

# SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

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

## FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Friday 26th  
September 2025

Dear Readers,

**Welcome to this week's newsletter.**

**A huge thank you to all the students who stayed for our open evening last night, they were a credit to our school and did a fantastic job of showing our prospective families our wonderful school.**

**A reminder to Year 6 parents that the closing date for Secondary School applications is Friday 31 October 2025, applications needs to be made through your Local Authority.**

**This week in school we have celebrated European Day of languages. I hope our students enjoyed hearing different languages in school and those who attended the German taster session at lunchtime, found them interesting.**

**Thank you to those parents/carers who attended last week's Friends of SJH Coffee Morning, our next one is on Friday 21 November 2025 11.30am-12.30pm, all parents/carers are welcome to attend.**

**Next week we begin our Senior Student interviews, good luck to all our Year 10 students who have put their name forward to support our SJH school community.**

**School reopens to students on Monday 29 September 2025.**

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

### **Important Dates:**

- Inset day: Friday 26 September 2025
- October half term: Monday 27 - Friday 31 October 2025

**'Inspiring ambition and excellence,  
guided by Christ'**

Telephone:  
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# 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.

### **BUS SERVICE UPDATE**



### **No.11 bus – 3/10/2025:**

Kirk Hallam Community Academy have an inset day on Friday 3 October 2025, therefore the No.11 bus will not be running on this day, students who use this bus will need to use alternative transport for this day, apologies for any inconvenience caused.

### **Term dates and Inset Days for 2026-2027 School Year:**

Please see below link to our website for the 2026-2027 term dates and initial inset days. 3 further inset days will be confirmed in due course:

<https://www.stjohnhoughtonilkeston.srscmat.co.uk/parents/term-dates>

### **Year 7 Football result - National cup:**

On Wednesday 24th September the Year 7 boy's football team played Hall Park Academy. It was an excellent performance from the boys. The final score was 2v2, with both goals from Reuben M. The game went to penalties. Our goalkeeper Charlie J saved two penalties and George B scored the winning penalty. Final penalty score was 4v2 to SJH. Next game away to Birkdale School in Sheffield.



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# NEWSLETTER

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Yr 8/9 Girls Football - SJH v Ashfield School:

On Thursday 18th September, U14's played against Ashfield School in ESFA Round 1. SJH started strong but were behind at half time by 1-0. Second half, Ashfield came out strong, but Betsy made several cracking saves to keep the ball out the back of the net. Unfortunately, time was running out and Ashfield were getting stronger and having more chances on goal. At full time the score ended 3-0 to Ashfield. All students worked their socks off until the final whistle but unfortunately, after a few efforts on goal, we couldn't find the back of the net. Player of the match: Freya L.

Girls football training is running every Monday 3:15-4:15pm. I would like to see as many girls attending as possible! - Miss Sanderson



### European Day of Languages:

We celebrated the European Day of Languages on Monday in school this week. The European Day of Languages takes place each year on 26th September and celebrates the languages spoken in Europe.

To mark the event in school, students started their day with a tutor Celebration of the word on the theme of language learning. Students answered the register in their lessons throughout the day, with Hola, Bonjour, Gutentag, Buongiorno, Witam, Hej, Geiá sou, Dia duit and Sveiki, saying hello in a range of different European languages.

At lunchtime, Mrs McMyllor taught a German language taster session, and students learnt some greetings in German. In MFL lessons this week, students have learnt more about the languages spoken in Europe and the benefits of learning a language.

Students have been encouraged to take part in an art competition. The competition is to design a poster illustrating the 25th anniversary motto of the European Day of Languages "Languages open hearts and minds!". Deadline for entries is 10th October.

Thank you to all staff and students for embracing the day! - Miss Cook, Mr Riley and Mrs McMyllor.

