



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

# SJH Newsletter

Compassion – Aspiration – Respect – Excellence – Determination – Faithfulness – Optimism – Reconciliation  
Friday 6 December 2024



## Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Readers,

Hello and welcome to the season of Advent, the period of spiritual preparation for Christmas. We marked the occasion this year with Advent liturgies led by the RE Team and we are looking forward, preparing and eagerly awaiting Christmas. It's hard to believe that two weeks today we will be breaking up for the Christmas holidays and we will have completed the first (and longest) term of the academic year.

Congratulations to our Year 11 students who have conducted themselves superbly through their mock exams this week. They have been a challenge, but they are facing them with determination and courage. Please keep them in your prayers.

## Important upcoming dates

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

We also welcomed our Year 10 parents into school this week for Parents' Evening and we would like to thank you all for your ongoing support. Many of them have really grown in maturity and are 'locked in' as the kids say – For those of us who are no longer kids...this means working hard, trying your best.

We have a number of activities in the coming weeks that we are really looking forward to as we look forward to Christmas. But for now, let us continue with that preparation and look forward in anticipation to the great season of Christmas and all that it brings.

We are always here to support and if we can do anything, please let us know. Please use the usual channels at the bottom of this page if you wish to get in touch. 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.

## **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)

## **Rewards Trip**

Last Thursday, 80 students from Year 7 - 10 were rewarded with a visit to the Scala Cinema in Ilkeston to see Kensukes Kingdom. All these students had received no C points in school and were in the top 20 for virtue points earned, in their year group. They were a credit to the school for the whole morning.

The next reward trip is to the Bowling alley next February. Again, it will reward all students who receive no C points in school and for the highest number of Virtue points between now and February.

Mr Warden

# School News



## Careers updates 03/12/2024

### **Derby College - message regarding applications**

We have received the following message from Derby College:

**The DCG application system will be unavailable from 5th - 9th December for essential maintenance.**

To support students affected by this downtime, those working towards their 14-day deadline for completing interview preparation or accepting their place will receive an extension on their deadline.

### **Toyota Apprenticeships - closing soon!**

**2025 Apprenticeship applications are closing on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December** in just over a week's time.

Our production programme is a 12-month Level 2 Lean Manufacturing Operative apprenticeship, and our maintenance programme is a 44-month Level 3 Engineering Technician apprenticeship, and both provide an excellent opportunity to learn from and work for an industry leading lean automotive manufacturer. I would be very grateful if you could please remind your students of the closing date and share the attached advertising with them.

To find out more or to apply, please visit [TOYOTA Apprenticeships \(toyotauk.com\)](https://toyotauk.com).

If you have any further questions, please contact [recruitment@toyotauk.com](mailto:recruitment@toyotauk.com) and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

# School News



## Carousel in English

Our students continue to work on their independent learning with Carousel in English. So far our student have quizzed themselves on 23260 questions! The following lists show our highest scorers in each year group.

### Year 7

Position	Name	No. Questions Quizzed
1	Amelia S	395
2	Ayo E	265
3	Hanna D	233
4	Benjamin M	220
5	Oscar B	195
6	Elisia T	160
7	Amy-Grace W	142
8	Farleigh S	120
9	Emma S	105
10	Filip S	91
11	Jack E	89
12	Caitlin C	85
13	Kobby A	80
14	Myles S	78
15	Ewan T	67
16	Ava G	60
17	Elsie S	60
18	Kulani T	60
19	Charlie D	57
20	James A	55
21	Xander F	55
22	William P	54
23	Noah G	50
24	Oscar T	50
25	Summer B	42
26	Honney P	41
27	Florence A	31
28	Penelope S	31
29	Imogen-Grace C	25
30	Maia C	25

### Year 8

Position	Name	No. Questions Quizzed
1	Ernest Y	440
2	Gabriella W	428
3	Abigail W	387
4	Maisie J	280
5	Amelia-May O	193
6	James E	159
7	Amelia C	140
8	Betsy R	127
9	Sonny L	112
10	Amelia W	104
11	Sienna H	104
12	Charlie B	92
13	Ethan C	88
14	Cara J	58
15	Zach I	56
16	Felix H	52
17	Eleanor S	50
18	Jacob L	50
19	Reggie R	50
20	Matthew S	44
21	Mila D	33
22	Joshua M	30
23	Maisie W	30
24	Sebastian D	29
25	Aleksandra S	25
26	Evan D	25
27	Finlay M	25
28	Skye G	25
29	Jessica H	24
30	Macy P	22

# School News



## Carousel in English continued:

Our students continue to work on their independent learning with Carousel in English. So far our student have quizzed themselves on 23260 questions! The following lists show our highest scorers in each year group.

