



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

SJH Newsletter

Compassion – Aspiration – Respect – Excellence – Determination – Faithfulness – Optimism – Reconciliation
Friday 19 January 2024



Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Parents and Carers,
Thank you for joining us for the latest addition of our newsletter. I really do hope that you take the time to read the newsletter and digest the information contained in it. We sincerely hope your child has had a good week in school and that they are happy. Please do get in touch using the email address below if you need us.

This week we held our Year 9 Parents' Evening in school. It was an extremely positive evening, and we are pleased that so many of our Year 9 students are performing so well and are so happy in school. If there are any issues that arose from the issues, again, please do get in touch with us.

Important upcoming dates

**Wednesday 24 January 2024 – Year 11 GCSE
Accelerating Progress Evening**

Wednesday evening was the beginning of the Options Process for our Year 9 students and further information will be coming to you in the coming weeks and months about your choices for Year 10 and beyond.

Our Year 11s who are coming to the end of their time with us are now firmly focused on their final set of Mock Exams which begin in two weeks. We also have our targeted Year 11 Accelerating Progress Evening next Wednesday Evening. Please check your inboxes for information.

We are looking forward to some warmer weather next week. As the saying goes, 'we make our own weather in life' though. Let's take that into the weekend the weeks ahead. More next week.

Garde ta Foi! Guard your Faith!

Mr S Brogan - Headteacher

'Inspiring ambition and excellence, guided by Christ'

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School News



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>

Science Strive Sessions - Year 11:

Students in Year 11 have been notified of the **Science Strive** Sessions that run every lunchtime in Science 1. The sessions are provided to allow students to spend 20 minutes completing focused revision. Resources are provided and science teachers available to help with any areas of the science curriculum that students are finding difficult. The sessions are aimed at equipping students with the skills to continue effective revision at home, which is an area I know some students find challenging. The sessions will be running throughout this term.

Mrs Finney

Head of Science

Mental Health Matters – Drop – in sessions:

Mental Health Matters



Start the conversation.

Drop – in sessions
Every Wednesday
12.30 – 1.10pm
Damascus

Safe space
Support
Advice

'Inspiring ambition and excellence, guided by Christ'

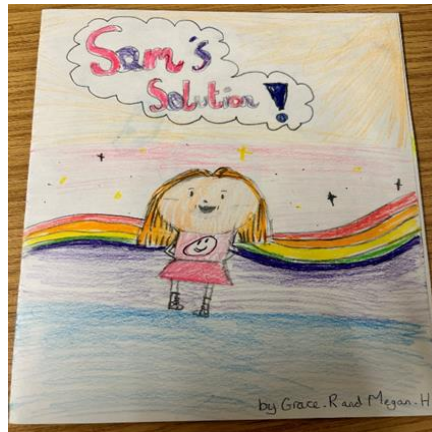
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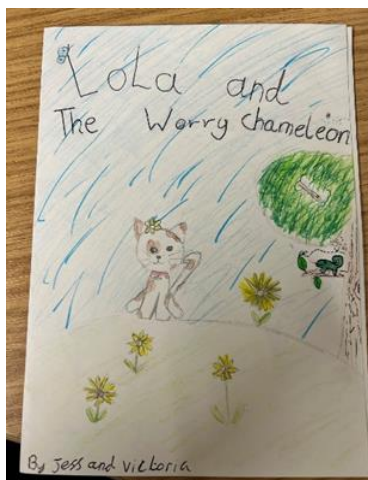
English Department News:

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



Year 7s – Creative Writing

While students were at the Briars, our Year 7s were given a task to write a storybook for children in primary school. Their stories were based on Tom Percival's 'Ruby's Worry.' Here are some pictures of the winners. The prize was a chocolate bar.





English department news continued:

Year 8 – Great Expectations

Our Year 8s have finished their ghost stories and now they are working on 'Great Expectations' by Charles Dickens. A book which has got lots of Gothic elements to it. The following piece of work has been judged the best in the year group by the whole English department. Well done to Oliver E. for this fantastic piece of writing. Don't have nightmares!



I would never have inherited his house if I had known he was still there...

A look of disgust on my face – with one hand – I held my breath as I pulled the intricately carved arching door. Sighing in annoyance once again, I pondered upon how far I had fallen. Just 2 months ago, 23, the most promising banker in all of Britain: now still 23, yet reduced to taking on the crumbling manor of an unknown great uncle. Although with minimal enthusiasm – pulling with every ounce of strength – one opened the door and swept inside, holding my breath, waiting for a stench to wallop my nostrils... To my immense surprise the room I had encroached upon was clean, well kept, and neat looking. At first, a shocked smile enlightened my features unfortunately seconds later, doubt crept in as I brooded on the matter. Calling out under the impression a housekeeper may answer, one was the slightest concerned when none came. The old man must have kept in good shape before he died: the effects of age must've not struck yet.

