



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

SJH Newsletter

Compassion – Aspiration – Respect – Excellence – Determination – Faithfulness – Optimism – Reconciliation
Friday 13 December 2024



Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Newsletter and thank you for reading. I hope you are well and that your own personal preparations for the festive season family are going well. This week in the Brogan household, we held a planning meeting for the 'big day' and I was delighted to learn I will be cooking for 13 this year. 'Bah Humbug I say' to quote the GCSE text we study in school!

Year 11 have also been writing about A Christmas Carol and today, they have completed their final Mock Exam of this period. They have been tremendous over the past fortnight, with no issues being raised about their conduct or behaviour. We are so very proud of them!

Important upcoming dates

Christmas holidays – Monday 23 December
2024 – Friday 3 January 2025
SJH 60th Jubilee – Tuesday 7 January 2025

We were also delighted to welcome Miss Bayliss to our Admin Team this week as she started with us on Monday. She has settled in beautifully and told me this week that she has 'felt very welcome and is enjoying it.'

Recently our GCSE results and other data for 2023/2024 was confirmed. It can be found by clicking [here](#). We are so proud of the improvements we have made.

Next week, we look forward in earnest to Christmas week in school. It really is one of the highlights of the school year, with so much planned for our students. We cannot wait and I know they are excited too. Friday will be a Christmas themed non-uniform day. If students do not have a Christmas jumper or T-shirt, the colours red and green will suffice. Please give what you can on the day to support our charity work this year. 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



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.

Christmas dinner – Wednesday 18 December 2024:

Christmas dinner will be on Wednesday 18 December 2024. There will be no breakfast bar available. Only Christmas dinner will be served on this day, no other lunchtime food will be available. If students do not want a Christmas dinner, they will need to bring a packed lunch.

Early Closure – Friday 20 December 2024:

School will be closing at 2.15pm on the last day of term, the school buses will collect students at 2.15pm. The number 11 bus will not be running that week.

Lunchtime food – Friday 20 December 2024:

There will be a limited range of breakfast bar food available in the morning. The following food will be available at lunchtime - Cheese Paninis, Cheese & Tomato pizza & Pasta pots (tomato &/or cheese). There will be NO fish and chips served or cold sandwiches.

Non uniform day – Friday 20 December 2024:

Students will be able to come to school in non uniform , preferably with a Christmas theme on the last day of term. We are asking for a voluntary contribution towards the school charities. Please ensure students dress appropriately for the weather conditions.

Number 11 bus users:

Kirk Hallam Community Academy are closed Monday 16 to Friday 20 December 2024, therefore the number 11 bus will not be running that week, parents/carers will need to make alternative travel arrangements, apologies for any inconvenience caused.

School News



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 we hope to start distribution in early January 2025. Derbyshire County Council 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 their website at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund

Safeguarding news:

Supporting Children Through Bereavement - Place2Be

When someone close to you dies, it can be a difficult process. For adults this process, whilst painful, can be digested by using the mechanisms we all develop through our early years. That first experience with bereavement, is a necessary but undeniably painful experience which will produce resilient adults. However, it is a process that must be dealt with delicately. For pupils the first death will likely be a grandparent, or an uncle. Individuals that usually have played an immense role in the formative years of that child or young person. Since the processing of death is an intensely private thing for adults, it may not be obvious how to support someone experiencing it for the first time. Place2B has published a guide to handling this occurrence in children and young people. For more information, please follow the link below:

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/article/supporting-your-child-when-someone-dies>

The Diocese of Nottingham is recruiting Foundation Governors for its Catholic schools:

Would you like to offer your support?

Foundation governors are an integral part of the leadership and management of our Catholic schools and make a substantial contribution to their success. Most people find being a governor to be highly rewarding. Across the Diocese, we have a number of vacancies that we need to fill. Bishop Patrick is inviting practising Catholics to come forward who are willing to become foundation governors in our Catholic schools. You don't need to have an educational background, training is provided. If you have the commitment and desire to become a foundation governor now or in the near future, we would be delighted to hear from you.

