



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

# SJH Newsletter

Compassion – Aspiration – Respect – Excellence – Determination – Faithfulness – Optimism – Reconciliation  
Friday 29 November 2024



## Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Readers,

Hello all and welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter, after what has been a much more 'normal' week in school after the disruption of last week and the awful weather. We are hurtling towards Christmas and it is hard to believe that Advent begins on Sunday. Next week, we will begin our week with Advent Liturgies on Monday and Tuesday as we begin the journey (and countdown!) to the manger and the birth of Jesus Christ.

Monday also marks the beginning of the first set of Mock Exams for our Year 11 students. I know that so many of them have been working hard and preparing themselves for these exams and we wish them well. It was wonderful to celebrate with last year's Year 11

## Important upcoming dates

Year 10 parents evening – Wednesday 4 December 2024

Christmas holidays – Monday 23 December 2024 – Friday 3 January 2025

SJH 65th Jubilee – Tuesday 7 January 2025

students last week as they returned to school to receive their GCSE certificates. Please do have a look at our Facebook page or our Instagram account for more details. Why not 'follow' us while you are there.

We are also now in the final stages of planning for our 60th anniversary on 7 January 2025. The school will of course, be 60 years old and we will be joined by the Bishop to mark the anniversary of the day Blessed John Houghton School (as it then was) opened its doors to its first students. Please have a look at the website for more details.

Wishing you a lovely and restful weekend, 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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **2025-2026 Term Dates and Inset Days:**

The Inset Days for 2025-2026 have now been confirmed, they are on the last page of the newsletter.

## **Updated PE after school sports clubs, 3.15-4.15pm:**

Monday – Years 7-9 Badminton Club

Monday - Year 7 Boys Football

Tuesday - Netball Practice (All years)

Tuesday - Years 8/9/10 Boys Football

Thursday - Girls Basketball (All years)

Thursday - Fitness Suite (All years)

Thursday – Years 7-9 Rugby

## **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](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund)

# School News



## **2024 GCSE Mock Exams:**

All Year 11 students will be sitting their first set of GCSE Mock Exams this term - **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December**. Please can we ask for your support with student attendance during this period of time and to avoid taking your child out of school for any reason as 'catch up' mock exams are very difficult to arrange and we want all our students to have the best possible exam experience.

All exams will take place in the gym, unless a student has specific exam access arrangements. Daily updates will be available for students on the exams notice board in school and individual exam timetables will be given out to all students this week. A link to the school website with a copy of the exam timetable is below:

<https://www.stjohnhoughtonilkeston.srscmat.co.uk/curriculum/gcse-exams/>

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November all students will have an exams briefing, to inform them of key rules and guidance regarding GCSE examinations. Any exams queries please email - [schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk).

## **Good Food Show NEC:**

It was great to have the opportunity to take Year 10 GCSE Food and Nutrition students to the BBC Good food show in Birmingham. They had a fantastic foodie day out, complete with demos, shopping, recipe inspiration, interviews, tasting opportunities and celebrity appearances. Including: Top chefs including James Martin, Tom Kerridge, Gennaro Contaldo, and Jane Dunn An all-round great experience that gave them inspiration, ideas and knowledge as they move forward with their studies.

Mrs J Drury



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# School News



## Safeguarding news:

### **A Note on Dangerous Gifts - Child Accident Prevention Trust:**

December is on the horizon. Families around the country are already putting up Christmas trees and tinsel is starting to grace our high streets. Before long mince pies, Mariah Carey and mysteriously familiar Santa Clauses will make their way into our lives. This is all in good fun, and children from Lands End to John O'Groats look forward to the build up to Christmas all year. However, not all presents are created equally. More than ever our Christmas shopping is done online from an increasingly varied list of providers. From imitation manufacturers, to sellers platforms like Etsy and to third party small businesses that use known provider logistics services, we're all trusting people ever further removed from us to provide high quality goods. Unfortunately this is far from guaranteed. Production firms abroad or within a 'cottage industry' may not have the strict manufacturing standards applied in the UK, or expected as industry standard. The Child Accident Prevention Trust has published a list of eight gifts most likely to cause an accident this year. If interested please follow the link below. It's always important to remember that prevention is always better than repairing.

