

NEWSLETTER

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Friday 24th
October 2025

Important Dates:

- October half term:
Monday 27th - Friday
31st October 2025
- Inset day – Monday 1st
December
- Christmas break -
Monday 22nd
December 2025 –
Friday 2nd January 2026

‘Inspiring ambition and
excellence,
guided by Christ’

Telephone:
0115 9322896

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schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk



Dear Readers,

Thank you for joining us for the final time this half term. While the half term has felt like a long one, it has also gone really quickly – reading that back, I'm not even sure that's possible! Either way, we have had a really positive start to the school year. Today, Mr Ritchie commented that he feels there has been another 'shift' in the culture of our school during the Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11) Student Briefing. I have to say, I agree. Our school has been so calm and orderly, and we are constantly reminding Year 11 and Year 10 that they really do set the tone for the Year Group. Across the school, students are focussed and engaged in their learning, which is great to see.

Thank you so much to those of you who were able to join us for our Year 11 Parents Evening on Wednesday. It was a really positive evening, and the students are really well-placed to succeed in the future. After half term, we will be introducing a Period 0 (zero) for our Year 11 students, which means two mornings a weeks they will receive additional support in a subject identified by us as an area for further development. This is an exciting development for us as a school and something we are sure will further support the academic achievements of our students. As you can see, despite our recent academic successes as a school, we are constantly striving to help our students leave us with the best results they can and that will not change!

I will of course end by wishing all of our students and staff a restful and safe half term. More in November...

Garde ta Foi! Guard your Faith!
Mr S Brogan, Headteacher

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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.



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.

Use of school Car Park:

The parking spaces in front of the school are reserved for staff only, especially during morning drop-off. It is important that our staff can arrive on time, as delays can impact their work. Thank you for your cooperation.

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>

RSE: New Parents/Carers:

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) – is a part of our student's academic curriculum by law. To ensure that all parents can fully engage with the program we use please follow the link below to our school website where you can find more information.

<https://www.stjohnhoughtonilkeston.srscmat.co.uk/curriculum/subjects/#1635955221907-4c6375de-7fbb>

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Jewellery and PE Lessons:

Please see our updated Academy guidance on students wearing jewellery (including ear and nose piercings) on our website below. Please help us keep all our students safe and fully participating in their practical PE lessons by having all new piercings done at the start of the summer holidays. This ensures that all piercings can be safely removed in term time.



<https://www.stjohnhoughtonilkeston.srscmat.co.uk/parents/dress-code-and-equipment/#1645532047221-9d38ce25-9353>

Attendance Matters:

Heading Into Half-Term: Every Day Counts As we wrap up the first half of the autumn term, we want to thank families for supporting strong attendance. Every day in school helps build knowledge confidence, and routine — and those small daily efforts really do add up.



With half-term beginning today, we encourage students to take the break to rest, recharge, and return ready to make the most of the next half-term. A positive start after the holiday sets the tone for success. If your child has found attendance challenging this term, please reach out — we are here to help. attendance@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

Quote of the Week "Small steps in the right direction can turn out to be the biggest steps of your life." — Naeem Callaway

Wellbeing Tip for Families Use the break to reset gently: Talk about what went well this term and help your child plan one small goal for the next. Preparing together builds confidence and eases the transition back.

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SCHOOL NEWS

The Great Gatsby:

The English Department recently took a group of Year 10 and Year 11 students to see The Great Gatsby at Derby Theatre. The students thoroughly enjoyed the performance, describing it as a fantastic production with impressive design and outstanding acting.



Careers Updates:

Year 11 - Please continue to check the list of Open Evenings/Events going on in the local area. Also, we have received information on the following from ESPFA, a local Post-16 provider which is football based.

PROGRAMME: ESPFA Derbyshire (in association with Belper Town FC)

DATE: Thursday 30th October 2025

TIME: 9.30am - 11.00am

VENUE: Belper Town FC, Christchurch Meadows, Bridge Street, DE56 1BA (3G Surface)

ITEMS TO BRING: Boots suitable for a 3G surface, shin pads, drink, any training kit, any medical equipment you require

PROGRAMME: ESPFA Derbyshire (in association with Belper Town FC)

DATE: Thursday 30th October 2025

TIME: 12.00pm - 1.30pm

VENUE: Derby Rugby Club, Haslams Lane, Derby, DE22 1EB (3G Surface)

ITEMS TO BRING: Boots suitable for a 3G surface, shin pads, drink, any training kit, any medical equipment you require

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Rome Trip:

On the 6th October, 32 year 9 students set off on an educational visit to Rome and Sorrento accompanied by Mr Cudworth, Miss Bailey, Mrs Hartharn and Mr Warden. After an early start, we flew to Rome and took in the sights of the Colosseum, the Palatine, the Pantheon, Trevi fountain and Spanish Steps.

We also visited the Vatican and 16 museums along with St Peters Basilica. All were in awe of the grandeur of the Vatican and Sistine Chapel – truly amazing. A total contrast to Pope Francis' final resting place.

Then, day 3 we were off to Sorrento via Herculaneum where we would spend two nights. During those two days we visited Pompeii and were amazed the size of the ruins. It was strange looking up and seeing Mt Vesuvius look high above the town. This felt particularly strange as we had all managed to walk up to the top of the crater earlier that morning. Luckily, no oxygen tanks were needed! We had the opportunity to visit the intricate lanes in Sorrento to do some shopping for souvenirs.

