

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

COMPASSION – ASPIRATION – RESPECT – EXCELLENCE – DETERMINATION – FAITHFULNESS – OPTIMISM – RECONCILIATION

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Friday 12th
September 2025

Important Dates:

- Year 6 open day:
Thursday 25 September
2025 – school closing at
1.30pm.
- Inset day: Friday 26
September 2025
- October half term:
Monday 27 - Friday 31
October 2025

‘Inspiring ambition and
excellence,
guided by Christ’

Telephone:
0115 9322896

Email:

schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

Dear Readers,

A very warm welcome back to the new Academic Year and to our Newsletter here at Saint John Houghton, as we begin another year. This week has flown by, and we have been so impressed with how our students have returned to school focussed and determined to succeed. Our Celebration of the word this week focussed on 'choosing to be the very best version of ourselves every day of our lives' and so many of us in this school are doing that every day.

I am sure you will be pleased to hear that we had another really successful summer set of GCSE results. Last year (2024) we had the most successful year in recent history, since new performance measures were introduced and this Summer (2025) our attainment score surpassed these results. This is the culmination of all of our efforts over recent years and my congratulations go to all of the staff, students and parents of the 2025 cohort on their success.

Very sadly, we came back to school under the shadow of the passing of Mrs Heather Sarno, a former teacher at Saint John Houghton who passed away shortly before our return to school. Needless to say, we are all so saddened by this news and we keep her husband, her children and the rest of their family in our prayers at this most challenging of times. We are in the process of deciding what would be an appropriate tribute to her memory and will update you on this in due course.

Garde ta Foi! Guard your Faith!

Mr S Brogan, Headteacher

NEWSLETTER

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.



Respectful Communication Reminder:

We kindly remind all parents and carers of the importance of treating our staff with courtesy and respect, be that on the phone or in person. Our team is dedicated to supporting the learning, wellbeing and safety of every single student, and positive, respectful communication helps us work together effectively.

Year 7 individual and tutor group photographs:

Year 7 will have their individual and tutor group photographs taken on Monday 15 September 2025, please ensure they are in school in full school uniform.

SJH open day – Thursday 25 September 2025 – school closing at 1.30pm:

We are holding our annual Year 6 Open Evening on Thursday 25 September 2025, therefore school will be closing at 1.30pm. The school buses have been made aware. Students who use the No.11 bus, which is shared with Kirk Hallam Academy, will need to make alternative arrangements to get home, apologies for any inconvenience caused.

OPEN EVENING

Thursday, September 25th 2025

3.30pm-7pm

Inset day – Friday 26 September 2025:

School will be closed to all students on Friday 26 September 2025.

Uniform update:

Black V neck jumpers are allowed to be worn during half terms 2,3 & 4; therefore, they can be worn from Monday 3 November 2025 until Friday 27 March 2026 when the weather is cooler.

323 bus fare increase:

We have been informed that Littles have needed to increase the bus fare for the 323 bus service, the new fare is £2.50 per single journey and £4.50 return.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Food and Nutrition Lessons:

When your child is on the rotation for Food as part of their D&T lessons, you will be able to see on Arbor when they have a practical cooking lesson. Please make sure that you are checking regularly as they will need to provide the ingredients for that lesson to be able to take part.



PE Kit:

Please can you make sure your child has their name in their PE kit. At this time of year, we have lots of students who leave kit behind and we will be able to reunite your child with it. It is also important that students remember kit on the days they have PE. If they forget any of their kit, we do have spare which will be given to students to use for the lesson.

SAFEGUARDING - Moving on up:

Moving on up is a toolkit to help parents support their children with the online aspects of moving to secondary school, for example managing group chats.

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/moving-on-up/>

Attendance Matters – We're Here to Help. A New School Year – Let's Start Strong Together:

Welcome back to a brand-new school year! The Attendance Team is looking forward to supporting all our families as we settle into the term ahead. Whether your child is returning or starting fresh, we're here to help make the transition smooth and positive.

Attendance plays a vital role in your child's learning, wellbeing, and confidence. We understand that every family faces different challenges, and we're committed to working with you to find solutions that support regular school attendance.