More information about being a foundation governor is available from

- the poster and leaflets available in your parish
- the Diocesan Education Service Governor Support Team, (01332 293833) or
- the Nottingham Diocese Education Service website, where you find a 'Self-Nomination' form which we would encourage you to complete and return Education Service (dioceseofnottingham.uk)

School News



Chaplaincy:

The Word of the Week has been Peace and our Mission has been, 'Find a way to bring peace into a difficult situation.' Our purple Advent Candles have been burning brightly as we wait for 'the Prince of Peace'.

Next week our Word of the Week is JOY and our Mission is: 'Think of something you can do for someone else that brings them joy.'

We will light the 'rose' coloured candle!



SJH Bereavement Team

Well done to Year 8 Team Chaplaincy Bereavement Team who led Pastoral Care and Bereavement Training to Chaplains and Pastoral Care Assistants. On behalf of SJH staff, may I congratulate you on your input. You were most professional, well organised and inspirational. How wonderful to receive a 'thank you' email from our visitors which said they returned to their schools, 'inspired and ready to go.' Thank you, Yr 8, for making a difference in our beautiful and broken world. Rachel



School News



Chaplaincy:

THANK YOU

Former School Captain, 2023-4, Sophie Shelbourne, returned to SJH with a very special, 'thank you' gift. Sophie and her family chose to show their gratitude to the staff and school family for the care and support SJH gave to Sophie by donating Altar Wear for our school.

Please do take a moment to look at the photograph and notice the locally made lace manufactured by Cluny lace, the embroidery by Hamilton's and Mr Shelbourne's place of work and I am sure you will agree they are really beautiful, and we have been totally spoilt!

This very special Altar Wear will be used for the first time for our 60th Anniversary Mass, Bishop Partick will bless this special gift and we will have a plaque made with Sophie's name on along with the dates she was School Captain, in our Linen wardrobe.



John 3:16

Congratulations to our latest Student Group, John 3:16, who have organised Pax Christi prayer cards and badges for our SJH Students in time for Peace Sunday on January 19th. This group of students are the students who met the deadline, organised themselves and are planning the Flame trip in March 25. Great Work SJH!



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School News



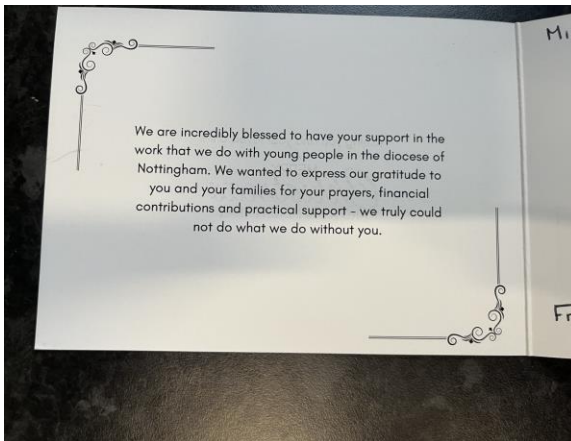
Chaplaincy:

NDCYS

Briars and SJH are stronger together, we pray for one another, we share ideas, and of course, Molly, former SJH student, is on the 2024-5 Briars Team!

Year 7 were delighted to see Miss Turgoose receive a Christmas Card from The Briars Team and agree she deserves a shoutout for all the organising it took to make the Retreat for Year 7 simply brilliant!

Competition: The first student to email Rachel what NDCYS stands for and win a prize!



Secondhand Uniform

Please do not buy new when we have excellent uniform to give you! Take a look in our Reception - all uniform is washed and ironed and good to go!



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Chaplaincy:

60th Anniversary

Thank you to all our Parishioners, Parish Ambassadors, former students, staff and Mr Brogan for meeting to finalise the plans for our 60th Anniversary. We '**Guard our Faith**' and put our heart into all that we do for the good of others, wearing our 'SJH red uniform'.



A beautiful Advent

Tradition: Bambinelli Sunday, Blessing the Christ Child.

