

NEWSLETTER

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Friday 10th
October 2025

Dear Readers,

Thank you for joining us for the latest edition of our Newsletter. We are wringing out every last drop of the good weather here in school and it is wonderful that students are still able to enjoy the freedom of the field. I must be honest and tell you that the highlight of my day (most days) is refereeing the Year 11 vs Year 10 football match on the field at lunchtime. Sadly, the time for the field will soon be overtaken by rain and wind and cold, but hopefully we can get a few more days out of this half term at least.

Someone commented to me today that 'our school has never been calmer.' This is someone who has worked at our school for many years and while it's all a matter of perspective, I have to say I agree. It feels as if there has been another shift in school since returning in September and in the main, our school is calm and orderly. There are always incidents, but the overall picture is positive.

It has been a busy week in school, with our Year 11 students completing their GCSE Food Practical Mock exams. (Well done to Mrs Drury and Miss Limb for surviving the week!) In school we also held our annual Post-16 Careers Fair, where our students had the opportunity to discuss their future with numerous providers. Thanks to Mr Riley for organising such a well-attended event. More next week, as we welcome back our Year 9 travellers from Rome.

'Inspiring ambition and
excellence,
guided by Christ'

Telephone:
0115 9322896

Email:

schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

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.

Arbor Emails:

Kindly ensure that you are regularly checking the junk or spam folder in your email account for any communications from Arbor. We have noticed that some people are missing important messages because they are being filtered out. These emails may contain vital information or updates from the school that require your attention. To avoid this, please review your junk folder and mark Arbor as a safe sender.

Internal Vacancy:

We are currently recruiting for an Exam invigilators, please see below link to the vacancy for full details: <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/137908/EDV-2025-SJHCVA-83414>

Attendance Matters: Staying Connected

As we approach the half-term break, we want to celebrate the effort students have made so far. Being in school regularly helps them stay connected—to their learning, their peers, and the wider school community. If your child has missed time due to illness or other challenges, we're here to help them catch up and feel supported. Attendance is a team effort, and we're grateful for your partnership.



attendance@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

Quote of the Week "Connection is why we're here; it gives purpose and meaning to our lives." — Brené Brown.

Wellbeing Tip for Families Encourage peer support: Ask your child who they've enjoyed spending time with this week. Positive friendships can boost mood, motivation, and attendance.

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SCHOOL NEWS

U13's Girls Football Team:

U13's Girls Football Team are through to the next round of the National Cup after beating Kirk Hallam 4-3 at home. Great performance by all players, displaying Determination and courage on the pitch. Player of the match was awarded to Tiwalade for her amazing performance in defence! Thoroughly deserved win and through to round 2 against Repton. Well done ladies!



Important Safeguarding Notice: Children's "Spy" Books:

We want to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the *Spy Dogs*, *Spy Cats*, and *Spy Pups* series. Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content. The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.



What this means for you:

- If your child has any *Spy Dog*, *Spy Cat* or *Spy Pups* books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site.
- It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link.
- We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.
- We will continue to share updates from the publisher as more information becomes available.

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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SCHOOL NEWS

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Attendance is vital for academic success, fostering strong social skills, building crucial life skills like responsibility and punctuality, and preparing individuals for better future opportunities in higher education and employment:

At SJH, pupils must arrive in school by **8:45 am** each school day. Coming late is disruptive to the pupil who is late, and other students in the school. For some pupils, this can cause embarrassment and anxiety.

Registration takes place at 08:45am, and is kept open until 9:10am. The second session is taken at **2:15 pm**.
Leave of absence is only granted by the headteacher in certain circumstances.

TERM TIME ABSENCES:

Circumstances allowed:

- Taking part in a regulated performance
- Attending an interview
- Study leave
- Visit to a prospective new school/college
- Bereavement
- Religious observance

Not Considered "Exceptional circumstances":

- Family holidays if families are unable to afford in school time
- To visit family abroad
- To spend time with family visiting from abroad
- Parents/carers unable to get time off work during school holidays
- Family traditions of holidays at a certain time of year
- Going away for birthdays, including the students birthday
- Flight delays unless evidence supplied
- Illness after a school holiday or trip

ILLNESS:

Unauthorised attendance:

All absences will be marked as unauthorised on day 4 and onwards unless medical advice is sought/given. Arriving after the register has closed will affect students attendance. Medical appointments without evidence are also unauthorised.