If you're experiencing any difficulties, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Early conversations can make a big difference—and we're here to listen, advise, and support. Let's make this year a successful one, together.

attendance@sjh.srscmat.co.uk and mtaddeo@sjh.srscmat.co.uk



SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS



Saint John Houghton
Catholic Voluntary Academy



OPEN EVENING

Thursday, September 25th 2025

3.30pm-7pm

Headteacher's talk at 4pm, 5pm and 6pm
No booking required

*Graded GOOD by Ofsted (2025) and GOOD in our
Catholic Schools' Inspection*



Abbot Road, Kirk Hallam, Ilkeston, DE7 4HX



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Scan the QR
code to visit
our website

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SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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CAREERS UPDATES:

Year 11 Careers appointments:

Any Year 11 student who has not yet had a 1-2-1 Careers meeting with our independent career's advisor will be having theirs over the coming months. After all students have been seen, follow-up appointments will be available to book. In the meantime, any students who have any specific questions for the advisor, should contact Mr Riley who will arrange a short meeting to discuss.

Post-16 Options Fair:

Please see the flyer on the right for our Post-16 Options Fair, being held in school on Tuesday 7th October. We encourage as many Year 11s to attend as possible. Parents are very welcome to join their children. The event is also open to Year 10 students.

Open Evenings:

As always, we encourage students in Year 11 to attend as many Open Evenings as possible over the coming months. Luminare, our Careers link service, will soon provide us with a leaflet containing dates for a range of local open evenings. This will be printed and given to students as soon as it is made available.

SJH After School Clubs Starting Monday 15th September:

All clubs are from 3:15 – 4:15pm and meet in PE changing rooms.

Monday	Tuesday	Thursday
- All year's girls' football – Miss Sanderson & Mr Beardsley - Year 8 boys' football – Mr Thomson	- All year's netball – Mrs Joslin and Miss Sanderson - Year 10 boys' football – Mr Warden	- Year 7 boys' football – Mr Ritchie - Year 9 boys' football – Mr Warden - Year 11 boys' football – Mr Ritchie

SJH

Post-16 Options Fair

at Saint John Houghton CVA

Tuesday 7th October

3.15 – 5.15pm



Year 11 and 10 students are once again invited to attend the Post-16 Options Fair. Parents are welcome to accompany them. There will be representatives present from a range of local colleges, sixth forms and training providers. They will have stands with information on their offer and they will be available to chat to.

Providers in attendance this year*:

Friesland School Sixth Form, Bilborough College, Heanor Gate, George Spencer, Juniper Training, Kirk Hallam Sixth Form, The University of Derby, The Kimberley School Sixth Form, Derby College, St Benedict's Sixth Form, Nottingham College, The Army, The Royal Navy, Born to Perform Academy, Keele University, Derby County Community Trust, Education and Semi-Professional Football Academy, YMCA

*The above providers have all confirmed their attendance but any last-minute absence will be out of our control

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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Break / Lunch Price List:

Please see the below for the most up to date price list for the kitchen. Please note, breakfast items and meal deals will be charged separately.



Price List

Meal Deal's

£3:30 Meal Deal
Main Dish (up to £2.50) & dessert

£3:55 Meal Deal
Main dish (up to £2.50) dessert & a small water

Main Dishes

The dish of the day will be served with pasta, rice or potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

Dish of the Day	£2.50
Jacket Potato & 1 Filling	£2.50
Salad Bowl	£2.50
Large Hot Pasta with Sauce	£2.50
Panini of the day	£2.50
Hot wrap of the day	£2.50
Hot filled roll	£2.50
Filled rice bowl	£2.50
Filled Naan	£2.50
Loaded specials	£2.50

Side Dishes

Extra Cheese or Tuna Portion	65p
Vegetables/Baked Beans	50p
Small Side Salad	60p
Flora/Butter Portion/Jam/Sauce Sachet	10p

Lite Bites

Prepared cold sandwich wraps	£ 2.20
Prepared cold sliced Sandwiches	£ 1.85
Prepared cold sandwich Baguettes	£ 2.50
Soup & Roll	£ 1.75
Chilled Pasta Pot with filling	£ 1.50
Quesadilla	£ 1.50
Pizza Slice	£ 1.50
Sausage Roll	£ 1.00

Desserts

Dessert of the Day	80p
Cheese & Biscuits	80p
Large Fresh Fruit Salad Pot	£1.50
Small Fresh Fruit Salad Pot	£1.00
Fruitpot - Fruit Cocktail Pot	75p
Yoghurt	75p
Piece of Fresh Fruit	50p
Custard Portion	40p

Please note, prices for staff members require 20% VAT adding.