<https://capt.org.uk/8-dangerous-gifts-to-avoid-this-christmas/>

### **Action For Children - Support for Young Carers:**

What is a young carer?

A young carer is someone 18 years old or under who helps look after a relative with a disability, illness, mental health condition, or drug or alcohol problem. This could be a parent or a sibling. Some children begin giving care from a very young age, and others become carers overnight

How many young carers are there in the UK?

- Research shows that as many as [one in five children and young people are young carers](#).
- There are around [800,000 young carers](#) aged 11-16 in England alone.
- There are an estimated [1 million young carers](#) across the UK when accounting for the numbers in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

What do young carers do?

The responsibility of a young carer is wide and varied. It can include:

- Practical tasks, such as cooking, housework and shopping.
- Physical care, like helping someone out of bed.
- Emotional support, including talking to someone who is distressed.
- Personal care, such as helping someone dress.
- Managing the family budget and collecting prescriptions.
- Helping to give medicine.
- Helping someone communicate.
- Looking after brothers and sisters.

# School News



## Safeguarding news continued:

What support does Action for Children provide young carers?

At Action for Children we do our best to [support young carers](#). We want to make sure they have happy and safe childhoods.

We help nearly 3,700 children and young people who are young carers across the UK, giving them advice and respite through short breaks, activities, and the chance to connect with other young people like them.

We offer practical and emotional support to ensure they are able to enjoy their childhood.

We understand being a young carer can be very hard. That's why we're here to make things a little easier. We provide them with a chance to learn and have fun, helping them balance their caring responsibilities with being a child.

### Sidekick

Sidekick is an anonymous and confidential text service for young carers. It offers a chance for young carers to talk, have their questions answered or chat about worries and concerns. Young carers can text the service at any time and the team will find the answer and send a reply within 24 hours.

With many hidden young carers across the UK, Sidekick is how Action for Children is bridging the gap. The service is open to young carers across the UK – providing support beyond our existing services.

Text 07888 868 059 or visit online at [sidekick.actionforchildren.org.uk](https://sidekick.actionforchildren.org.uk)

More information can be found here <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/blog/young-carers-who-are-they-and-how-are-they-impacted/>



# School News



## Saint John Houghton CVA 60th Jubilee

We are approaching our 60th anniversary and finalising plans to mark this momentous occasion. We will be starting the New Year with our first celebration, a Jubilee Mass with Bishop Patrick McKinney on January 7th at 2.15pm. School will then be open until 5pm for light refreshments and a chance to catch up with old friends.

If you are an ex-student or former member of staff who would like to attend, please fill in this form <https://bit.ly/4fJGH8W> by December 9th 2024.



Saint John Houghton  
Catholic Voluntary Academy  
1965-2025

60<sup>th</sup>

*We warmly invite you to join us for our 60th Jubilee celebrations on Tuesday, January 7th 2025.*

We will be celebrating Mass with Bishop Patrick McKinney, please arrive by 2pm ready for a 2.15pm start. Light refreshments will be served afterwards and school will be open until 5pm for time to meet old friends and reminisce.

RSVP by Monday, December 9th 2024. Please scan the QR code and fill in the form to confirm your attendance.



