



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

# SJH Newsletter

Compassion – Aspiration – Respect – Excellence – Determination – Faithfulness – Optimism – Reconciliation  
Friday 28 February 2025



## Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter. A very warm welcome also, to half term 4 of the academic year., for our Year 11 students, the last full half term before their GCSE examinations begin.

I truly hope you enjoyed the half term break and that you were able to enjoy at least, a few extra days together as families, even if some of you may have still had to work during the break. I am sure you will all be delighted to hear that my decorating (see previous issue) was completed in a couple of days and wasn't nearly as complex or challenging as I thought it would be – much to my relief!

We've been 'back with a bang' this week as we had our Year 8 Parents' Evening

## Important upcoming dates

**Thursday 13 March 2025 - Year 9 options evening – further information to follow**

in school. Many thanks to the Year 8 parents who were able to join us. I'm sorry I was unable to be with you, as I was attending a family funeral on Wednesday. My mum lost two sisters in just 10 days at the end of the last half term, and I felt I needed to be there.

Next week, we look forward to Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the season of Lent, a period of solemn preparation for the great season of Easter. Lent is what is described as a 'penitential season' where we seek forgiveness for our past mistakes through prayer, fasting and almsgiving (giving to the poor). In school, we will be focussing on this and on how we can be better than we were in the past – a real challenge for us all! We will also have Ash Wednesday liturgies in school on Wednesday, when we will be marked with ashes, a reminder of our fragile nature as humans and to make the most of the days we have, which will one day come to an end. 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.

## **Number 11 bus update:**

From after the Easter holidays, we are pleased to inform students who use the number 11 bus that it has been agreed with Kirk Hallam Community Academy, that the bus will be able to collect our students at 3.25pm from the bus stop at the end of Abbott Road, the later 4pm service will no longer run. There will be no change to the morning service.

Just a reminder that the number 11 bus will only run when Kirk Hallam Community Academy is open.

## **Year 11 Mock Exams:**

The GCSE Lent Term March Mock Exam Timetable is now on the school website:

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

## **Reminder regarding false nails:**

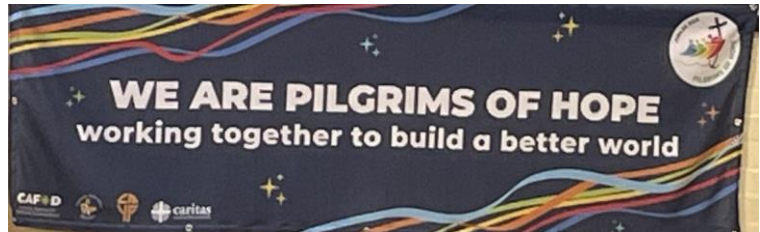
Students are not permitted to wear false, gel or acrylic nails, nail polish is also not permitted. Nails should be natural only.

# School News



## Chaplaincy:

**St Thomas & The Priory**  
**Pilgrims of HOPE**  
**13 & 14.02.2025**



Saint John Houghton students made a ram's horn because the blowing of the ram's horn announced the beginning for the Jubilee year. In Hebrew, it is a symbol of Jubilee, a year of grace and turning back to God.



We enjoyed singing: 'Hope is flowing like a river'; we know that Hope does not disappoint because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. In our small groups we reflected on 'what we hope to be when we grow up, what kind of things we hope for and what we hope the world will be like in the future'.

We loved learning about Luce and the SJH drama which reminded us to stay on our path.



SJH will return to St Thomas and The Priory with the decorated pilgrim of hope bike.



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## Chaplaincy:

With thanks to all the wonderful SJH students who shared the love on Saint Valentine's Day. Don't forget Christian hope is not mere optimism, but the certainty that God's love never abandons us! We are in the Jubilee of 2025 so we are filled with HOPE!

Meet Luce - the Jubilee mascot!

Luce will be travelling around all Tutor Groups - her name is Italian and means 'Light', she has a yellow coat, to give a nod to the Vatican flag, her boots are muddy to show God is with us in life's ups and downs, her eyes sparkle like scallop shells as a symbol for pilgrimage, along with her staff to support her journey. just wait until you meet her companions and her dog! Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

## **CAFOD Club**

The future is so bright for CAOD Club this Lent we will need our shades on! Are you joining us in the Big Lent Walk? Email Rachel asap!



