



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

SJH Newsletter

Compassion – Aspiration – Respect – Excellence – Determination – Faithfulness – Optimism – Reconciliation
Friday 18 July 2025



Headteacher's Introduction

Welcome to the last Newsletter of the year and thank you to those of you who stuck with us throughout the year. I do wonder how many people actually read my weekly ramblings! There will be no Newsletter next week owing to the shortened week, so this is my last opportunity to thank our students and parents for all of their efforts this year. I do hope you will look back on 2024/2025 with fond memories of a good year.

From a whole school point of view, it was great to come through our Ofsted Inspection (my first as a Headteacher) and to have been successful in it. This year has also been a great year for embedding the culture we are trying to achieve. I stood on the courts yesterday, surrounded by happy young people and I was reminiscing about a time when it

Important upcoming dates

Last Day of Term – Thursday 24 July (1:30pm)
Thursday 4 September 2025 – Inset Day – school is closed to all students
Friday 5 September 2025 – Year 7 only in school
Monday 8 September 2025 – All years in school

did not feel as secure. I am proud of how far we have come as a school, but there is more work to do and I am sure that 2025/2026 will bring further joys and challenges. We continue to strive to be 'the best versions of ourselves' in order to make our school an even stronger, more successful family.

We have a 'fun' week to look forward to next week with our 'Eco Day,' and our annual treat from the PTA 'Inflatables Day.' We also look forward to welcoming back Year 8 this evening after their Activity Week. I'd like to thank the staff who gave up time with their own families to look after our students this week. A reminder that we finish for the Summer at 1:30pm next Thursday and Years 8-11 return on Monday 08 September. Friday 05 September is reserved for our new Year 7s. Finally, I wish you all a lovely, restful Summer break. More next year...

Garde ta Foi! Guard your Faith!

Mr S Brogan - Headteacher

'Inspiring ambition and excellence, guided by Christ'

Telephone: 0115 9322896

email: schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

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.

Uniform update and school activities: Mon 21 – Thurs 24 July 2025:

Monday 21 July 2025 - Eco day - all students to wear their SJH PE kit

All students are participating in 2 activities during their allotted time. In addition to this there will be opportunities for students to participate in activities at break and lunchtime if they wish to that require a small donation towards our SJH charities. There will also be an ice cream van available, ice creams will be available to purchase for £2.

We advise that students bring in a maximum of £4 to £5 if they wish to.

Tuesday 22 July 2025 - Students in school to wear full SJH school uniform

Wednesday 23 July 2025 - Inflatables day - all students to wear their SJH PE kit, they must wear either leggings or jogging bottoms to use the inflatables for safety reasons.

Thursday 24 July - Non uniform for a voluntary contribution of £1 towards school charities. (Hot pants and vest tops are not permitted)

Last day of term – Thursday 24 July 2025:

School will be closing at 1.30pm on the last day of term – Thursday 24 July 2025, lunchtime will be 12.30-1.15pm. The school buses will be collecting students at 1.30pm, apart from the no.11 bus shared with Kirk Hallam, alternative arrangements will need to be made for the students who use this bus, apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Return to school dates - September 2025:

Thursday 4 September 2025 – Inset Day – school is closed to all students

Friday 5 September 2025 – Year 7 only in school

Monday 8 September 2025 – All years in school

Year 11 Geography Field Trip – Friday 19 September 2025:

Year 10 Geographers going into Year 11 will be going out on their fieldwork trip on Friday 19 September 2025, letters to parents will be sent at the start of the next academic year but we look forward to taking the students to Dovedale steppingstones and Ashbourne to investigate Geographical Flows.

School News



Meal seal prices from September 2025:

Please note, from September meal deal 2 will increase in price from £3 to £3.30. This is the option with a main meal and either a pudding or a drink. All other meal deal prices will stay the same.