Every parish connected with SJH will have a SJH pupil taking the Baby Jesus from the Cribs in SJH to their local parish this weekend and the Parish Priest will ask them to hold the statue high whilst he blessed the Christ Child figure. The Christ child will then be wrapped in Christmas wrapping paper and placed on the fireplace, under the Christmas Tree or in the Crib and - this is the important part.....***This is the first gift to be opened on Christmas morning and placed in the manger!!*** Please do head over to Eastwood Church for the 11.00am service this Sunday, take your nativity Baby Jesus, Fr Paul would be delighted to meet you.

School News



Chaplaincy:

Monday 9th December 2024 The Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, principle patron of our diocese.

How wonderful to have the support from Fr Paul, to drive from Eastwood on a dark and cold December morning to celebrate mass with the SJH family. More thanks to the students who made the effort to join Mr Brogan and team. All are welcome!



Faith in Action Award

There is no stopping Lucy, who was Confirmed on the Friday night and was back to serve refreshments and inspire others to begin, 'The Faith in Action Award', on Saturday in Stapleford for the 5.00am Mass! 27 young people were invited to serve for this special occasion and only Lucy attended - definitely Gold Medal material!

School News



Chaplaincy:

Friends of SJH Coffee Morning

All are welcome to join us for these coffee mornings! Last Friday was a great gathering. Our Student Leaders shared our plans for our Jubilee Year and explained the logo and how we will be 'Pilgrims of Hope.' Fr Paul, Parish Ambassadors, past students, parents had the opportunity to chat and enjoy mince pies. Thank you all who made this time so special!

We then dashed off to Eastwood Church for their Shared Lunch, cheered The Priory Choir who sang like angels, had a game of BINGO, enjoyed a Turkey Baps and cake and helped with the washing up! Just as we thought it couldn't get any better we won the raffle. If you would like to become a Parish Ambassador please contact Rachel: rrose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk



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Chaplaincy:

Reverse Advent Bags

SJH students please remember to give your donations in Tutor Time, to Rachel or Reception! Thank you to all the parents who have brought items into school for our Charity work - every item is a blessing and will make a difference this Christmas somebody! Let's give with JOY - and email Rachel so you are certain to get that all important Virtue Point!



Thank you SoundCrew for all the service you give to make our Acts of Worship run smoothly! Thank you for accepting the challenge to light our Advent Candles this week - without you many people would not hear the Good News, we are grateful for the support you give and appreciate the manners and positivity. Well done!



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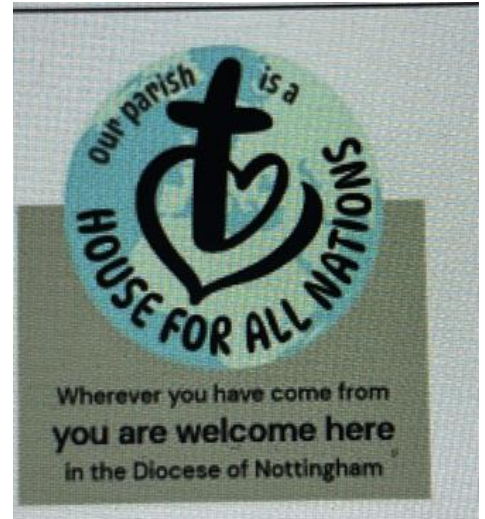
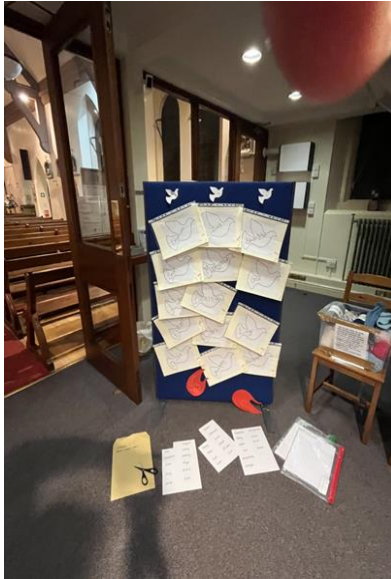
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School News



Chaplaincy:

The Parish of Our Lady and the Beauvale Martyrs



The Sacrament of Confirmation 2024.