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Chaplaincy:

**Come along and bring your friends to our...**

**Christmas**

**Coffee Morning**

**Saturday 7th December  
11am-2pm**

**Our Lady and St Thomas of Hereford Church  
Hall, Regent Street, Ilkeston DE7 5RF**

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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

**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 –

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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
<b>Maths</b>	Willow B	Cara J	Amelia S-J	Dominic T	Olivia B
<b>English</b>	Summer B	Isabella T	Finlay M	Sonny K	Niamh W
<b>Science</b>	Anthony M	Nicolo S	Magdalena A	Ethan G	Eliza F
<b>Theology Years 7 &amp; 8 Religious Education Years 7,9 &amp; 10</b>	Leo M	Jayden L	Ellen T-B	Dawn M	Aimee M
<b>Geography</b>	David H	Lily Jay S	Jacob F	Lottie L	Ayooluwa E-A
<b>History</b>	Ayo E-A	Jessica P	Ava J	Dylan P	George J
<b>Computing &amp; Business</b>	James A	Zain M	Caleb Y	Business: Robbie B IMedia: Mary F	Lewis L Business: Rhodina K IMedia: Monica W
<b>Music</b>	Honey P	Lily R	Peyton W	Harry B	Daisy S
<b>French</b>	Imogen-Grace C	Alfie D	Emedy J	Scarlett L	Casey M
<b>Spanish</b>	Isabella F	Christian H	Connor C	Casey E	Leo D
<b>PE &amp; Health &amp; Social Care</b>	Florence A	Zofia S	Solomon M	Freddie L GCSE: Alex K H&S care: Scarlett W Sports studies: Lucie B	Nikolaos T GCSE: Billy S Sports Studies: Liberty M
<b>Design</b>	Mylo L	Jacob O	Ava F	DT: Archie T Engineering: Harry L Art: Grace B Food: Lena M	DT: Alfie L Engineering: Sean O'S Art: Nathanael W Food: Charlee B

# 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: Dexter B for his fab start to life at SJH.

Year 8: Mide O for settling in well into year 8.

Year 9: Matilda G for trying hard across all subjects.

### **Mr Ritchie:**

Year 10: Harry L for showing the school virtue of excellence.

Year 11: Joanne S for showing the school virtue of excellence.

## **The Saint John Houghton Award:**

Gabriella W in year 8 has been nominated by staff for this week's St John Houghton Award, she has been nominated for striving for excellence, guarding her faith and supporting the school community.

# School News



## **Other useful links:**

**Safeguarding concerns:** please email [safeguarding@sjh.srscmat.co.uk](mailto: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:**

<b>Christmas holidays</b>	<b>Monday 23 December 2024 – Friday 3 January 2025</b>
<b>February half term</b>	<b>Monday 17 – Friday 21 February 2025</b>
<b>Trust Inset Day</b>	<b>Monday 24 February 2025</b>
<b>Easter holidays</b>	<b>Monday 7 – Monday 21 April 2025</b>
<b>May half term</b>	<b>Monday 26 – Friday 30 May 2025</b>
<b>Inset Day</b>	<b>Friday 4 July 2025</b>
<b>Last day of term</b>	<b>Thursday 24 July 2025</b>

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

<b>Inset day 1</b>	<b>Thursday 4 September 2025</b>
<b>Year 7 only in school</b>	<b>Friday 5 September 2025</b>
<b>All years return to school</b>	<b>Monday 8 September 2025</b>
<b>Inset day 2</b>	<b>Friday 26 September 2025</b>
<b>October half term</b>	<b>Monday 27 - Friday 31 October 2025</b>
<b>Inset day 3</b>	<b>Monday 8 December 2025</b>
<b>Christmas holidays</b>	<b>Monday 22 December 2025 – Friday 2 January 2026</b>
<b>February half term</b>	<b>Monday 16 – Friday 20 February 2026</b>
<b>Inset Day (Trust) 4</b>	<b>Monday 23 February 2026</b>
<b>Easter holidays</b>	<b>Monday 30 March – Friday 10 April 2026</b>
<b>May half term</b>	<b>Monday 25 – Friday 29 May 2026</b>
<b>Inset Day 5</b>	<b>Friday 3 July 2026</b>
<b>Last day of term</b>	<b>Thursday 23 July 2026</b>

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