Meal Deal Drinks*

Small water	60p
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Other Drinks

Radnor Fizz 330ml	90p
Buxton Water 500ml	95p
I Pro Hydrate 300 ml	£1.00
Radnor Water 500ml	80p
Juice Burst 330ml	£1.00
Milkshake 200ml	70p
Milk 200ml	70p
Radnor Fruit Still 200ml	70p

Hot Drinks

Tea	70p
Coffee	85p
Hot Chocolate	85p

Break items

Toast & Butter	35p
Half Teacake or Teacake	35p-70p
Small Bread Roll	50p
Crumpet	45p
Croissant	90p
Garlic Bread Slice	60p
Cheese Muffin	80p
Porridge Pot	75p
Cereal	75p
Half Topped Cheese Bagel	85p
Half Buttered Bagel	50p
Filled Bagel	£1.50
Waffle	£1.00
Pretzel	£1.00
Cheese Toastie	£1.00
Cheese and Bean Toastie or Wrap	£1.20
Bacon or Sausage Cob	£1.55
Bacon/Sausage & Egg Cob	£1.90
Topped Naan	£1.30
Egg, Bacon & Cheese Muffin	£2.00
Egg Muffin	£1.40
Egg & Cheese Muffin	£1.60
Brunch Muffin: An egg & Quorn	£1.90
Patty	
Fruit, Yoghurt & Granola Pot	£1.60

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS



Reading Recommendations



September 2025

Welcome to our termly reading newsletter. Each term, we will recommend books from a range of genres and styles.

Don't forget to check out our reading lists aimed at specific year groups. All are available from our website.

The English Department



The Dawn of Adonis

Historical

Adventure

Animals

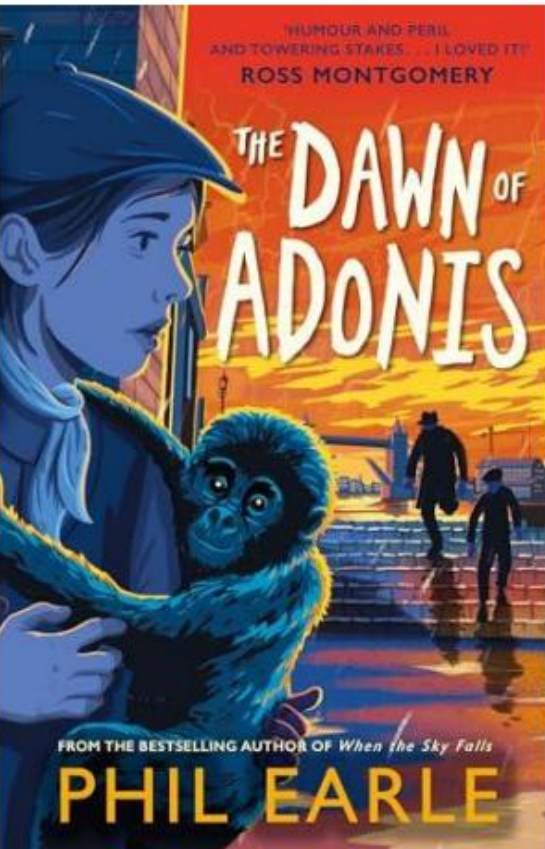
A tale of loyalty, loss, betrayal, and rebirth.

It is 1911 and London's docks thrum with underhand deals, none so great as the arrival of a valuable, rare and exotic animal, smuggled from the depths of the Congolese rainforest. The baby gorilla stands to make one man, the shady Goliath Deeds, very, very *he* and his right-hand man, juvenile pickpocket, Toff Squabble. Heaven help anyone who dares stand in their way, not least the brave and innocent twelve-year-old Nettie Beecroft, who finds herself embroiled in a dangerous rescue attempt where she encounters toshers, bone grubbers and gangsters. Whom can Nettie trust? And can she save the life of this very special creature?

Praise for *When the Sky*

'A magnificent story' **Philip Pullman**

'Deeply felt, movingly written, a remarkable achievement' **Michael Morpurgo**



Our summaries are taken from the Goodreads website:

<https://www.goodreads.com/>

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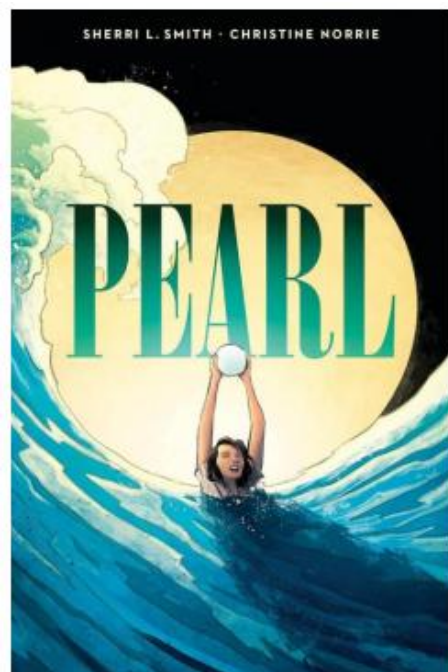
SCHOOL NEWS