Before we knew it, we were on our last day and heading for our private and truly authentic pizza making session inside a Sorrento lemon grove. Here we were shown how to make traditional margherita pizzas before being let loose to make our own. The smoke from the wood fired oven made the pizzas taste all the better. Whilst here we toured the lemon groves and watched the production of mozzarella cheese by our hosts.

With a plane to catch later that day, it was off to Naples to visit the caves. These were (continued on next page)...



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SCHOOL NEWS

Rome Trip Continued...:

... nearly 40 metres below the ground. At the start of our tour, it was explained to us the history of the caves – most recently used for shelter during the bomb raids in World War 2. The guide then took us through some exceptionally narrow passageways until we reached the end and ascended towards the sunlight.

It was then straight to the airport through traffic that rivalled Rome in terms of the lack of rules! We checked in, passed security and then into the shops. A delay of about an hour for our flight was soon passed then straight to the coach for our final part of the trip home where we arrived at school an hour early.

A huge thank you to all students for their resilience and politeness which was noted by many other visitors. Also, a massive thank you to all the accompanying members of staff for their time and good humour.



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Rome Trip Continued... Comments from the students!:

Take a look at some of the comments from students who joined the Rome trip below. A big thank you to Alura L, Katelyn P, Seb D, Arlo C, and Cooper S for sharing their thoughts!

THE THING I ENJOYED MOST ABOUT ITALY, ROME WAS ST PETERS BASILICA BECAUSE IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE - THE CHURCH IS TRULY BREATHTAKING, I WOULD LOVE TO SEE IT AGAIN

I AM SO GRATEFUL THAT I GOT TO EXPERIENCE SUCH A FANTASTIC PLACE

THE SISTINE CHAPEL WAS VERY PEACEFUL; THE WEATHER WAS VERY NICE

THE SIGHTS WERE AMAZING, AND THE PAINTINGS WERE BEAUTIFUL

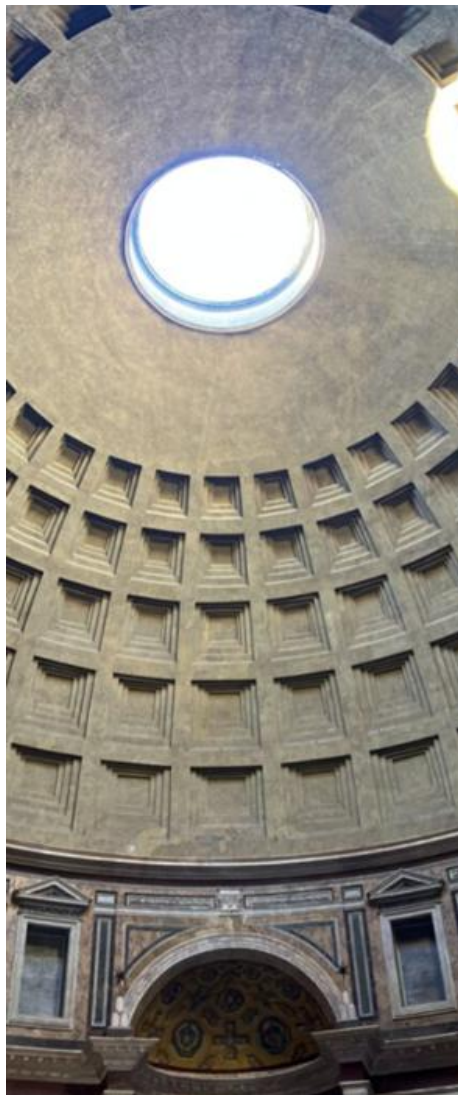
WE GOT TO VISIT PLACES MANY PEOPLE WOULD DREAM TO GO

THE BEST THING ABOUT ROME WAS MT VESUVIUS, IT HAS AN INCREDIBLE VIEW

THE PIZZA MAKING WAS VERY YUMMY

WE HAD THE TIME OF OUR LIVES

WE TOOK SO MANY PHOTOS, HAD DELICIOUS MEALS, AND HAD A GREAT TIME VIEWING THE BEAUTIFUL HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AND SIGHTS



SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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SCHOOL NEWS



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 | - Missed bus |
| - Common colds | - Family or own birthdays |
| - Headaches unless under medical care with evidence | - "Unwell" - you must give an explanation |
| - Headlice | - 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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SCHOOL NEWS

REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPIES

ON SALE WEEK COMMENCING
3RD NOVEMBER 2025

PLEASE DONATE WHAT YOU CAN TO THE
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

School Captains:

Casey, Beth and Evie are leading and active in our SJH school family, they are making a difference speaking and listening to SJH students and meeting with Mr Brogan to make plans and keep promises they have made.

It is our school tradition to treat our School Captains to refreshments in Beauvale Priory and do a tour of the ruins to remind our leaders to, 'Guard Your Faith.' With special thanks to Cathy, Chair of our Governing Body, for joining me last Friday



at Beauvale Priory to spend time with Casey, Evie and Beth.

Beuavale Priory lies in a valley, still surrounded by trees and fields and little has changed over the centuries. It remains as named by the first monks, Pulcra Vallis or beautiful valley. The monks at Beauvale were Carthusians and Beauvale is distinguished by two priors, St John Houghton and St Robert Lawrence who became the Pro-martyrs (first) of the Reformation and were canonized (declared Saints) in 1970.

Thank you, Evie, Casey and Beth, for your time and company. Cathy and I loved being with you, hearing your news and we hope you know how very important you are to us all. Letters have gone home to parents and carers to say how well mannered you were and they, like us, should be extremely proud of you.

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY



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

NEWSLETTER

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

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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

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

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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