Beginning to ascend the spiralling staircase, I took in one's surroundings. A Victorian house I presumed noting the familiar carvings and designs of the time. Shrouded in a heavy veil of darkness, what once was a luxury carpet was now a well-used threadbare rug below me. Continuing to climb, the piercing eyes of elaborate portraits looked me up and down, judging me and my appearance. Brushing off dust, I straightened up and laughed. Of course, it was my imagination, but they seemed to look satisfied almost. Shaking my head with the absurdity of it, I climbed on, my shining shoes not making the slightest creak on the antique staircase.

Without warning, I tumbled face first onto the wood, my feet shooting up like a cannon being fired; groaning in pain, one couldn't help glancing apprehensively behind me. It certainly felt like a force had hit the small of my back. Returning to my feet, something usual caught my eye - everything below me seemed to pale, lightening from brown to heavy grey. With vigour now – a cloak of insanity blanketing my brain – I climbed faster, liquid protruding out of my head. Brushing dust off myself, I stopped dead. There was no dust. Nowhere.

Then, it was pummeling my stomach. Then, it was falling. Then, hollow unfeeling eyes infesting my own. Then...nothing.

School News



Year 9 – Travel Writing

Year 9 are just finishing off their work on studying these two novels. The next unit of work will be travel writing.

Year 10 – A Christmas Carol

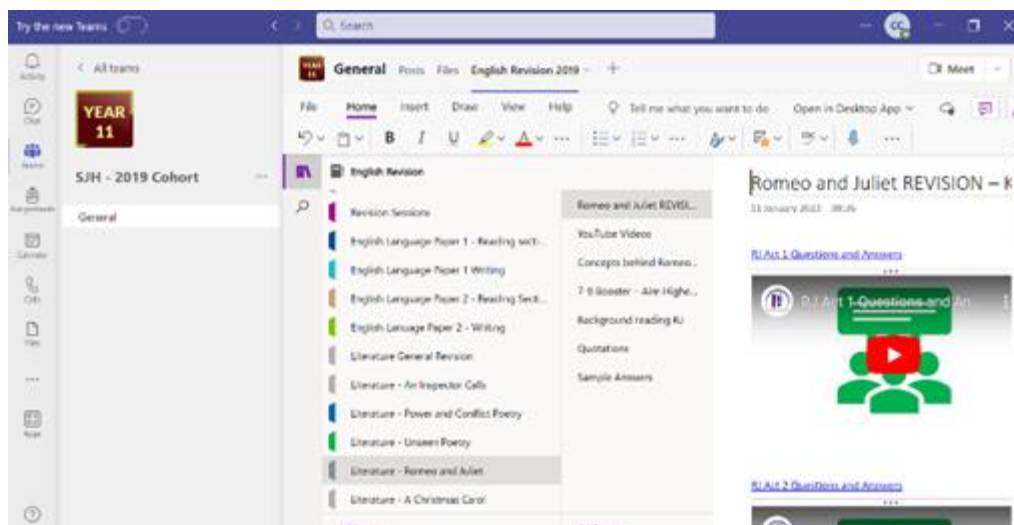
Our Year 10s have started studying Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol for their GCSE English Literature exam. Students have been enjoying the story and exploring how the text reflects Victorian attitudes towards the poor.

Year 11 – GCSE Exams

Work is now underway for the next set of mock exams all students are having.

Please direct your child 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 anytime... and anywhere if they need to.

Also, there is a dedicated revision session every Tuesday on Teams from 5.30pm to 6pm. We advise all students to attend.



School News



Year 10 ski trip:

The annual Year 10 Ski Trip took place at the resort of Sauze D'Oulz in Italy.

32 students were accompanied by Mr Warden, Mr Ritchie, Miss Sanderson and Miss Cook.

The group arrived on Saturday at 11pm and began lessons on the Sunday. Four groups enjoyed two hour lessons in the morning and afternoon for the next 5 days working on improving their skiing skills with turns and controlling the descents. Evening activities included a pizza night, crepes and hot chocolate at a local bar, Karaoke night and a shopping night in the town,

It was a fantastic week with lots of falls and plenty of fun

Mr Warden



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School News



Careers update:

Post-16 inspiration from two former students

On Friday 12th January, it was a pleasure to start the new year by inviting two former students, Okorite Ephraim and Alex Jasper, into school to speak to our Year 10 and 11 pupils about their careers since leaving St John. I am sure that most present would agree, it was a very inspirational presentation. Okorite, a Health Copywriter for Boots, and Alex, a community midwife and Lecturer in Midwifery at Sheffield Hallam University gave plenty of insight into what can be achieved post-16 if you have the drive and determination to reach your goals. It was not long ago at all that Okorite and Alex were sat in the same seats and in the same uniform as our students, so it was great to hear about their education journeys and the successes in their fields. They both put a lot of what they have achieved down to a strong foundation at St John Houghton and I hope it has inspired Year 10 and 11 to strive for their dream career.