Reasons that will be unauthorised:

- Period pains / cramps unless under medical care with evidence
 - Common colds
- Headaches unless under medical care with evidence
 - Headlice
 - Missed bus
- Family or own birthdays
- "Unwell" - you must give an explanation
 - Oversleeping
- Parent too unwell / unable to bring student to school

Please try and make medical appointments out of school time, and daily contact is required for absences if more than 1 day is required. If no contact is made, absences will be marked as unauthorised.

Is my child too ill for school? - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

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CHAPLAINCY

Word of the Week:

The Word of the Week is: Rosary. With sincere thanks to Year 9 who take the lead on leading the Rosary in SJH. Next week the Word of the week is: Inclusion. Why not join us in our mission of the week and pray the Rosary at home this weekend.

Competition:

Well done Liam B for emailing me and winning the competition last week. Don't forget to pop into my office and collect your prize.

Competition this week: Can you create the Jubilee of Year logo in your own style?

Entries must be in by Monday 20 October 2025.

rrrose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk



Hail Mary, Worry Knots:

It has been a privilege to sit with students with yarn and listening to prayer whilst they tie their worry knots in the yarn, and then pray a Hail Mary and leave our knotted yarn at our Mary Altar. We learn about Mary, who unties the knots in our lives and we have enjoyed light refreshments and fairtrade chocolate knowing life is unfair, but we live in hope and know tomorrow will be better than today.

Beauvale Ruins Trip:

Next week Rachel is taking our School Captains to the Beauvale Ruins and treating them to hot chocolate in the tea rooms. We will begin promoting our Pilgrimage to the Beauvale Ruins next week with more news on our Junior Membership next week. With thanks to the ICT support who have prepared our membership cards.

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CAFOD Club:

Well done all who attended! Special thanks to Imogen, Louisa, Harry, Lexi, Phoebe, Vic, Ariel, Megan, Avanna and Aobheann for supporting our CAFOD envelopes and more thanks to Mrs Etienne for promoting our CAFOD Video.

CAFOD Club will be visiting a home for the elderly in the next few weeks, we will challenge them to a game of dominoes and share conversation. SJH Staff are really impressed with Year 7 who have joined SJH family with a positive attitude and generous heart, thank you.

It was lovely to be with our Choir on Tuesday lunchtime and craft club on Thursday.



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Year 7 Cake Sale for Missio:

Thank you to all who bought, baked, washed up and supported our Missio Cake Sale. Our Red Missio collection box is A LOT heavier now. Every cake was sold! Well done everyone. Rachel has given Virtue points and sent Praise Postcards home to the Year 7's who made and donated cakes - if you have been missed please email Rachel and she will be delighted to give you Virtue points rose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk



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CHAPLAINCY

Pilgrimage to Walsingham:

Journey, Prayer, Encounter, Discipleship, Missionary Discipleship, Friendship.



A Brief History of Walsingham

Lady Richeldis de Faverches,(1061) had a vision of the Virgin Mary. The Virgin Mary appeared to Richeldis and took her in spirit to Nazareth, to the house where the Angel Gabriel had appeared to Mary. She also saw a spring water bubbling up through the grounds. Richeldis was told to build a replica of it in Walsingham..



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Pilgrimage to Walsingham Continued...:

The Slipper Chapel is now the Roman Catholic National Shrine. (pilgrims took off their shoes to walk the last mile barefoot, as a sign of penitence).

Pilgrims go to Walsingham to walk 'The Pilgrim's Way', walk 'The Holy Mile' visit the replica of the Holy House, light candles, gather for Mass, be blessed with the water from the well and grow in faith. The water from the well is believed to heal and pilgrims still come to during the water or take it home for family or friends who are ill.

Would you like to go to Walsingham in 2026 Or 2027 for a day?

Rachel has visited a Retreat House where we could leave SJH on Tuesday and return from Walsingham on a Friday, the rooms are wonderful and the food is delicious, it's warm and clean. This year, the cost is £250.00 with travel to be added.