District Sports:

On Friday 11 July 2025, several students were selected to represent the school at the District Athletes at Harvey Haddon. All students delivered an exceptional performance and demonstrated excellence in their chosen events. There were six school competing in the competition and here is an overview of the day's achievements:

Yr 7 girls - 2 nd	Yr 8 girls - 3 rd	Yr 9 girls - 3 rd	Yr 10 girls - 2 nd
Yr 7 boys - 6 th	Yr 8 boys - 4 th	Yr 9 boys - 3 rd	Yr 10 boys - 2 nd

Overall, the girls (all years) achieved 3rd place, and the boys (all years) achieved 3rd place. As a school, we also achieved 3rd place. All students should be extremely proud of themselves and their performance. Excellent achievement for SJH!

A special mention to Summer B in Year 7. Summer was presented with the B.A. Parker Female Performance Award for being the best female athlete on the day. She was also presented with the J.A. Wilson Award Best New Record trophy for breaking two records on the day in 300m (45.10 seconds) and Javelin (28.91m).

Just recently, Summer has also achieved UK U13's No.1 Long Jump with 5.01m.

Summer is an exceptional athlete, and we are extremely proud of her!





SJH ACTIVITY WEEK

We are looking forward to our first ever activity week here at SJH, starting Monday!

Monday

Student council Eco Awareness Day
Please wear PE kit and bring some money in too

Tuesday

All students who are in school to wear full uniform

Wednesday

Inflatables Day & School Captain Vote
Please wear PE kit
leggings/joggers advised for safety on the inflatables

Thursday

Announcement of School Captains
Non-uniform
No vests or Hot-pants & please come in with a donation for charity!
Break up at 1:30pm!

Friday

SCHOOL'S OUT!

School News



Maths News 2025:

UKMT Maths Challenge

This year, 100 of our most mathematically able students took part in the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Maths Challenge. The UKMT Challenge is a nationally recognised competition designed to stimulate mathematical thinking and problem-solving among students across the UK. It encourages participants to tackle intriguing and challenging questions that go beyond the standard curriculum, testing their logic, creativity, and reasoning skills.

Taking part in this challenge is a fantastic opportunity for students to stretch their abilities and gain recognition for their mathematical talent. We're incredibly proud of all those who participated and those who gained a gold, silver or bronze certificate were awarded these in their Student Briefing.

Junior Maths Challenge

Year 7

Ayo EA	Silver Best in Year
Bailey C	Silver
Willow B	Silver
Elisia T	Silver
Bethany R	Bronze
Farleigh S	Bronze
Xavier F	Bronze
Hugh H	Bronze
Summer B	Bronze
Emma S	Bronze
Rylee-Scott G	Bronze
Jake T	Bronze

Year 8

Sonny L	Silver Best in School
Jacob L	Silver
Skye G	Silver
Angel C	Bronze
Ernest Y	Bronze
Isla T	Bronze
Fraser HG	Bronze
Remy K	Bronze
Abigail W	Bronze
George G	Bronze
Dhruv J	Bronze
Jake T	Bronze

School News



Immediate Maths Challenge

Year 9

Aaron E	Gold Best in School
Toluwanumi O	Silver
Isaac T	Silver
William B	Silver
Joesph R	Bronze
Lois-Skye J	Bronze
Millie W	Bronze
William J	Bronze

Year 10

Isabella O	Silver Best in Year
Paige B	Silver
Weluchi O	Silver
Sonny K	Bronze
Hollie Ann P	Bronze
David B	Bronze
John G	Bronze
Nazim G	Bronze
Jamie M	Bronze
Bethany DR	Bronze
Casey E	Bronze
Libby H	Bronze

Sparx Maths:

At Saint John Houghton, we use Sparx Maths for weekly homework to support students in developing a deep and lasting understanding of mathematical concepts. Sparx is designed to promote knowledge retrieval, helping students regularly revisit and reinforce what they've learned in class. This process strengthens memory and boosts long-term retention, making it easier for students to recall key methods and facts when they need them most—especially during revision and exams. By tailoring questions to each student's ability and tracking their progress, Sparx ensures that every learner is challenged appropriately and supported in their journey to mathematical confidence.