### Year 9

Position	Name	No. Questions Quizzed
1	Kyrillos A	934
2	Crimson S	309
3	Magdalena A	145
4	Aaron E	127
5	Jacob F	124
6	Finlay M	60
7	Millie W	56
8	Jasmine T	45
9	Cameron A	40
10	Aaron V	30
11	Cindy C	30
12	Toluwanimi O	25
13	Alfie S	20
14	Charlie B	20
15	Samuel F	15

### Year 10

Position	Name	No. Questions Quizzed
1	Joshua F	328
2	Mary F	274
3	Natalia L	250
4	Millie G	165
5	Danielle M	120
6	Isabella O	118
7	Isla F	111
8	Mishel C	90
9	Kayla N	62
10	Hugo M	55
11	Lucie B	55
12	Hollie Ann P	50
13	Harry B	49
14	Paige B	45
15	James G	42
16	Safiya-Holly B	42
17	Nancy W	38
18	Maisie L	37
19	Isla S	32
20	Lucas S	32
21	Nieve C	32
22	Gabriella H	27
23	Lottie L	27
24	Charlie B	26
25	Ellie-Mai R	25
26	Weluchi O	25
27	Scarlett L	24
28	Samson M	20
29	Shantelle T	20
30	Eleanor H	16

# School News



## Carousel in English continued:

Our students continue to work on their independent learning with Carousel in English. So far our student have quizzed themselves on 23260 questions! The following lists show our highest scorers in each year group.

### Year 11

Position	Name	No. Questions Quizzed
1	Jayden H	2770
2	Amber F	509
3	Joanne S	493
4	David O	432
5	Lewis L	382
6	Tia A	371
7	Esma S	369
8	Cherish R	336
9	Ruby C	310
10	Olivia B	291
11	Oliver E	287
12	Amelia L	253
13	Marianna L	253
14	William N	241
15	Niamh W	220
16	Delilah S	214
17	Maja W	210
18	Amy Q	201
19	Alan S	200
20	Amber W	200
21	James P	200
22	Olivia S	168
23	Andre O	155
24	Finley H	142
25	Lewis G	141
26	Aimee M	128
27	Eleanor A	120
28	Ellie-Lisa M	120
29	Raivo K	119
30	Illa F	116



# 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.



Abbot Road, Kirk Hallam, Ilkeston, DE7 4HX

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# School News



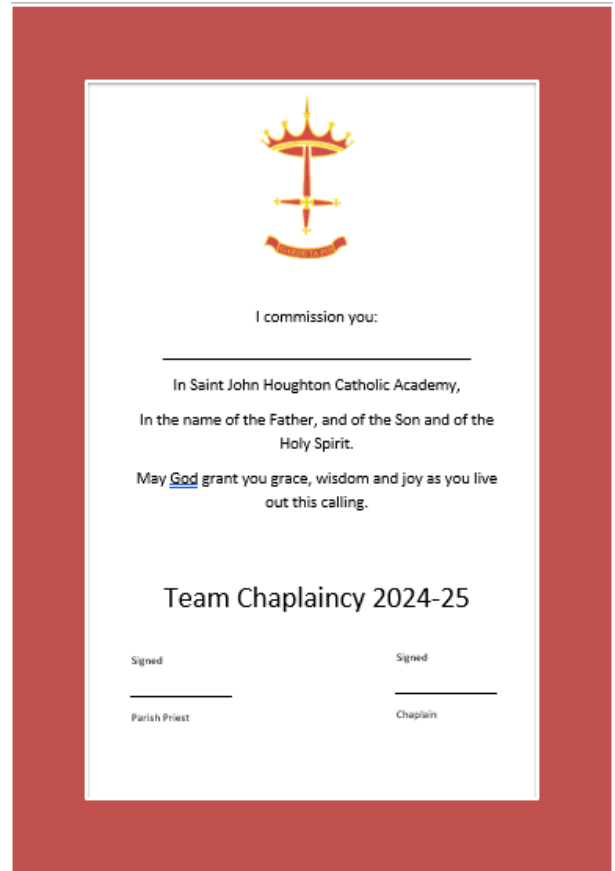
## Chaplaincy:

### **Team Chaplaincy 2024-5**

School Captains: George, Amber and Lexi-Mae,  
along with our School Leadership Team:

Amelia  
Archie  
Bethany  
Casey  
Charlie  
Danielle  
Evie  
Grace  
Holly-Ann  
Isabella  
Kayla  
Libby  
Mishel  
Natalia  
Orla  
Weluchi

Also 7A, 8A and 9A are SJH Team Chaplaincy  
2024-5. All these wonderful students will be  
presented with a certificate and their service  
before self is valued and appreciated.