***The Residential House
offers lovely grounds
and accommodation.***



Think about it, pray about it and email Rachel for more information rrose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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CHAPLAINCY



The Catholic Diocese of
Nottingham



Discover the people hidden in our midst
at the annual Justice and Peace Assembly
with Caritas Diocese of Nottingham

Saturday 1 November 2025
Spalding, 11.30am – 3.45 pm

The Immaculate Conception and St Norbert Catholic Church,
St Thomas Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire PE11 2XX

**Hear stories of those touched by modern slavery and forced
migration, and others unseen in both town and countryside.
And let's take action together.**



Rev Alan Robson, Lincolnshire
Rural and Agricultural Chaplain,
on the **hidden countryside**

Miriam Cakebread, Santa
Marta Group and **Fr Mark
Odion**, Bishops' Conference,
introduces **Modern Slavery
Ambassadors**

Caritas volunteers update on
Lincolnshire Together, a new
network to support
marginalised incomers

Tracey Carter on the amazing
outreach of **Project St Thomas**

Mass with Bishop Patrick

The church is 10 minutes' walk
from Spalding station. Trains
from other parts of the diocese
arrive at 11.24 and depart at 15.54

**For further details and
to book your place visit**
bit.ly/sacred-stranger
or scan the code:



Images: Amir Appel, Ioana Cristiana

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SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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CHAPLAINCY

The 2025 Jubilee Year calls us to be 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

This year's Annual Assembly will hear about those whose journey is not one of choice but of coercion – those driven from home by conflict, poverty and trafficking.



With speakers from the Santa Marta Group and Bishops' Conference we will introduce to Nottingham Diocese a scheme for 'Modern Slavery Ambassadors' – ordinary people who can help bring this unscrupulous crime to an end in the East Midlands and improve care for its survivors.

Meeting in Spalding, this Assembly will also have a rural flavour. Lincolnshire's longest-serving Agricultural Chaplain will share seldom-heard stories and cries for justice from the 'hidden countryside'.

Caritas volunteer Bernadette will announce an initiative to support some of the county's most vulnerable residents, including refugees and asylum seekers. We are leading the development of a 'sanctuary' movement in Lincolnshire to ensure that no-one who finds themselves in the county is beyond the reach of help.

The programme opens with Mass celebrated by Bishop Patrick at 11.45am. We're delighted to be hosted by the Parish of the Immaculate Conception and St Norbert. The parish's thriving pastoral initiative Project St Thomas offers a kaleidoscope of services to the people of South Holland.

Project St Thomas began in 2020 with 'Hub In Hub Out' which brings soup, sandwich and friendship to those in need, and has branched out to money management for young people, beginners' IT, community singing, 'Nutrition and Read' and much more. Find out more at lunchtime about Project St Thomas over their home-cooked soup and a roll.

Provisional programme

You are invited to arrive from 11.00 for Mass at 11.45, celebrated by Bishop Patrick

12.45 Lunch (optional, £8) and welcome from Project St Thomas

1.30 Introduction

1.45 Hidden countryside: Rev Alan Robson

2.05 Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking: Miriam Cakebread

2.25 Modern Slavery Ambassadors Scheme: Fr Mark Odion

2.45 Lincolnshire Together: Caritas volunteers

3.05 Exploring an Ambassadors scheme for Nottingham Diocese

3.30 Adventures in discipleship: nourishing social action in Nottingham Diocese

3.45 Closing prayer.

Any queries? Email caritas@dioceseofnottingham.uk or call 0115 648 1509

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

2025-2026 School holidays and Inset days:

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

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DATES FOR THE DIARY

2026-2027 School holidays and Inset Days (3 Inset days to be confirmed):

Inset day 1	Friday 4 September 2026
Inset day 2	Monday 7 September 2026
Years 7 & 11 return to school	Tuesday 8 September 2026
All years return to school	Wednesday 9 September 2026
October half term	Monday 26 - Friday 30 October 2026
Inset day 3	TBC
Christmas holidays	Monday 21 December 2026 – Friday 1 January 2027
February half term	Monday 15 – Friday 19 February 2027
Inset Day 4	TBC
Easter holidays	Friday 26 March – Friday 9 April 2027
May half term	Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2027
Inset Day 5	TBC
Last day of term	Monday 26 July 2027