Reading Recommendations



September 2025



A Japanese-American girl must survive years of uncertainty and questions of loyalty in Hiroshima during World War II. Amy is a thirteen-year-old Japanese-American girl who lives in Hawaii. When her great-grandmother falls ill, Amy travels to visit family in Hiroshima for the first time. But this is 1941. When the Japanese navy attacks Pearl Harbor, it becomes impossible for Amy to return to Hawaii. Conscripted into translating English radio transmissions for the Japanese army, Amy struggles with questions of loyalty and fears about her family amidst rumors of internment camps in America -- even as she makes a new best friend and, over the years, Japan starts to feel something like home. Torn between two countries at war, Amy must figure out where her loyalties lie and, in the face of unthinkable tragedy, find hope in the rubble of a changed world.



Pearl

Historical

Graphic Novel

Dual identity

Our summaries are taken from the Goodreads website:

<https://www.goodreads.com/>

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SCHOOL NEWS

Reading Recommendations

September 2025

Traumaland

Thriller

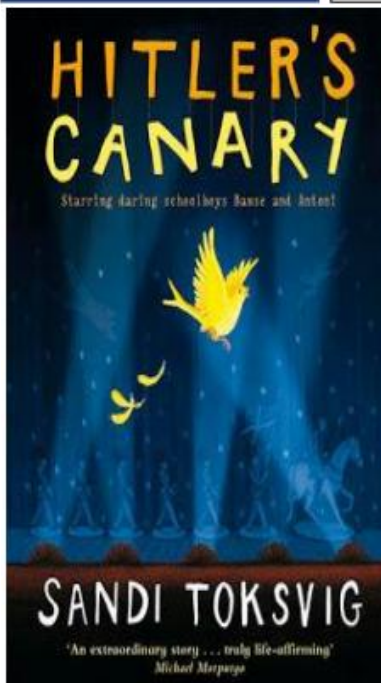
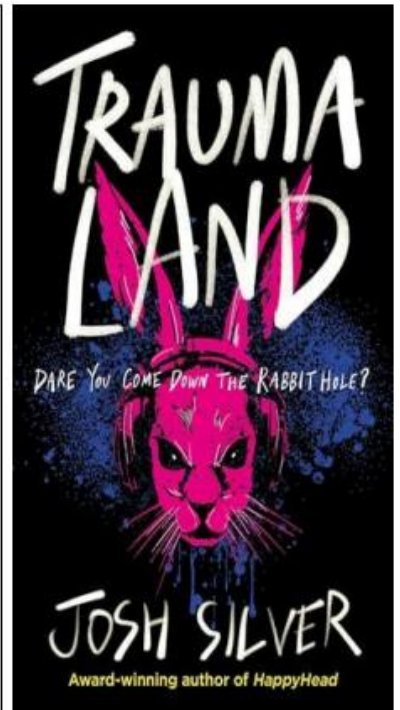
Mature readers

LGBTQ+

Seventeen-year-old Eli has been in a near-fatal car crash. As the anniversary looms, his therapist and family struggle to help him deal with the fall out. The accident has left him emotionally numb, with no memory of the months following the crash.

Desperate to feel something again, Eli winds up at an underground club called Traumaland. But this is no ordinary nightclub. Here he joins crowds of other emotionally numb people, all seeking to experience a new thrill by entering virtual reality simulations of nightmarish scenarios through the points of view of various characters.

When he enters the story of a boy called Jack, he discovers a darker truth to the club. A truth that sets Eli on a dangerous journey to find the source of his own trauma.



It's April 1940 and German troops are pouring onto the streets of Denmark. 12-year-old Bamse is ordered by his father to keep his head down and stay out of trouble. But Bamse and his daring friend Anton can't resist playing the occasional practical joke on the invading soldiers. When it becomes clear that the trouble isn't just going to pass them by, the people of Denmark decide to take action and Bamse and his eccentric family are about to take part in one of history's most dramatic rescues - smuggling Denmark's Jewish population, across the water to Sweden, and safety.

Many of the characters are based on Sandi's own family, including her father, Bamse, and the book was inspired by the stories he told to her.

