



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

SJH Newsletter

Compassion – Aspiration – Respect – Excellence – Determination – Faithfulness – Optimism – Reconciliation
Friday 25 October 2024



Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Readers,

It's hard to believe that we are already at the end of the first part of the Advent Term and that we will take our half term rest at the end of today, after what has been a tremendous start to the year for us all. Our school has been a calm and orderly environment overall (there are always 'moments' in a school) but our students have returned focus and determined since the summer. Huge thanks to our staff who support them day-in and day-out and are constantly striving to have high expectations of them in the hope of their future success.

This week, we have also taken another step in passing on the responsibility of our school to our students, as we have appointed our first ever group of

Important upcoming dates

Half term holiday: 28 Oct – 1 Nov 2024

Year 11 parents evening – 6 Nov 2024 –
further details to follow

Senior Students, who will support our student body in bringing about change they wish to see in our school. Having interviewed several of the students myself, I was so impressed by what they said and what they have to offer the rest of the student body. I have no doubt they will be a huge success.

This week, we have also had the privilege of being involved in a Climate Change research project led by Loughborough University, a place very close to my own heart! Many thanks to Mrs Etienne for her support with this!

Finally, but just as importantly, today we celebrate the feast of the Canonization of Saint John Houghton, our patron, a day we are hugely proud of. We are the only school **IN THE WORLD**, with our name. This makes us unique and different, which we must never forget. Have a lovely break, more in two weeks...

Garde ta Foi! Guard your Faith!

Mr S Brogan - Headteacher

'Inspiring ambition and excellence, guided by Christ'

Telephone: 0115 9322896

email: schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

School News



Nut Allergies:

We have several students within school who have severe nut allergies. We aim to be a nut free school and kindly remind parents/carers and students that nuts and food containing nuts must not be brought into school.

Secondary school admissions for Year 7 - September 2025:

A reminder that if you have a child who is currently in year 6, the closing date to make applications for secondary school places is 31 October 2024, applications must be made through your Local Authority.

If you wish to apply on faith grounds, a supplementary form and evidence of faith must be sent directly to our school, the link to the supplementary form is below:

<https://www.srscmat.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/03/St-Ralph-Sherwin-Supplementary-information-Form-2025-26.pdf>

Number 11 bus fare increase:

We have been informed that the bus fare for the number 11 bus shared with Kirk Hallam Academy will be increased to £1.50 per journey from Monday 4th November 2024.

School Uniform Policy:

There have been a few changes to the school uniform policy, the updated policy is now on our website, the link is below:

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

Notable changes are that white polo tops will no longer be permitted during the summer term, white short or long sleeve shirts must continue to be worn throughout the school year.

The reason for the change is that we recognise that purchasing extra polo tops to be worn in the summer are an extra expense to parents/carers.

After listening to students' suggestions, black tailored shorts will be able to be worn in the summer term – after the Easter break. They must be **smart tailored shorts**, any other shorts including sports shorts will not be permitted.

School vacancy:

We are currently recruiting for Exam Invigilator's to join our school on a casual basis, further details about the post are on the below link:

<https://www.srscmat.co.uk/work-with-us/vacancies-single/?Category=Exam%2520Invigilators&Advert=8iTsIbXMNDVFXKoR3Vqtcw%3D%3D&Region=SainJohnHoughtonCatholicVoluntaryAcademy>

School News



Year 11 Leavers Celebration:

The Year 11 Leavers celebration will be held on Thursday 19 June 2025 at Morley Hayes. Further information regarding purchasing tickets will be sent out in due course.

Creative iMedia Coursework Support

Starting after half term, year 10 and year 11 iMedia students may use CP1 for coursework catchup and support.

It will be available Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes along with Tuesday after school from 3.15-4.15pm.

Loughborough University research project:

Mrs Etienne and the Geography department were delighted to host Loughborough University this week with a group of Key Stage 3 students to discuss the issues around Climate Change. A former SJH student, Mr Bilby returned to our school to conduct critical research for his dissertation titled "Climate Change in a school curriculum: A key stage three perspective" forming part of his BSC Honours in Geography.

Students took part in a number of activities including quizzes, discussion and debate about all things Climate Change. They were a credit to our school and offered some very insightful thoughts and opinions about the topic of climate change and its impact on our daily lives.

Mrs Etienne would like to thank all of those involved and congratulate the below students on being such "global citizens", it was a pleasure to observe them and see all the teaching they have received helping to formulate their thoughts and feelings around this very topical issue.

Year 7: Jessica S, Beth R, Evie P, Finaly W, Charlie L and Summer B

Year 8: Gabriella W, Jacob L, Isla T, Thomas C, Amelia-May O and Evie Mae M

Year 9: Kalma S-H, Isaac T, Lois-Skye J, Caleb Y and Conor C

School News



Carousel

The English department would like to praise the number of students using the Carousel study packs this year. In the last three weeks, we have had over 5,000 students answering questions on the Carousel study packs.