Apprenticeships

We have reached the time of year where Year 11 students interested in apprenticeships should now begin to consider applying for positions.

Individual company websites will give most information needed but the following website is also useful to search for current, local vacancies:

https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch?_ga=2.180421863.1709992942.1705399191-486376596.1674474343

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/>

We have also received notification of the following events...

Diversity in Engineering Open Day - Pride Park Derby

Please see attached poster for information

WE'RE BACK FOR 2024

DIVERSITY IN2 ENGINEERING

APPRENTICESHIP AND JOBS FAIR

ENGINEERING IS FOR EVERYONE!

Considering a career in Engineering? Or looking for a new opportunity? Our employers want to meet you!

- 30 EMPLOYER STANDS
- PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS
- CAREERS SUPPORT
- LIVE VACANCIES
- APPRENTICESHIPS
- RANGE OF ROLES

Wednesday 14 February 2024
10am - 3pm
Pride Park Stadium, Derby DE24 8XL
Scan the QR code or search Eventbrite: Diversity In2 Engineering

DERBY JOBS

In partnership with

DINO **SCARLETT** **SEGRO**

School News



Virtual Work Experience - British Army:

EXPERIENCE

FULLY FUNDED
Virtual Work Experience
Passion for the British Army?
Do you have an interest in apprenticeships?
Come and explore Army Apprenticeships and Career Advancement - British Army

- The British Army is the largest Employer Provider of Apprenticeships in the UK.
- With close to 15,000 apprentices currently enrolled on apprenticeships from Level 2 to Level 6 across more than 40 different programmes.
- That means that over 95% of soldiers enrol on an apprenticeship scheme when they start their initial trade training.

Register for our event below to find out more about Army Apprenticeships.



SIGN UP...
7th February, 11:00am-12:00pm
Apply by 25th January
Age: 16-19

RAF Apprentices Event:


RAF WORLD
EARN & LEARN
THURSDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
19:30

New year, new career? Get paid to become the best version of you as a Royal Air Force Apprentice! Elevate your ambitions and uncover tailored apprenticeship options that suit your lifestyle, preferences, and career goals.

This is the perfect opportunity to explore the world of apprenticeships, gain insights into various roles, and connect with professionals who can guide you on your path to success!

- Explore interactive 360° global operations, delving into the world of RAF support worldwide through informative videos and insights to help you find your ideal RAF career.
- Jump into 10 different themed chat rooms to find out more about specific professions and topics.
- Connect with a friendly RAF recruiter directly online. Our experts will answer all your inquiries about career paths, RAF lifestyle, sports opportunities, benefits, and how to embark on your RAF journey.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK YOUR FREE TICKET NOW](#)



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School News



Chaplaincy:

What a great start to the day! 8.00am Mass with Fr Paul and Lee (training Deacon) Yes, it is an early start but another way of looking at this is 'it is good to be alive' and our wonderful kitchen staff always prepare breakfast to follow and Mr Bilby pops on the coffee machine. Just fabulous to be in Catholic Education! Parents, parishioners and grandparents can just turn up too. This is a great Mass if you are new to Mass or would just like to 'come and see'. A huge thank you to Mr Brogan, Mrs Etienne, Casey, Ava, Sonny and Alfie for their continued support.

SJH Soundcrew:

Rachel would like to thank this terrific group of Year 10 pupils who have fulfilled the Mission this week by serving others. We met in our Chapel for a short time of prayer and reflection. We listened to iAmSon 'Slow Down' and I advised them to download the Pray As You Go App - why not do the same and let us know how you get on.



CAFOD Club:

Here in SJH we are working towards the 'Live Simply Award' - please be part of this work. With thanks to the Team who made the organic vegan bird food this week. The Team have ordered Compost Bins for staff rooms and we will be hearing more about this in the weeks to come. God created everything, we belong to God and we have a duty to protect the world for the next generation.



Oasis Team:

The CAFOD Club are taking the lead and the Oasis Team are supporting Rachel with 'January Kindness Cards'. With thanks to Danielle and Isabella for making the posters in time to meet deadline to promote this. cards can be purchased from Rachel at breaktime or lunchtimes in HU3. Simply pay 50p and the Teams will deliver the cards in Tutor Time. January can be a hard month so take the time to cheer someone up and reach out. The money raised will go towards the Student Voice Charity: Huntington's Disease. Follow SJH Chaplain on X (Twitter) for frequent updates.

