

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Friday 17th
October 2025

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Newsletter and thank you for joining us once again in this penultimate week of the Advent 1 half term. It is hard to believe that this time next week we will be breaking up for half term and that we will have 7 weeks until Christmas when we return.

I'd like to say thank you to all of our parents and carers who completed the annual survey. The last time I checked we had more than 150 responses and they will help us with our school improvement planning for the months to come. It is not too late to complete the survey if you have not yet had the chance and you can do so by clicking here: <https://forms.office.com/e/KXkEQ8tpd3>.

I will share some of the results with you in the coming weeks.

It has been a 'quiet' week in school this week (if such a thing exists), but we look forward next week to our Year 11 parents evening. We sincerely hope that you are all able to make it and have made your appointments using the booking system. We also look forward next week to celebrating the Feast of the Canonisation of Saint John Houghton, our great patron.

More next week...

'Inspiring ambition and
excellence,
guided by Christ'

Telephone:
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Email:

schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk



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.

Littering on Abbot Road:

We have received a complaint from a local resident on Abbot Road about litter being left behind by students after school. The area was reportedly clean before dismissal, but afterwards, papers were scattered across the road and nearby gardens. Please remind your child to dispose of their rubbish responsibly and help us keep our community clean and respectful.

Autumn/Winter school meals menus:

Please see below link to the Autumn/Winter school meals menus that will begin on 3 November 2025 to 27 March 2026:

<https://www.stjohnhoughtonilkeston.srscmat.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2025/10/Secondary-Autumn-Winter-2526-Menu.pdf>



Careers updates:

On Tuesday 7th October, we held our annual Post-16 Options Fair in the school. There were over 20 local Post-16 providers represented. With over 80% of Year 11 and some Year 10 students in attendance, it is great to see that our KS4 pupils are thinking about their future pathways and planning their next steps.

Year 11 students have been given a list of all local open evenings/days. Please encourage them to attend as many as possible and keep an open mind about their Post-16 options.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Attendance Momentum / Golden Ticket Buzz:

A big focus for all at SJH this year is supporting and encouraging good attendance. There are lots of positive conversations happening between staff and students and we are working tirelessly to create an environment and community in which all our students feel like they belong and want to be a part of. The magic happens when everything comes together; well taught lessons in welcoming classrooms, lots of enrichment to suit a wide range of interests and unconditional support when students struggle. We're pleased to say due to a fantastic team effort we're making real progress. The students are trying really hard.



Place	Prize	Band	Attendance Percentage	Reward Criteria
		Champion	97-100	Automatically qualify for a golden ticket every week
		Hero	96-96.9	
		Rising Star	95-95.9	
1st	£30 gift card	1	94-94.9	Review weekly in tutor time. Moved up a band? Golden ticket awarded. Put the ticket in the post box on the pastoral corridor for entry into the prize draw.
2nd	£20 gift card	2	93-93.9	
3rd	£10 gift card	3	92-92.9	
		4	91-91.9	
		5	90-90.9	
		6	89-89.9	
		7	88-88.9	
		8	87-87.9	
		9	86-86.9	
		10	85-85.9	

Rewards: We have created incentives for effort through our 'golden ticket' scheme. There are 13 bandings which reward both those who attend really well all of the time and those who show improvement.

Golden Tickets Galore:

Our dedicated staff have been kept busy counting out golden tickets, each one a reward for excellent attendance.

These tickets are more than just paper.. They represent commitment, resilience, and a positive attitude. Keep showing up, and you might just be holding a golden ticket of your own soon!



SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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Finishing Strong:

With half-term just around the corner, we're encouraging students to finish the first half of term with confidence and consistency. Every day in school helps build knowledge, routine, and self-belief. We know that maintaining attendance can be challenging, especially as fatigue sets in. If your child needs support, please let us know—we're here to help them finish strong and start the next half-term refreshed

attendance@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

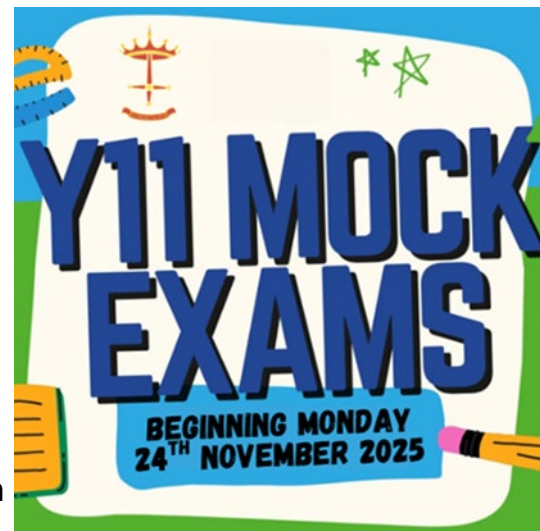
Quote of the Week: "Success doesn't come from what you do occasionally. It comes from what you do consistently." — Marie Forleo

Wellbeing Tip for Families: Celebrate effort, not just outcomes: Acknowledge the small wins—getting up on time, attending every day, asking for help. These habits build long-term resilience and confidence.

GCSE Year 11 Mock Exams 2025:

Year 11 will be sitting the first round of GCSE Mock exams week beginning Monday 24th November. A copy of the exam timetable has been given to all students this week and is also available to view on the school website.

All exams will be taken in the school gym unless a student has specific access arrangements. We ask that students arrive on time to school that week, have all the Equipment they need and that any planned absences (e.g. Dentist) be re-arranged to help facilitate the smooth running of these assessments.



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

Teaching and Learning Revision Week Focus:

To support Year 11 in preparing for their mock exams every subject will be focussing on revision techniques week beginning Monday 20th October, for the entire week.

All students will be provided with the school revision guide - a copy is available on the school website: <https://www.stjohnhoughtonilkeston.srscmat.co.uk/curriculum/gcse-exams/>

The focus during this week will be on ensuring that students know what revision technique best suits them and each subject.

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SCHOOL NEWS

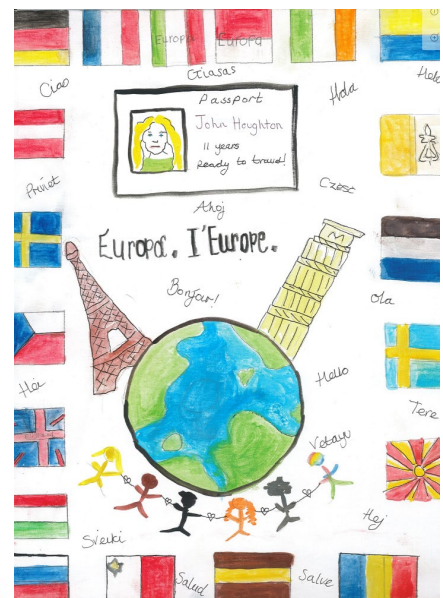
MFL Poster Competition:

The MFL Department would like to thank all students that submitted an entry for our European Day of Languages poster competition.

The competition was to design a poster illustrating the 25th anniversary motto of the European Day of Languages

“Languages open hearts and minds!”.

Our School Captains and the MFL Department have awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place to the following entries. Prizes will be awarded in student briefing. Well done everyone!



“Languages
Open hearts
and
Minds”



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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:

- | | |
|---|---|
|  <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Period pains / cramps unless under medical care with evidence- Common colds- Headaches unless under medical care with evidence- Headlice |  <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 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)

PLEASE BE AWARE: due to the advice of the local authority we have to send a letter to each person with parental responsibility regarding attendance, and not a joint letter.

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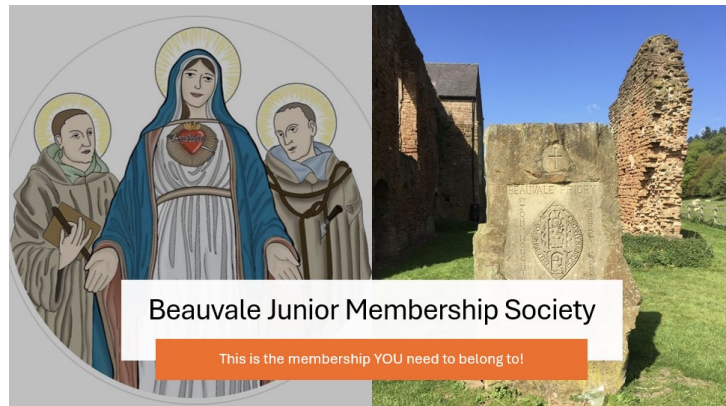
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CHAPLAINCY