To keep students motivated, Sparx awards XP points for every correct answer, encouraging consistent effort and rewarding progress. Each week, students work towards their personalised goals, and those who have earned the most XP in their year group are recognised for their dedication with a certificate and badge. The students who achieved the most point are below.

Congratulations on your consistent hard work!

Year 7 Hanna D **Year 8** Thayonita R **Year 9** Imogen K **Year 10** Natalia L **Year 11** Jayden H

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School News



Level 2 Further Maths GCSE

This year, a group of our highest achieving mathematicians in Year 11 have taken on the challenge of studying Level 2 Further Mathematics GCSE—an advanced qualification designed to extend and deepen students' understanding beyond the standard GCSE curriculum. This course introduces more complex topics such as matrices, calculus, and advanced algebra, providing an excellent foundation for those considering A-level Mathematics or Further Mathematics.

Studying Further Maths not only strengthens problem-solving and analytical thinking, but also builds confidence in tackling unfamiliar and demanding material. It's particularly beneficial for students aiming for top grades, competitive sixth form placements, or future careers in STEM fields. By engaging with this rigorous course, our students are developing the skills and resilience needed to thrive in higher-level mathematical study and beyond.

Nineteen of our Year 11 students sat the challenging Further Maths exams this summer, and we hope they receive the results they've been working hard for when Results Day arrives on Thursday August 21st 2025.

Year 7 Sparx Reader:

Well done to year 7 for completing their Sparx reading this year. It has been great to see the pupils reading accurately and really engaging with the language in the texts.

A huge well done to the following pupils:

- Hanna D who has achieved 10,000 SRP
- Maxwell O-A who has achieved 5,000 SRP
- Filip S who has achieved 5,000 SRP



School News



SUMMER SUPPORT & HOLIDAY SAFETY GUIDE



**Saint John
Houghton**
Catholic Voluntary Academy

IT'S ABOUT ME — DERBYSHIRE HAF PROGRAMME

- Free for children on benefits-related free school meals
- Sports, arts, food workshops | Ages 4–16
- Requires HAF code from your school
- itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk



DERBY KIDS' CAMP — HEANOR

- Free camp holidays for children in need
- Volunteer-run charity
- derbykidscamp.co.uk



SPECIALIST CLUBS NEARBY

- Smart Raspberry Cookery School – Cookery classes for ages 5+
smartraspberry.com
- The Code Zone – Coding and game design for ages 6–14
mary@thecodezone.co.uk
thecodezone.co.uk

SUMMER SUPPORT AND HOLIDAY SAFETY GUIDE

For Families in Ilkeston and Surrounding areas
July–August 2025



FOOD & ESSENTIALS



- Trussell Trust Foodbanks – Emergency food parcels
trusselltrust.org/get-help
- Feeding Britain – Hot meals and food packages
feedingbritain.org
- Olio & Too Good To Go Apps – Free or discounted surplus food
[Available via app stores](#)



HELP WITH HOLIDAY COSTS

- Tax-Free Childcare Scheme – Up to £2,000/year toward childcare
gov.uk/tax-free-childcare
- Turn2Us Grant Finder – Help with uniforms, food, and transport
turn2us.org.uk
- Family Holiday Charity – Free holidays/day trips for families in need
familyholidaycharity.org.uk

SUMMER SAFETY PLAN

Empowering Students



- ✓ Emergency contacts and safe places – Know who to talk to and where to go
- ✓ Daily structure – Holiday clubs and activities to stay active and connected
- ✓ Online and home safety – Use privacy settings and agree on a code word
- ✓ Food and support access – Know where to get help if needed
- ✓ Planned check-ins – Stay in touch regularly with a trusted adult