Hitler's Canary

Adventure

Growing up

WW2

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SCHOOL NEWS



Reading Recommendations



September 2025



We love hearing about books you have read so let us know what book you think everyone should read!



A student who reads is a student who succeeds.

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

Meet our Chaplain:

At Saint John Houghton, we are blessed to have a full time Chaplain that works alongside our students, staff, parish and families to support the development of their spiritual life. As part of our chaplaincy provision, Rachel also works in our feeder primaries and is a recognisable face as our students move from primary into their new secondary community.

Rachel Rose has spent many years in Catholic education and is a qualified chaplain, NNEB & Elsa. Rachel will always pray with you and for you and is very happy to go to Holy Mass with you and introduce you to the Sacraments.

You can email Rachel on rrose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk and you can follow her on SJHChaplain on X.



CAFOD Club Charity Support:

Well done to our School Captain, Evie, who came along to CAFOD Club and brought two friends with her. More thanks to Sienna H who enjoyed her first visit, and all received positive points. We meet in HU1 on Monday lunch time and you can collect an early lunch pass from Rachel at break times. We are looking for suggestions from you for Peace Sunday on 21st September and we can lead our mission on Friday 19th September 2025. Please email your suggestions to rrose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk and make a note in your diary that Fairtrade Fortnight starts on September 22nd. CAFOD Club SJH brings people together to answer God's call for a better world. A world without poverty and injustice. A better world needs all of us and we can build it together.

Dates for your diary:

- Year 7 Cake Sale for Missio: More information to follow.
- CAFOD Harvest Festival Fast Day: 10th October. More information to follow.
- Parish Ambassadors: We will go to mass together in Eastwood at 11.00am
- SJH Celebration for Saint John Houghton on Friday 24th October. More information to follow.

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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CHAPLAINCY

Be a Parish Ambassador:

Could you be a Parish Ambassador and if so, please email Rachel your name and parish. Very simple and very effective: just to pass on messages from school and parish and invitations and prayers. Positive points and rewards for each mission, thank you.

Education Sunday: 14th September:

English Martyr's staff will be speaking at the 5.00pm Stapleford Mass. Mr Brogan will be speaking at the 9.30am Ilkeston Mass and supported by our Chair of Governors, Cathy. The Priory staff will be speaking in Eastwood at the 11.00am Mass. You are all most welcome.

First Holy Communion 2025-26:

We are very excited to prepare you and your children for these special Sacraments of the Church. Please email the Parish Secretary for a form or see Fr Paul or Fr Joby. On Wednesday 17th September 2025 6.00pm-7.15pm there is an introductory meeting for parents. This will take place in SJH hall and the first session for First Holy Communion is on Wednesday 24th September in SJH hall, 'Come to the water.'



Friends of SJH Coffee Morning:

Is on 19th September 11.30am - 12.30am, you are welcome to join us and meet our School Captains.

Holy Mass:

Thank you, Liam B and Sienna H, for serving in Holy Mass last Friday. Everyone thought you were terrific, and it was a pleasure to give well deserved positive points and send a praise postcard home. If you would like to step up and take part in the Catholic Life of the School, please let Rachel and your Tutor know.

Tuesday 16 September lunchtime club in HU1:

Vegetarian Society, bring along your favourite vegetarian or vegan recipe. All welcome.

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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CHAPLAINCY

Year 7 Welcome Mass:

On behalf of the SJH family may I take this opportunity to thank all the parents who supported this special Mass. It was wonderful to have you with us. More thanks to Fr Paul who led us in a 'walk and talk' Mass for Year 7 and SJH staff. Well done everyone, what a wonderful way to begin an Academic Year! Our next Mass in school is on Thursday 25th September at 8.45am. We hope students, parents and parishioners will join us in our Chapel. Students may register in the Chapel and refreshments will follow. Please email numbers by September 19th so we can plan the refreshments - if you decide on the day to join us, you are most welcome!



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SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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Whole School Charities:

Saint John Houghton CVA work side by side with CAFOD:

We believe a better world is one that's good for everyone. That's why we work together, with local experts and community leaders to build a world where no one has their life limited by the injustices of poverty, conflict or the climate crisis. As a school we pray for the work of CAFOD, we participate in their Family Fast Days, we take the lead with 'The CAFOD Big Lent Walk' and promote their workshops. Our school Chaplain is a CAFOD Volunteer, and all are welcome to our CAFOD Club on Monday in SJH.