School News



Chaplaincy:

First Holy Communion and Confirmation:

Please keep in your prayers the families who are preparing for these Sacraments. The volunteers are praying for you. Please let Rachel, School Chaplain, know if you are making any Sacraments and would like some support - Mr Brogan and Rachel would like to celebrate with you!



Faith in Action:

The Faith in Action Group have met again this week, and we only have one morning meeting left. Where does the time go? we will finish with a special meal together and we hope Fr Paul, Fr Joby and Yvonne May will celebrate with us. Are you on the list for Round 2 Faith in Action?

St Anne's Knitting Club: Monday 7.00pm - 9.00pm:

Please note we are a full team - we are full to capacity at the moment so we are unable to welcome new members just for now. You can always email Rachel and follow out projects and jollies on X (Twitter).



Chaplaincy Retreat:

Thank you for supporting me to attend the Chaplain's Retreat at Briars last week. Our theme was: 'Inwards, Outwards and Upwards.' It was good to gather, to pray and worship as a community of Chaplains and Religious.

Beauvale Pilgrimage: 5th May 2024 we will gather at 3.00pm and Mass with Bishop Patrick will be at 3.30pm. Please make a note in your diary - this will be especially important for Year 10 future leaders to attend.

Rachel will be at the Enrolment Mass for First Holy Communion this weekend: 5.00pm Stapleford and 11.30am Sunday - you are welcome to join.

We are in Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Everyone is welcome and if anyone wants to be involved on Friday 26th when Our Lady's is hosting please let Fr Paul know. SJH will be celebrating on our Daily Prayers.

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School News



Chaplaincy:

SJH Parish Ambassadors have met this week and sent a PowerPoint to the Parish Councils for their meetings. We are one body and united in Christ. Special thanks to all involved. Please see Rachel and send her an email if you could be a Parish Ambassador - all welcome, parents, students, grandparents.

Here in SJH we are praying, and we know about the confirmation that a Formal Decree has been issued by Bishop Partick McKinney. It states that the parish of Our lady and St Thomas of Hereford, Ilkeston and the Parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Eastwood and the Parish of St John the Evangelist, Stapleford, in the counties of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, be and are hereto United, joined and merged together. From this distinctive union and merge of the three parishes the Parish Our Lady and The Beauvale Martyrs, Erewash Valley. It is very much the Bishop's wish that we honour the Beauvale Martyrs. What a privilege this is! The new Parish name will be officially recognised from 25th January 2024.



SJH initiatives for the Year of Prayer: For this special Year dedicated to Prayer, Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament will take place in SJH, we will continue to have Reconciliation and conversation, and our Chapel will remain open for private prayer. What would you like to see and what could you offer for The Year of Prayer? We will travel to our feeder schools to lead prayer.

Friends of SJH Coffee Morning on 26th January 2024 11.30am - 12.30 ALL Welcome. Please come and meet our Parish Ambassadors who are 'fired up and ready to go!'

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



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	Matthew S	Joseph R	Stanley S	Rebecca J	Jayden S
English	Jacob L	Ava L	Evie H	Nathan H	Leo T
Science	Jessica P	Lucy S	Ronnie A	Lydia D	Kristupas P
Religious Education	Gabriella W	Amelia S-J	Mishel C	Amelia L	Caliam B
Geography	Joshua M	Oliver J	Harry B	Luyando H	Imogen T
History	Matilda H	Samuel F	Nancy W	Cherish R	Madison D
Computing & Business	Tylor M	April-Rose C-F	Elena M	Hin Cheung Y Business: Ebony-Jo W IMedia: Archie S-B	Thomas F Business: Lucy M IMedia:
Music	Maisie W	Aaron V	Scarlett L	Lily H	Isabelle A
French	Amelia W	Ava F	Evie-Mai D	Liam F	Amelia B
Spanish	Madison P	Alexander M	Isla S	Leah E	Aimee M
PE & Health and Social Care	Sonny L	Lilah S	Violet R	Core PE – Tia A Sports Studies: David O GCSE: Isabella H H&S care: Chloe-Mae G	Core PE – Scarlett L-W GCSE: Miranda H
Design	Remy K	Tamzin R	David B	DT: Maeden C Engineering: Paul R Food: Archie H Art: Alfie B	Engineering: Marcus A Food: Niamh C Art: Erin L

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:

Ernest Y for his brilliant attitude towards work in lessons.

Year 8 – Ms Andrews:

Tamzin R for consistently following the SJH way.

Year 9 – Mr Thomson:

Scarlett L for an excellent attitude to learning.

Year 10 – Mr Ritchie:

David O for having the highest positive points in the year group this week

Year 11 – Mrs Smith:

James P for consistently trying his best in all aspects.

School News



Other useful links:

Safeguarding concerns: please email 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

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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School News



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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