# School News



## Chaplaincy:

### Confirmation Candidates

I am delighted to say: Shanetlle, Lucy, Maggie, Matthew, Elena, Georgia, Ethan, Natalia, Orla and Harry have been sent a Praise Postcard and have been noticed in SJH for living the Virtue, 'Peace' this Advent.

Thank you for taking the time to read some of their memories from the Confirmation Programme Preparation.

'The first session, 'Growing and Changing' seems so long ago when we didn't know each other or what really to expect but I loved the open fire and hot chocolate and I have to admit the session was a lot better than I expected.' I thought Chris, the keynote speaker was really good, he played the guitar well and I was grateful and surprised he drove over an hour just to be with us.

'I know I have grown in faith. I thought it was good to have Francis as a keynote speaker because she taught us about disability and being human. I realise I can be selfish, and I have become more aware of others around me.'

'The day at Briars was my favourite because the Team treated us like adults and the day was well planned and useful.'

'I think hearing Alistair and his faith story was real and inspiring, someone I could relate to and spend time with. The session Rachel ran for the older members was good and I think should continue a few times a year.'

Please pray for our young people who will be Confirmed on Friday at 7.00pm in Ilkeston with Bishop Patrick. More photographs and news to follow - it's the start of another journey!

### FLAME 2025

Rachel would like to thank pupils attending FLAME 2025. Our Team will be known as 'John 3:16' because it is possibly the most famous Bible verse in the world. *'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.'*

The FLAME Group are preparing for the outing by meeting regularly and working with PAX CHRISTI.

COMPETITION TIME: Simply tell us what 'PAX CHRISTI' means and the language it is written in and win a prize! - Be the first to email Rachel to claim the prize.

Date for your diary: Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025 Peace Sunday.

We will be selling 'PEACE' badges for £1.00 the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 - please bring cash and all profit will go to Pax Christi.

Thank you for your support,

Lucy, David, Sasha, Honey, Welucui and Elena

Mr Brogan and Rachel



# School News



## Chaplaincy:

### **Team Chaplaincy Year 8 lead a Sponsored Silence for Missio:**

Joseph, Gabriella and George, 8A SJH Team Chaplaincy, have taken Missio, the Pope's charity, seriously when they read: 'Go and invite everyone to the banquet' in Matthew 22:9.

To raise funds for Missio, they decided to meet the challenge of a full day Sponsored Silence and inspired Mr Poland to join them along with Thomas, Cooper and Vincent.

Contracts were drawn up, wipe boards were prepared, and collection boxes were ordered but here in SJH, Joseph decided he could offer even more!

With sincere appreciation and gratitude to Joseph for taking the time to prepare a 'playlist', bringing in his DJ equipment and speaking to staff to arrange a classroom and support for him to run a year 8 Disco during lunchtime so all Yr 8 could pop in, find the joy in the day, pay for a request and encourage Vincent, Gabriella, George, Thomas and Cooper and Mr Poland with their Sponsored Silence.

This is who we are...giving to others we will never meet and with a good and gracious heart.

Here we see home and school coming together to support the common good.

Thank you to the parents/carers of these wonderful young people who we are blessed to have in school, thank you for supporting their requests and the kind donations you made.



### **SJH Reverse Advent Calendar 2024**

Wow! Advent Calendars have really become a HUGE item with not only chocolates but smellies, toys and gifts each day leading up to Christmas Day. Here in SJH it is our tradition to make a Reverse Advent Calendar for Canan Trust and one for our local community. Each Tutor Group has been given a carrier bag, and the 'hope' is for these bags to be filled with chocolate, sweets, tea, coffee, hot chocolate, biscuits, mince pies, pringles, soap, shower gel. The Reverse Advent Bags will be delivered on December 17th.

The deadline for bringing items in is December 16<sup>th</sup> please.

Thank you!

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# School News



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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# 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](mailto:schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk)**



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## **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:**

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:**

<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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