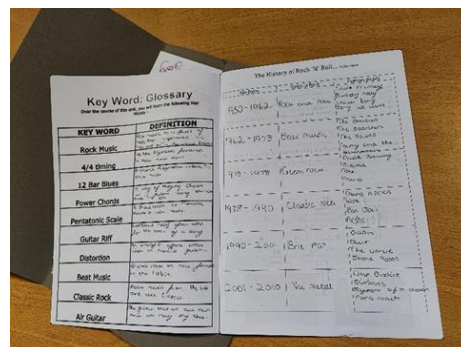


The students have really taken well to the complexity of music, and this is evident in their work. Year 7 students should now be able to –

- Read the notes on a treble clef
- Understand the difference between major and minor chords
- Know where the notes are on a keyboard
- Understand note values and common time signature

Year 8:

Year 8 students are learning about Rock and Roll as this style of music came from Blues Music. The year 8 students have been learning about the beginnings of Blues music and how it was born from the Trans-Atlantic slave trade in America. Rock and Roll shares many features of Blues Music and as we develop our knowledge the students will see how that has evolved into the different forms of rock we listen to today. Students have created a timeline of the history of rock as well as expanded on their knowledge of keywords used.

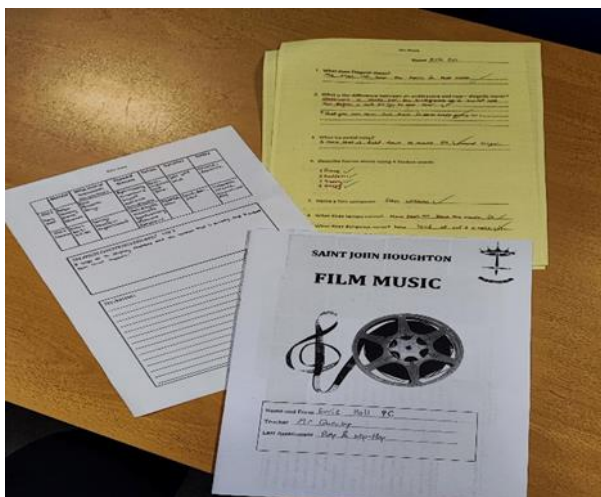




Music Department News

Year 9:

Year 9 students are halfway through their Film Music projects. They have explored the diversity of film music and how it is effectively used. Film music can be very emotive and when used correctly is very powerful. Year 9 students have been breaking down the elements of horror music and are now able to appraise the music accurately. This is a brilliant example of work from Evie H:



GCSE Music:

Year 10 and 11 are working towards completing their portfolios ready for submission. Year 11 have just completed their mock exams and are well on the way on getting their coursework in. Students are working tirelessly on their performances and compositions. Year 10 students are completing their weekly keyword tests with 3 students maintaining 100% over 4 weeks, congratulations!!

The choir:

The choir have worked nonstop since September. We have been rehearsing for Mass on a weekly basis as well as rehearsing and performing some popular songs too. The choir were on top form in the advent services too. Huge thanks to Mrs Artiss and Miss Stobbs for all they do.

We have also grown. The choir is around 30 strong now and we are always looking for new students too. If you free up a Tuesday Lunchtime, and fancy joining us in song, you are more than welcome to come to the music room. All students are welcome, and we are a friendly bunch too.

School News



Chaplaincy:

The Junior Beauvale Society:

It is an absolute pleasure to welcome you to the very first Newsletter from, 'The Junior Beauvale Society'! Thank you very much for your support! Start 2024 being organised and put 5th May 2024 in your new diary and tell friends and family this is the date for the Beauvale Pilgrimage. Your £2.00 donation will go towards funding the 2024 pilgrimage. I will attend the planning meeting in January, we are all working hard to make this a special occasion. Beauvale Priory is special and distinguished to us because Saint John Houghton and Saint Robert Lawrence, two of its priors, became the Pro-martyrs (the first), of the Reformation and were canonized, (declared Saints) in 1970. The image of the 'Beauvale Society's Stone' on the righthand side of this newsletter can be seen at Beauvale Priory today and this is where The High Altar would have been placed : Beauvale Priory, New Road, Moorgreen, Nottingham, NG16 2AA. You may want to visit before 5th May 24 and let us know how you get on! Love, Rachel Rose SJH Chaplain



*Joy
to you
this Christmastide
and
may His
Peace and Love
in your
heart abide.*

Saint Anne's Knitting Group:

We will be having a break over the Christmas holiday and New Year, and we will return on Monday 8th January 2024. 7.00pm - 9.00pm. Why not make a New Year Resolution and come and join us. All Welcome in Ilkeston Church meeting room. Rachel



'Inspiring ambition and excellence, guided by Christ'

Telephone: 0115 9322896

email: schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

School News



Chaplaincy:

Dear SJH,

On behalf of SRSCMAT and Canaan Trust, may I take this opportunity to thank you for all the food, chocolate, tea, coffee, Christmas goodies, tinned food and toiletries which you have donated to Canaan Trust. Thank you! It was a wonderful journey to deliver all the 'Reverse Advent Bags' and see them gratefully received. I will be making another delivery before Christmas so please know your donations are where they need to be in time for Christmas and New year.

May I please thank the Secret Advent Angels who have been collecting since late September and have made many hampers and gift bags for our local families. All gratefully received. Thank you.

More thanks to SJH PTA who made a donation from their Tuck shop. This was really kind and brightened up the reverse Advent Bags and will be a real treat to somebody!

SJH Tutors, I know time is limited in the morning and you never moan about having tins and crackers on your desk and I know you donate too - so a huge shout out of thanks to you too!

Love,

Rachel



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 & 15 March 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

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School News



Chaplaincy:

First Holy Communion **meeting for Leaders** (not parents and children who are preparing for this Sacrament) Monday 8th January 2024. Please think about, pray about then join us! We have a lovely group of volunteers but many hands make light work - even if you can only offer one session, we would be most grateful!

Rachel will be attending the Beauvale Planning Meeting on Tuesday 9th January 2024 7.00pm. Rachel is willing and happy to take any suggestions on your behalf.

Rachel will be on the Chaplain's Retreat from Wednesday 10th (7.00pm) to Friday 12th January 5.00pm at Briars. Please give Rachel any prayer requests or intentions.

Faith in Action (Round 1) Ilkeston Parish next meeting on 17th January 2024 7.00-8.30pm.

Faith in Action (Round 20 Ilkeston begins 28th February 2024 7.00pm - 8.30pm. SJH pupils, you will need to attend if you want to gain your Silver Faith in Action Award and this is highly recommended if you are wanting to prepare for your Confirmation in 2024.

School Captains will be leading Act of Worship on January 29th, 30th and 31st January. All welcome to join us in prayer and worship.

SJH will be leading St Thomas in prayer, reflection and games on Thursday 8th February 2024 - please email Rachel if you would like to support.

We are blessed to have our Governing Body here in SJH. Governing in Catholic Education has to be different, it has to be better and it has to have an impact and it should be enjoyed - which is why we will gather for an evening meal on Friday 9th February, just before Lent begins - and Rachel will be cooking...what could possibly go wrong? If you would like more information about becoming a Governor for our school please do send an email to Rachel.

Ash Wednesday 14th February 2024 - the start of Lent.

SJH Justice and peace Group will be selling Valentine Roses.

Mass in Lent. Friday 1st March 2024. Year 8. All welcome. This will also be our Family Fast Day.

8th March 2024 Rachel will be leading a 'Vocations Retreat' Fr Paul and Lee will be visiting SJH that day. Please contact Rachel by email if you would like to take part in this Retreat.

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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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