☎ Childline: 0800 1111 childline.org.uk



HOLIDAY CLUBS & ACTIVITIES IN ILKESTON



LITTLE PLUMS DAY NURSERY HOLIDAY CLUB

- Ages 6–11 | £30/day (meals included)
- Crafts, games & outdoor fun | Mon–Fri, 8am–6pm
- 📍 Ilkeston | ☎ 0115 932 1345
- ilkeston.littleplumsdaynursery.co.uk



LARKLANDS HOLIDAY CLUB

JPAC School Clubs

- Inclusive places available | Baking & crafts
- 📍 Larklands Infant & Junior School
- jpacschoolclubs.co.uk



GET IN TOUCH

♥ Saint John Houghton Catholic Voluntary Academy will complete a personalised Summer Safety Plan with students upon parent request. Please contact the school's pastoral or safeguarding team to arrange a planning session.

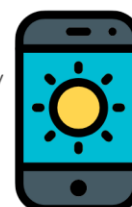
Need Advice or Support?

If you have questions about summer clubs, holiday safety, or services listed in this guide, please speak to your child's school or local safeguarding lead. They can offer guidance and signpost families to available programmes and resources. While schools cannot assist with funding applications or grants, staff are happy to help with general enquiries and finding relevant contacts for external support.

- Michelle Taddeo - family support officer
- Nel Smith - attendance officer

📍 Find us at:
Saint John Houghton
Catholic Voluntary Academy

✉ Contact us:
mtaddeo@sjh.srscmat.co.uk
nsmith@sjh.srscmat.co.uk



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CALLING ALL STUDENTS! **Join Us for Eco Day!**



Monday 21st July
Lots of fun activities await you!

Choose from sports, dance, arts, crafts, and more!

Don't miss out, sign up now via the Microsoft link Arbor



CALLING ALL STUDENTS! Join Our Exciting Eco Cake Decorating Competition!



Prizes to be won for creativity!

Decorate a cake showcasing an environmental issue to raise money and awareness.

When: Monday 21st July

Where: Take your entry to the school canteen when you arrive

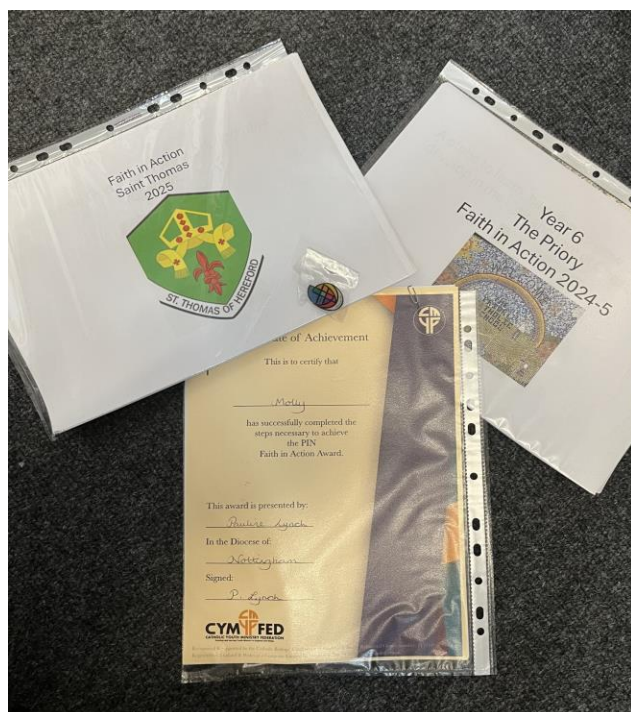
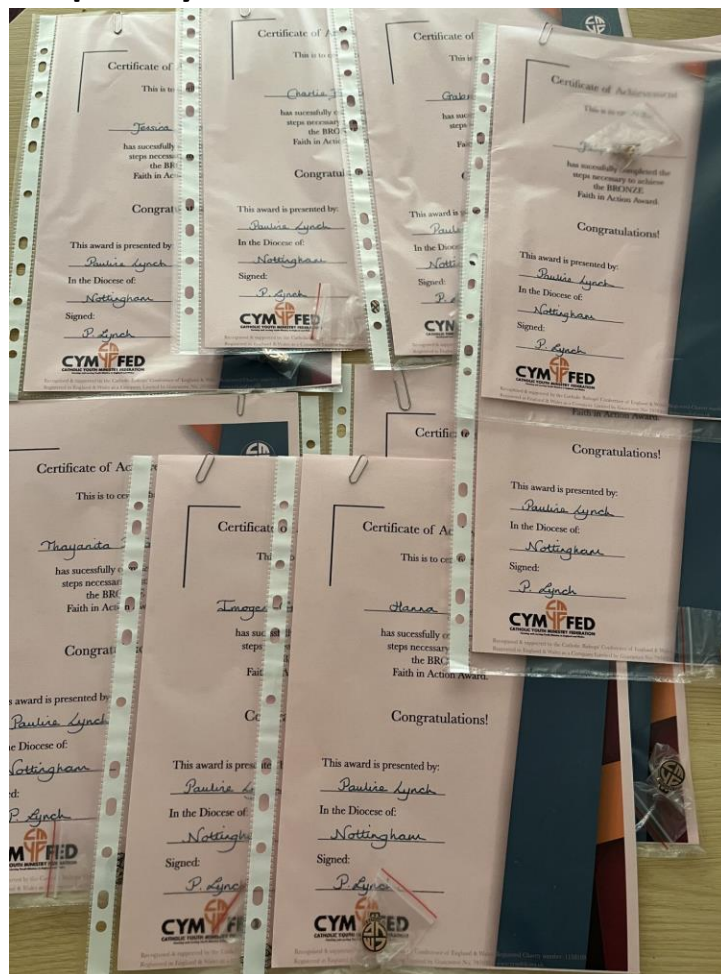
Judging will take place during lesson 1.