LET THE CHILDREN LIVE!®

SJH are delighted to respond to the parish request and support 'Let The Children Live' Life in its fulness for children in Columbia.

Let the Children Live:

- £50 would provide lunch and a healthy snack for one child for one month in Casa Walsingham.
- £25 would pay for one child's bus fares to and from Casa Walsingham for one month.
- £10 would buy a school pack for one child of primary age.
- The work supported by Let The Children Live in Medellin is based at Casa Walsingham, a day-centre for boy and girls at high school risk.
- Saint John Houghton pupils are challenged to raise funds for this charity, pray for the volunteers and have fun along the way.

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Missio The Chaplaincy Charity: Today. Tomorrow. Together.

Mission ignites God's love by helping local missionaries to work alongside global communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief.

By Saint John Houghton CVA supporting Missio, we play a vital part in creating a vibrant Catholic Church for the future.



Sharewear Clothing Scheme:

Sharewear Clothing Scheme offer free-of-charge clothing choices to people in economic difficulty, using a combination of a referral system for individuals and an outreach service for organisations.

You may donate clean, good quality clothing in the Sharewear box in Reception.

SJH Chaplain is always accepting and promoting our Second-Hand Uniform which is given free of charge. We are committed to upholding the basic dignity of every human person and passionate about equality of opportunity for those we serve and our volunteers.

Saint John
Houghton CVA
was the very
FIRST school to
partner Sharewear.

Sharewear

A Saint John Houghton CVA whole
school charity.



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NEWSLETTER

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Faith in Action Award:

CYMFED (Catholic Youth Ministry Federation) National Catholic Award Scheme:

CYMFED National Catholic Award

Faith in Action led by SJH Chaplain, Rachel

Please take up the challenge joyfully and show the world that faith is important and that it does change the world – one person at a time.

29.09.25 @ 3.15pm – 4.15pm

12.11.25 @ 3.15pm – 4.15pm

03.12.25 @ 3.15pm – 4.15pm

12.01.26 @ 3.15pm – 4.15pm

24.02.26 @ 3.15pm – 4.15pm

14.04.26 @ 3.15pm – 4.15pm

05.05.26 @ 3.15pm – 4.15pm

All SJH staff and pupils are welcome. Bronze, Silver and Gold Award.

You must attend each session.

We will gather in SJH Chapel.

Email: rrose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk to book.



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

CYMFED National Catholic Award

Faith in Action led by SJH Chaplain, Rachel

Please take up the challenge joyfully and show the world that faith is important and that it does change the world – one person at a time.

29.09.25 @ 5.30pm – 6.30pm

12.11.25 @ 5.30pm – 6.30pm

03.12.25 @ 5.30pm – 6.30pm

12.01.26 @ 5.30pm – 6.30pm

24.02.26 @ 5.30pm – 6.30pm

14.04.26 @ 5.30pm – 6.30pm

05.05.26 @ 5.30pm – 6.30pm

All parishioners and Year 6 welcome. Bronze, Silver and Gold Award.

You must attend each session. Under 16 with an adult.

We will gather in Ilkeston house meeting room.

Email: rrose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk to book.



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

It is a privilege to run this very simple but very effective award in SJH. SJH were on the Pilot Scheme for the Faith in Action Award several years ago and we have continued to offer this Award Scheme in school because we believe whilst doing this award, which is the Catholic equivalent to the D of E Award, you will be asked to do more to form yourself, deepen your relationship with God and change the world in which you live. If you are in SJH Team Chaplaincy you will have the opportunity to do this in the School Day, but you are most welcome to come along to the after-school sessions too. There is no cost to this Award Scheme, if you complete the course, you will achieve a badge and certificate. You do not have to be Catholic to do this award. I will work with you and support you and you will flourish. Please give it a go! Love, Rachel

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SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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CHAPLAINCY

Support for Ukraine:

With thanks to Maria and Eastwood Parishioners who led us in a Support for Ukraine afternoon on Sunday. SJH are collecting nappies and medical supplies for Ukraine, and all can be handed into Reception. Well done Lucy S for your support.



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NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

**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: 19.09.25 Time: 11.30am-12.30pm

Date: 21.11.25 Time: 11.30am-12.30pm

Date: 18.12.25 Time: 11.30am-12.30pm

Date: 24.04.26 Time: 11.30am-12.30pm

Date: 25.06.26 Time: 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



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

NEWSLETTER

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-atschool/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

Link to School Calendar:

<https://www.stjohnhoughtonilkeston.srscmat.co.uk/news/calendar>

NEWSLETTER

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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