



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

SJH Newsletter

Compassion – Aspiration – Respect – Excellence – Determination – Faithfulness – Optimism – Reconciliation
Friday 20 December 2024



Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter, thank you for reading and for sticking with us throughout this term. Needless to say, this week has been all things Christmas as we enjoyed Christmas Lunch on Wednesday and today, we signed off the year, as we always do at Saint John Houghton with the Panto, put on by the staff for our students and, as is tradition, we sang the Twelve Days of Christmas. The staff Christmas Song was especially awful this year!

This has been a long term and I know that many of us are ready for a break here in school. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Students are back in school on Monday 6 January 2025.

Important upcoming dates

Christmas holidays – Monday 23 December 2024 – Friday 3 January 2025
SJH 60th Jubilee – Tuesday 7 January 2025
Year 11 photographs – Monday 13 January 2025

I am delighted to say that this week, Miss Boswell, who has been working with us for some time became a permanent member of staff. She is already 'part of the furniture' at Saint John Houghton and I am sure that she will continue the good work she has already been doing.

I am also delighted to report that a number of students received their 'School Colours' this week, a great tradition of our school. This is a different tie that represents that a student has lived out the virtues of our school and has gone above and beyond.

We are very much looking forward to the start of the new year and the celebration of our 60th anniversary and celebrating and reflecting on the history of our great school, after that well-earned rest. More in the new year...
Garde ta Foi! Guard your Faith!
Mr S Brogan - Headteacher

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Telephone: 0115 9322896

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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.

School reopen – Monday 6 January 2025:

School will reopen to all students following the Christmas holidays on Monday 6 January 2025.

Request for borrowed PE to be returned:

We have had a number of items of PE kit and trainers taken home by students that belong to the PE department. Could you please check if your child has borrowed PE kit or trainers and has bought these home, please could it be returned after the Christmas break as this is needed to loan to other students

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

School News



BookBuzz project:

Christmas came early for our Year 7s! As part of the BookBuzz project, each Year 7 student has received a free book.

We are incredibly grateful to the school's PTA for funding this wonderful initiative.



Carousel:

The English Department would like to praise the following students for their use of Carousel. Between them, they have answered 6158 questions and completed 170 quizzes since October. Well done to Elisia T (Year 7), Ernest Y (Year 8), Kyrillos A (Year 9), Natalia L (Year 10), Jayden H (Year 11).