The cakes will then be cut up and sold

School News



Chaplaincy:



Faith in Action:

'What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.' Ralph Waldo Emerson

Congratulation so Yr 6 Priory and Yr 6 St Thomas who have gained their Pin Faith in Action Award and to the SJH students who have gained their Bronze Award!

- Filip S
- Gabriela W
- Charlie B
- Jessica S
- Kulani G
- Hanna D
- Imogen Grace C
- Caitlin K
- Thayanita R

Lucy S has passed part one of her Gold Award

Great success, thank you!



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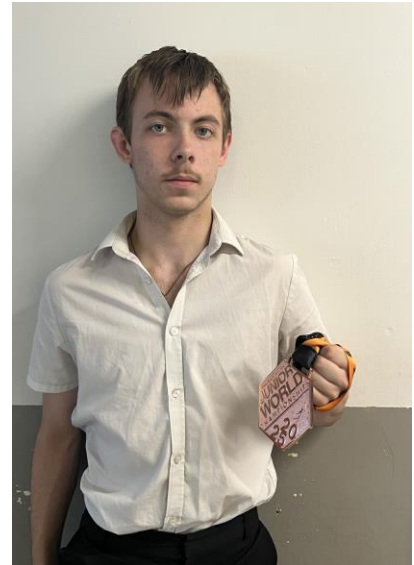
School News



Chaplaincy:

Brazilian jiu-jitsu:

Well done Jack B on gaining Bronze in The World Championships last weekend! You are living out: 'Fan into flame the gift that God gave you.' 2 Timothy 1v6



Year 5/6 transition:

'Freely, freely, you have received
Freely, freely give
Go in my name and
Because you believe
Others will know
That I live'.

Thank you to all who supported Yr 5&6 transition. So lovely to see our school full of HOPE.

Thank You:

Saint John Houghton family, once again you have done great things with great love. Thank you for a wonderful Academic year. Love, Rachel



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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:

Last day of term	Thursday 24 July 2025 at 1.30pm
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SJH School holiday dates and Inset days 2025-2026:

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 1 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