The Junior Membership Beauvale Society:

Beauvale Priory is in Mooregreen, Nottingham; it is important to our school family because Saint John Houghton and Saint Robert Lawrence lived and worked there, and they became the first martyrs of the Reformation and both were canonized in 1970. Each year we have an outdoor Mass in Beauvale Priory Grounds to honour our English Martyrs.



You are invited to join the Junior Membership of the Beauvale Society for 2025–26 by paying £2.00 in cash. As a member, you'll receive a credit card-style membership card (with space to write your name) and regular updates through school and parish newsletters. To join, please place the £2.00 in an envelope clearly marked with your name and "Beauvale Membership" and hand it in at Reception. Rachel will then provide you with your membership card. Your contribution will help support the running of the Beauvale Pilgrimage. If you need any further information, please contact me at rrose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk



Simply pop £2.00 cash in an envelope and leave in School Reception or with our Parish Secretary with the details: For Rachel Rose £2.00 cash for the Junior Beauvale Membership Card and Rachel will deliver a Membership Card to you. Thank you so much for your support!

CAFOD Club:

Great to see SJH CAFOD Club being presented with certificates and praise postcards and badges! Well done everyone. This week we made prayer bracelets with the pillars: gratitude, hope and survival and prayed for CAFOD volunteers, to all who donate to CAFOD and for all who need the support of CAFOD, we lit candles and ended with prayer.



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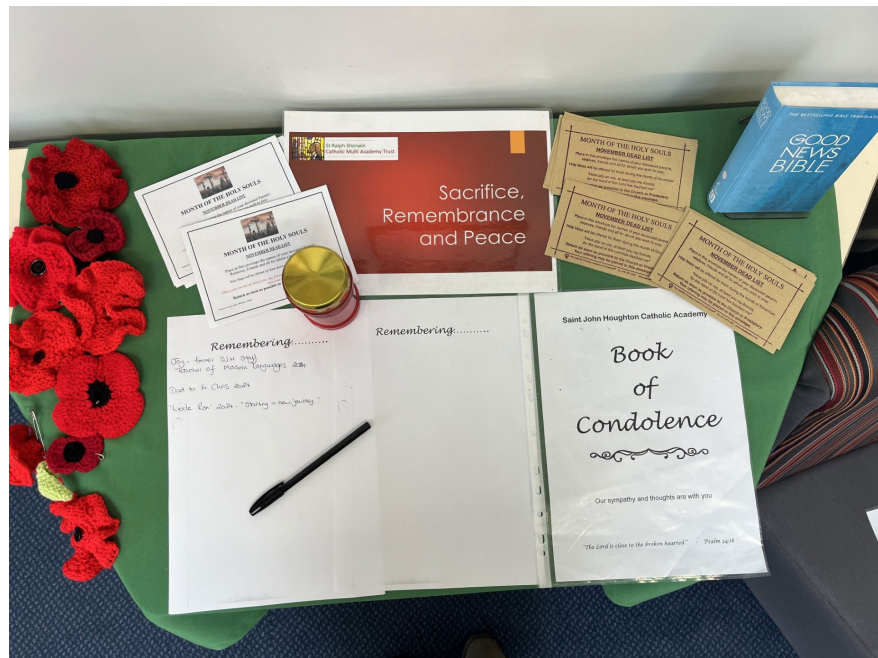
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Looking ahead to November:

November is dedicated to remembrance. This is the month to remember and celebrate the lives of those who love and those who have been an important part of our lives. SJH is blessed to have a student led Bereavement Team who plan and lead a remembrance service for staff, students and our local community. SJH would like to thank James A for volunteering to be the lead here and this service will go towards his Bronze Faith in



Action Award. During November, Rachel, our Chaplain, will lead retreats to gather the people, share the story and break the bread. We offer a retreat to all students who have lost a parent through death - a morning where they are spoilt and know we have not forgotten and we do care. Please email Rachel to book your place on this Retreat

rrose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk



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Ambassadors of HOPE:

SRSCMAT asked us to choose three outstanding students to represent our school family. Well done, Felix, Evie-Mae and Maxwell. It was a blessing to support you on the Teams meeting this week with Jamie, our Lead Lay Chaplain. Please know you will have our prayers and support with this important work.