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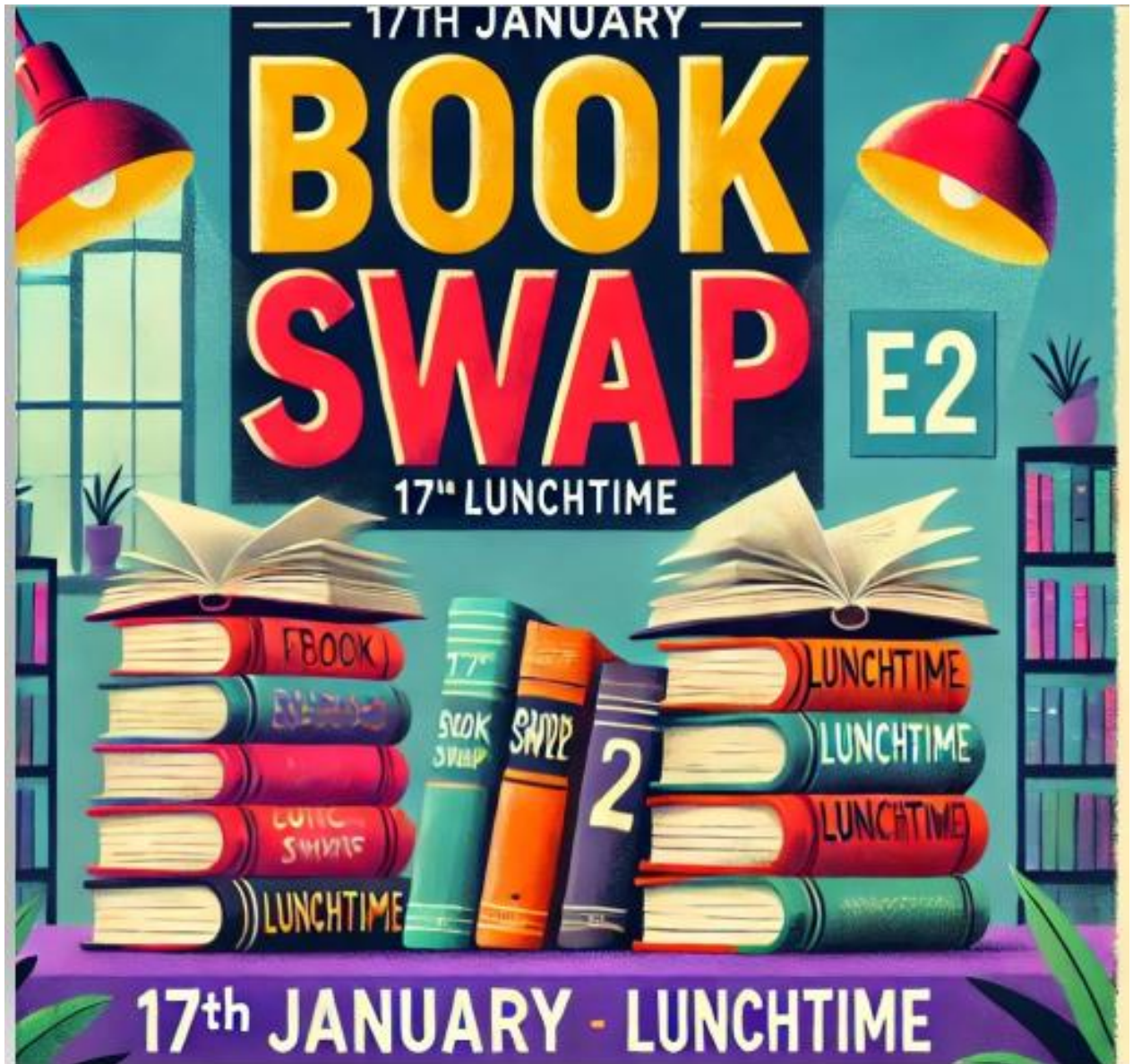
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Book swap

Students are able to bring a book to E2 to swap for another at lunchtime on Friday 17 January 2025



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Chaplaincy:

Reverse Advent Bags

Here in SJH we understand love and 'give and take' and see Advent as a wonderful opportunity to give to those in need. On behalf of SJH please may I take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity donating Reverse Advent Calendar items. You have given with good and generous hearts and it is very much appreciated. Thank you. Rachel



Beauvale Pilgrimage

A date for your diary. May 4th 2025 Bishop Patrick will celebrate Mass at the Beauvale Ruins at 2.00pm. SJH pupils are very welcome to attend. Why not visit the tearooms over the Christmas break? Saint Anne's Knitting Group had their Christmas breakfast in Beauvale Tearooms on Saturday - what a treat!



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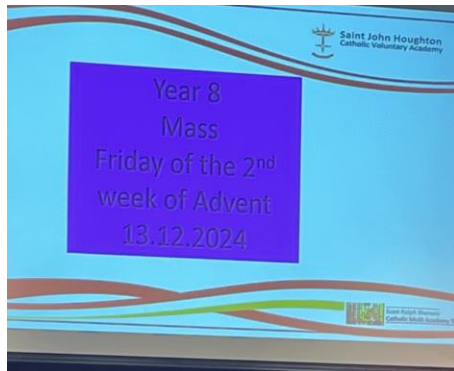


Chaplaincy:

Year 8 Mass in Advent

On Friday 13th December, Year 8 gathered for Mass in Advent.