Year 7 - 1016 questions

Year 8 - 1354 questions

Year 9 - 167 questions

Year 10 - 857 questions

Year 11 - 1697 questions

As you can see Year 11 are the leaders at the moment. We will be take a snapshot of the top students in each year group on the last day of each month.

Please remind your child to use the study packs as part of their regular work and revision. Revision should not be a last-minute thing. Revision is a year long thing in school. The more you know, the better you do in subjects.

Thank you,
The English department

School News



Arbor:

Your child should have received instructions on how to access Arbor. They will need to access Arbor to view their homework.

If your child can successfully log into Arbor, please ignore this message.

If your child has not yet been able to login to Arbor, please ask them to follow the instructions below.

Please note, there is no student Arbor App, so they will need to log into Arbor using a normal web browser such as Google Chrome or MS Edge.

Go to <https://login.arbor.sc>

Click **Forgot your password**

Enter your school email address and click **Reset Password**.

Log into your school email and then follow the instructions on the email. (Students can login to their email using [Microsoft 365 email](#) - If they are unable to login to their email, they need to speak to their form tutor).

Once you have set your password, you need to use your school email address and the new password to login to [Arbor](#).

If they are still not able to login, please ask them to speak to their form tutor or the school office.

Arbor update – Homework:

As we introduce Arbor to the student body we are beginning to set homework on the platform. In Arbor all Homework tasks are called 'Assignments'. Teaching staff are also asking students to write any homework into their Student Diary to support those who have not logged into Arbor yet.

Currently, most Homework set on Arbor allows the teacher to manually mark when a student submits a task. Until the Teacher has marked the homework as being submitted, it will still show as outstanding on the student and parent/carer Arbor information page.

All staff are working hard to learn the new systems that Arbor has. No student will be sanctioned for outstanding homework, that may still be showing on Arbor, when their teacher knows that they have submitted the work.

Thank you for your ongoing support with Arbor - any queries please direct to: schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

Arbor attendance marks:

Please allow at least 24 hours before querying any discrepancies in attendance marks, if you have any queries regarding attendance marks, please email studentabsence@sjh.srscmat.co.uk



Attendance update:

Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing!

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

5 consecutive days of term time leave

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days. Inset training days are school days and can be included in the 5 or more consecutive days where there was intent to be absent for term time leave.

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate, due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

Can my child take a holiday in term time?

The simple answer is NO – pupils can only take leave of absence during term time if this is approved in advance by the school. Leave taken without permission may result in a penalty notice and or prosecution.



The Law and School Attendance:

In September 2013 the government introduced new regulations making it clear that Headteachers must not give approval for any leave of absence during term time, including holidays, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Any requests for term time leave should be made on a Request for Leave form available from the school office and handed in at least 12 days before the first date of the requested absence whenever possible. You must have received written authorisation before your child can be absent from school.

Parent/carers may be issued with a penalty notice fine or prosecution should leave of 5 days or more be taken which is not authorised by the Headteacher, or where repeated incidents of leave in term time for less than 5 days occur or where the unauthorised absence contributes to wider poor attendance that meets the legal threshold. Absence deemed for the reason of unauthorised leave in term time will be marked in the register with the Attendance code G.

Absence during Term Time

The Headteacher will only grant an **exceptional leave of absence** to a pupil during term time if the request meets the specific circumstances.

The school considers each application for term-time absence individually, taking into account the specific facts, circumstances and relevant background context behind the request.

Matters **NOT** considered 'exceptional circumstances' include:

- The family cannot afford to go on holiday in school holiday time, or have a special holiday offer for term time.
- To visit family members abroad (unless they are severely ill which may be considered).
- To spend time with a family member who is visiting from abroad in term time.
- Because you or your partner cannot get time off work during school holiday time.
- You have a family tradition of going at a certain time of year.
- Going away for a birthday celebration (including the child's birthday)

Home visits where pupils don't attend school

When a pupil is absent from school, and no reason for absence is received, the school will contact parents/carers by text message or phone call. In the event we are unable to make contact regarding the absence, the school may try other contacts held on a child's record and/or reserve the right to make an unannounced home visit.

Penalty Notices

Leave of absence that has not been approved will therefore be unauthorised and may lead to a referral being made to the Local Authority for action. If unpaid this could lead to prosecution under section 444(1) of The Education Act 1996

School News



Chaplaincy:

November - a month to remember:

It is a Catholic Tradition, that during the month of November we remember our dead, those who have no one to pray for, our friends, our family, our loved ones.

SJH staff want to offer as many opportunities as possible for our young people to gather and remember.

We will be selling poppies in school - so please try to bring a small amount of cash on you.

We will have conversation around our Poppy Wreath Display, and you are invited to knit a poppy, or as many as you can, for this display please.

We offer a Bereavement Retreat; details are included below..

We offer a Bereavement Service: Friday 15th November, in our School Chapel at 11.30am, an opportunity to gather, hear a poem and prayer, time to light a candle and read the list of names gathered by the SJH family and refreshments to share. This is open to parents and carers and students, please email rrose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk if you would like to join this special time. Please email by Thursday 7th November 2024.