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NEWSLETTER

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

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

CHAPLAINCY

Friends of Saint John Houghton Catholic Academy

“Be still and know that I am God.”

Psalm 46:10

Mass in SJH for staff and students.

Date: 05.09.25 Yr 7 - 2.15pm

Date: 25.09.25 All welcome - 8.45am

Date: 01.10.25 Yr 8 – 9.10am

Date: 24.10.25 Whole School 8.45am

Date: 14.11.25 Bereavement, all welcome - 8.45am

Mass in Advent - SJH will join St Thomas CVA

Date: 09.12.25 Yr 11. Reconciliation

Date: 06.01.26 School Captains to St Thomas CVA

Date: 27.02.26 Mass in Lent, all welcome – 8.45am

Date: 18.03.26 Yr 9 – 9.10am

Date: 22.04.26 All welcome – 8.45am

Date: 11.05.26 Yr 11 – 9.10am (tbc)

Date: 02.06.26 Yr 10 – 9.10am

Blessing

Blessing of the Eco Garden 25.06.26

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

ROLL OF HONOR

Curriculum Leaders have recognised the following students for their hard work in their subjects. Well Done!

Subject	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Maths	Ollie C	Bethany R	Bethany B	Declan Z	Amy-May H
English	James H	Penelope S	Alexander H	Aaron V	Julia H
Science	Noah H	Benjamin M	Santiago R	Roman-Axel R	Eleanor HM
Theology / RE	Archie P	Willow B	Sebastian K	Daniel S	Natalia L
Geography	George B	Emma S	Grace J	Cora G	Victor O
History	Henry D	Esmee H	Madison P	Thomas G	Paige B
Music	Maia R	Chloe T	Amelia-May O	Alice C	Georgia CS
Computing / Business	Aina M	Betsy B	Ava P	iMedia: Dean Y Business: Lucie M	iMedia: Archie S Business: Ifi T
MFL	<u>Spanish:</u> Teddy B-T	<u>Spanish:</u> Ruby G <u>French:</u> Sofie C	<u>Spanish:</u> Victoria Z <u>French:</u> Bella BH	<u>Spanish:</u> Kyrillos A <u>French:</u> Amelia SJ	<u>Spanish:</u> Isla S <u>French:</u> Danielle M
PE / Health & Social Care	Molly F	Joshua R	Freya L	<u>PE:</u> Finley P <u>GCSE PE:</u> Mollie W <u>H&S Care:</u> Daisy LJ	<u>PE:</u> Sebastian F <u>GCSE PE:</u> Stanley S <u>H&S Care:</u> Scarlett W <u>Sports Studies:</u> Luke C
Design	Christopher M	Ava G	Ava M	<u>DT:</u> Finley A <u>Engineering:</u> Darcie C <u>Art:</u> Ava F <u>Food:</u> Joshua B	<u>DT:</u> Hollie Ann P <u>Engineering:</u> Nazim G <u>Art:</u> Libby H <u>Food:</u> Jack B

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS

Roll of honour from Year Leaders:

The following students have been recognised by their KS3 or KS4 Leader. Well done to these students.



KS3 Miss Turgoose:

Year 7 - Sienna H for following the Saint John Houghton way.

Year 8 - Imogen-Grace C for her active involvement in school clubs.

Year 9 - Jess S for her brilliant start to year 9.

KS4 Mr Ritchie:

Year 10 - Lois Skye J for being the highest virtue point scorer in the whole school

Year 11 - Casey E for his commitment and effort to school both in and out of lessons

The Saint John Houghton Award:

Elanur S in year 11 has been nominated by staff for this week's St John Houghton Award, she has been nominated for striving for excellence and the respect she shows to others.

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