It was lovely to welcome Fr Joby and Lee into SJH. Lee shared the Mascot for the Jubilee of Hope and encouraged us to be the 'light' in the world. It was good to have Fr Joby with us and he told us he had enjoyed visiting his mum in India and was looking forward to celebrating Christmas in Ilkeston and welcomed us all to Mass over the Christmas season. Team Chaplaincy Year 8 said, 'this was a good time for resetting our relationship with God and our friends.' Well, done and thank you to Mr Quenby and the choir, Mrs Hartham and all the pupils who prepared the Mass, read the Readings of the Day and all who made this possible.



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Chaplaincy:

Faith in Action Award

A huge amount of service is taking place in SJH and these hours will go towards the Faith in Action Award. Well done and thank you to all who are going the extra mile!

Here in SJH we have staff, students, Tutor Groups and Parishioners who are aiming for Bronze, Silver and Gold level. Please pray for these groups, that we keep Christ at the Centre of all we do.



Travelling Nativity

Year 7 have been busy reflecting on The Holy Family this week. Would you recognise God as a foreigner seeking asylum? Mary and Joseph had to flee and asked for a night's shelter. We have prayed for anyone without a place to reside in. Can you join your prayers with ours this Advent and open your heart to God this Christmas? Our Nativity, made by SJH pupils, has travelled around the Year 7 Tutor Groups. Thank you to all involved!



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Chaplaincy:

Christmas dinner

Thank you to the staff and students who prepared our hall for Christmas Dinner and our Superhero's, the kitchen staff who really spoilt us - the hard work and effort involved is appreciated.



Parish Ambassadors

Our SJH Parish Ambassadors have chatted to Eastwood Parishioners and made their Christmas cakes from their recipe; the cakes will go into our local community as gifts! Great Teamwork!



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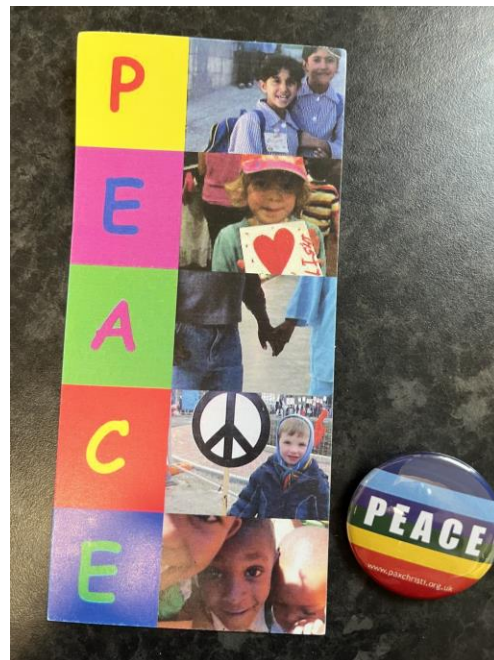
CAFOD CLUB

We meet in the Chapel on Monday lunchtime and welcome new members. All are doing well on the Draughts Tournament and we will visit and challenge the local residents in the Care Home in 2025. The SJH Choir will join us - will you?



Flame 2025

Members of SJH who will be attending Flame 2025 are preparing, supporting and promoting Peace Sunday, January 19th 2025. In our beautiful and broken world SJH pupils are taking the spark of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, to reawaken in us a blessed hope for a peaceful future - well done Lucy, Elena, David, Weluchi, Sasha and Honey for setting the world on fire! A suggested donation for these badges and bookmarks is £1.00 and the Flame Team will be selling them in January 2025.



School News



Chaplaincy:

How will you enjoy your 'pigs in blankets' this Christmas and will you try #Go Vegan or #Go Vegetarian in January? Please know SJH Chaplain, Rachel, is happy to chat to you and share some vegetarian meals. Do we need to grow in understanding and knowledge of the food we eat and where it comes from? Do you wish we served Oat 'milk'? Let me know your thoughts, thank you, Rachel.



Take Care Please

December can be a difficult time of year for bereaved families. A time without their special person. Here in SJH we have given time to remember that special someone important to them by making a bauble, Christmas tree decoration, to hang on the tree at home, in the hope it helps families know they are not alone, and it gives an opportunity to talk and share stories and memories of their special person.



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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 –
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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:

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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