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## Chaplaincy:

### **CAFOD CLUB**

With thanks to our CAFOD Club who have spotted these beautiful flowers in our Eco Garden whilst working on the compost bins. Do you have compost bins at home? We are happy to share our knowledge!



### **Pilgrims of HOPE**

With thanks to Imogen for this beautiful message which will be added to our Pilgrim bike and earned her some virtue points and a praise postcard! Can you follow this great example?



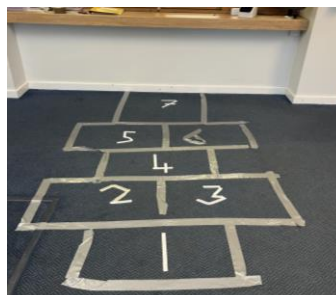
### **Mind To Be Merciful CAFE**

Here in SJH we still run our Mind To Be Merciful Cafe. The Diocese asked us several years ago to make time for free refreshments and conversation - is this something you could offer at home or in your workplace?



### **PLAY!**

Play is so important. When do we stop playing? Here in SJH we celebrate taking the time to reflect on God's love for each one of us. The hopscotch made us smile...watch out for more fun and games and expect miracles.



Team Chaplaincy would like to thank our Caretakers for all the support and hard work they give. You are not taken for granted and we appreciate all you do! Thank you.



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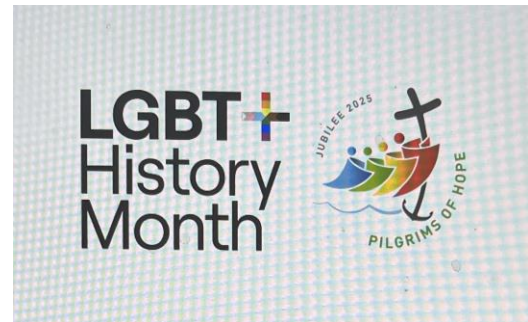
# School News



## Chaplaincy:

### **Tutor Acts of Worship**

With thanks to all the Tutor Groups who have been preparing and delivering their Acts of Worship. Please do chat about your Celebrations of the word and our Daily Prayers in Tutor Time at home, share the Word of the Week and our Mission - thank you!

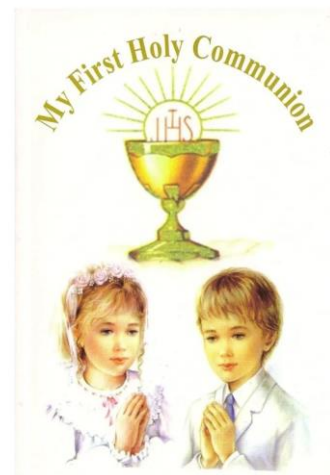


### **Chaplaincy Charity**

Thank you for supporting Missio the Chaplaincy Charity 2025-6. All change welcome, every penny counts.

### **First Holy Communion**

Please can you join your prayers with ours as we remember our young people as they begin their preparation for this special Sacrament this week. SJH Chaplain and pupils will be supporting this programme in the parish.



### **Chaplaincy afterschool club**

We have had a strong start to the Knitting Club. Due to staff commitments please note the days and times of the afterschool knitting club for the next few weeks, thank you.

Wednesday 5th March 2025 3.15pm - 4.15pm in Emmaus

Monday 10th March 2025 3.15pm - 4.15pm in Emmaus



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## Chaplaincy:

BEAUVALE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE  
May 4th 2025  
IN HONOUR OF  
ST. JOHN HOUGHTON & ST. ROBERT LAWRENCE



2.00pm MASS  
celebrated by  
Rt. Rev. Patrick McKinney  
Refreshments available afterwards  
Beauvale Priory, New Road, Moorgreen  
NG16 2AA  
For further information tel 01773 713532

# 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

**Date: 02.05.25 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](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:**

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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