A time to grow and change, to grow in faith and commitment, to spend time in prayer, to give a day for retreat and mission at The Briars with NDCYS, The Mass of commitment, to encounter the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, to live Catholic Social Teaching with service, justice and peace and to experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and to be Confirmed in the Catholic Faith.



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Chaplaincy:

The Sacrament of Confirmation confirms and strengthens what happens in Baptism – when we are marked for Christ, when we are called to become like Him and to do His work. Our preparation was based on Scripture, keynote speakers who shared their faith story and small group work to help the young people deepen their relationship with Christ through conversation and prayer.



A time for the all to speak for themselves and to declare what they believe. To receive the Sacrament of initiation. A time to deepen our relationship with Jesus and understand the call to be His followers. To choose a sponsor, a Saint and name which means something to you. To know God wants us all in his kingdom and Jesus give us a mission of love that goes beyond any other love.

6th December 2024 The Sacrament of Confirmation Celebrant Bishop Patrick McKinney:



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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

Date: 24.01.25 Time: 11.30am-12.30pm

Date: 02.05.24 Year 11 Mass 11.30am
Friends of SJH 1.00pm – 2.00pm

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	Bethany R	Jessica P	Kyla K	Hallie B	Eliza F
English	Imogen-Grace C	Maisie W	Toluwanimi O	Maisie L	Amy Q
Science	Elisia T	Jaycee C	Cindy C	Summer P	David O
Theology Years 7 & 8 Religious Education Years 7,9 & 10	Ewan T	Reggie R	Ava F	Hollie A P	Millie A
Geography	Ayo E-A	Isla T	Oliver J	Isla F	Ayooluwa E-A
History	Arif B	Cara J	Natasha G	Sonny K	Eleanor A
Computing & Business	Emilio S	Kyra W	Charlie B	Business: Ifi T iMedia: Nikolay B	Chidera N Business: Yenuli F iMedia: Lily-Mae W
Music	Penelope S	Phoebe S	Mollie W	Isabella O	Lexie-Mae H
French	Lacie S	Jayden L	Mia P	Lucy B	Olivia D
Spanish	Agyei-B K	Maisie J	Lily M-P	Sebastian F	Niamh W
PE & Health & Social Care	Caitlin C	Katelyn P	Joseph R	Dawn M GCSE: Oliver J H&S care: Evie H Sports studies: Evie-Mai D	Harry G GCSE: Olivia B Sports Studies: David O
Design	Gulseren S	Fraser H-G	Matilda C	DT: Alfie S Engineering: Jamie M Art: Tymoteusz G Food: Logan J	DT: Cherish R Engineering: Niall F-W Art: Isali F Food: Archie Y

School News



Roll of honour from Year Leaders:

The following students have been recognised by their KS3 or KS4 Leader. Well done to these students.

Miss Turgoose:

Year 7: Benjamin M for his brilliant start to SJH.

Year 8: Charlie A for always following the SJH way.

Year 9: Magdalena A for being an exemplary student.

Mr Ritchie:

Year 10: Amy May H for consistently following the Saint John Houghton Virtues.

Year 11: Yenuli and Isali F for all their consistent hard work in lessons.

The Saint John Houghton Award:

Ellen T-B in year 9 has been nominated by staff for this week's St John Houghton Award, she has been nominated for guarding her faith and representing the school community.

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 2024-2025:

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 3	Monday 8 December 2025
Christmas holidays	Monday 22 December 2025 – Friday 2 January 2026
February half term	Monday 16 – Friday 20 February 2026
Inset Day (Trust) 4	Monday 23 February 2026
Easter holidays	Monday 30 March – Friday 10 April 2026
May half term	Monday 25 – Friday 29 May 2026
Inset Day 5	Friday 3 July 2026
Last day of term	Thursday 23 July 2026

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