We will have 8.00am Mass in our Chapel on Thursday 14th November 2024 with breakfast to follow, with thanks to Fr Paul for his wonderful support. Parents, carers, students are welcome to Mass.

We will have the 'November Dead List' ready for you to add names. You can collect an envelope, make a list of names and return it to SJH or Rachel to take to the parish and these will be placed on the altar throughout November. Nine Masses will be celebrated for all the names included in the envelopes across the three churches. If you would like to enclose a donation for the Masses, please do so, but this is really about celebrating the lives of those we have loved.

November Memorial Candles: Memorial candles will be available from Rachel priced at £2.00 cash please, together with a prayer sheet that can be used to remember those of our loved ones who have died. These candles can be placed on graves, memorial gardens or simply lit at home. Say the prayer on the sheet with family and friends, adding the names of those you would like to remember.

In school retreat:

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 21st November for the students who have lost a parent through death. 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.

School News



Chaplaincy:

Shareware:

SJH was the first school to partner with Shareware: Clothing Poverty Scheme. Thank you all for the donations of good quality clothing. A special thanks to our Year 7 members of Team Chaplaincy who have worked incredibly hard on the Shareware Team this week! We have worked with Shareware to give items to our local community, all items go clean and ironed and season appropriate. All are given free. Do you know we have enough clothing in England for 6 generations!!! With this in mind can we stop collecting for Shareware until March 2025, we have more than enough clothing for Winter, and early spring, and we can concentrate on collecting and providing SJH School uniform? Please can you share your thoughts? We do not want to become a 'decluttering point' and we do need to stop purchasing new clothes. The SJH Shareware Team look forward to hearing from you.



Faith in Action Award:

All are invited to join an information meeting on Thursday 14th November 2024 at 5.00pm for the Faith in Action Award, in SJH Hall at 5.00pm. This is 'The Catholic Duke of Edinburgh Award', it is a marvellous opportunity to come along and register for the 2024-5 Award Scheme, meet Rachel and ask any questions. The meeting will end by 5.20pm. Go for Pin, Bronze, Silver or Gold!

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School News



Chaplaincy:



Dear SJH Community,

This is a wonderful opportunity to support our local Parish. If you would like Rachel and Team to collect a ball of yarn for you to knit for Ukraine please email Rachel asap. Closing date 1st December 2024

Saint Anne's Knitting Group:

We were delighted to give Fr Joby a homemade scarf to keep him warm this Autumn. We know Fr Joby's family are in India and we do give thanks and pray for our Priests so we decided to make a Sophie Scarf for Fr Joby's mum and send it with some photographs and a letter. This gave birth to a new idea, which we would like you to share your thoughts with us. SJH will ask if any teenagers would like an 'old fashioned pen-friend' and we could write/email and grow in friendship. Who knows where this could lead but with Christ at the Centre and in the Jubilee Year and being Pilgrims of Hope it's certainly exciting and full of hope!

Prayer Group in SJH:

Open to parishioners, parents, staff and students. You do not have to be Catholic or good at praying to join in, it would be helpful if you email if you are joining us, so we can prepare space and refreshments. This is prayer, not 'thought for the day' or gossip - you are in good hands in SJH. All Welcome.

8.00am - 8.20am followed by bacon rolls and coffee, vegetarian and vegan option available. Prayer Group in SJH Chapel because we are still in The Year of Prayer. 6th November 24, 20th November 24, 27th November 24, 4th December 24.

School News



Chaplaincy:

Chaplaincy Lunchtime Club:

Well done and thank you to all who support Chaplaincy Lunchtime Clubs! Your hard work and effort is much appreciated. Thank you!



Can you name the language 'Prayer' is sewn in: Prize for the first three correct answers. These prayer 'bricks' will go to Eastwood Church to make a 'Prayer Wall' because we are in 'The Year of Prayer'. Please make one over half term and hand into Rachel. Great work for Team SJH!!



School News



Friends of Saint John Houghton Catholic Voluntary Academy:

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

6.12.24, 24.01.25, 2.05.25.

11.30am-12.30pm

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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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 2024-2025:

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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SJH School holiday dates and inset days 2025-2026 – Additional inset days will be confirmed in due course:

Inset day 1	Thursday 4 September 2025
Year 7 only in school	Friday 5 September 2025
All years return to school	Monday 8 September 2025
Inset day 2	Friday 26 September 2025
October half term	Monday 27 - Friday 31 October 2025
Inset day	TBC
Christmas holidays	Monday 22 December 2025 – Friday 2 January 2026
February half term	Monday 16 – Friday 20 February 2026
Trust Inset Day	TBC
Easter holidays	Monday 30 March – Friday 10 April 2026
May half term	Monday 25 – Friday 29 May 2026
Inset Day	TBC
Last day of term	Thursday 23 July 2026

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