# NEWSLETTER

## SCHOOL NEWS



### Careers updates

#### Upcoming open days we have been made aware of:

The Kimberley Sixth Form - October 1st

Kirk Hallam - November 6th

Allestree Woodlands - October 9th

*You may need to sign up to these in advance, please see individual websites for details.*

### Careers Day Events

*We have received the following information via email for any students interested. These events are not linked with school and there may be a charge, but they could be valuable for any students interested in a specific career area:*

[CareerDays.co.uk](https://www.careerdays.co.uk) runs **live, 1-day online Career Days** across a wide range of subjects (Medicine, Law, Veterinary, Engineering, Psychology, Business, Architecture, Computer Science, Performing Arts, Midwifery and more). All with the aim of helping students decide what career paths they may be interested in. Mornings focus on **what the career is really like and how to apply to university**; afternoons provide **work-experience activities plus a live Q&A**, and students receive a **personalised certificate** afterwards. All sessions are delivered online and are recorded for on-demand viewing.

**Autumn 2025 dates:** [CareerDays.co.uk](https://www.careerdays.co.uk)

October	November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sat 4 Oct</b> – Midwifery</li> <li>• <b>Sat 11 Oct</b> – Law</li> <li>• <b>Sat 18 Oct</b> – Medicine</li> <li>• <b>Sun 19 Oct</b> – Dentistry</li> <li>• <b>Sun 26 Oct</b> – Performing Arts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sat 1 Nov</b> – Psychology</li> <li>• <b>Sat 8 Nov</b> – Architecture</li> <li>• <b>Sat 15 Nov</b> – Vet</li> <li>• <b>Sat 29 Nov</b> – Engineering</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sat 6 Dec</b> – Computer Science</li> <li>• <b>Sat 13 Dec</b> – Business</li> </ul>

**Times:** Sessions typically run **11:00–16:00 (UK)**; a few subjects vary slightly—please see the event page for details

**Info & booking:** [www.careerdays.co.uk](https://www.careerdays.co.uk)



# NEWSLETTER

## SCHOOL NEWS

**SJH**

### Post-16 Options Fair

*at Saint John Houghton CVA*

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> 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

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# NEWSLETTER

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Attendance Matters!: Building Positive Habits Together

As we enter the fourth week of term, we want to thank you for your continued support in helping students settle into routines and stay engaged. It's been encouraging to see so many students arriving on time, attending consistently, and making the most of their learning.

Attendance	What it means
99% to 100%	Attendance Champion <i>Minimal absences</i>
97% to 98.9%	
96% to 96.9%	Hero <i>Few justified absences</i>
95% to 95.9%	Rising Star
93% to 94.9%	Requires improvement <i>Attainment risk</i>
90% to 92.9%	Cause for concern <i>Significantly affecting outcomes, risk of Persistent Absence</i>
Below 90%	Serious cause for concern <i>Requires urgent intervention</i>

We know that good attendance is key to academic success, but it's also about wellbeing—being present helps students feel connected, confident, and supported. If your child is finding attendance difficult for any reason, please don't hesitate to reach out. Our pastoral and wellbeing team are here to help.

Quote of the Week: "It's not what we do once in a while that shapes our lives. It's what we do consistently." — Tony Robbins

Wellbeing Tip for Families: Create a calm start to the day: Mornings can be stressful, but a simple routine—like preparing clothes and bags the night before or having a quiet breakfast together—can help students arrive at school feeling more settled and ready to learn.

[attendance@sjh.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:attendance@sjh.srscmat.co.uk)

### Rewards - launch 29<sup>th</sup> September

Band	Absence %	Attendance %	Change since last week
10	15.0-14.1	85-85.9	Green
9	14.0-13.1	86-86.9	Amber
8	13.0-12.1	87-87.9	Red
7	12.0-11.1	88-88.9	
6	11.0-10.1	89-89.9	
5	10.0-9.1	90-90.9	
4	9.0-8.1	91-91.9	
3	8.0-7.1	92-92.9	
2	7.0-6.1	93-93.9	
1	6.0-5.1	94-94.9	
Rising Star	5.0-4.1	95-95.9	Green
Hero	4.0-3.1	96-96.9	Green
Champion	3.0-0.0	97-100	Green

Green – moved up a band 😊  
Amber – stayed the same ✓  
Red – dropped down ☹️

### Tickets = Prizes!!



On 29th September, we will be launching our attendance golden ticket awards for students who achieve 95% or above attendance every week. Every golden ticket will mean a step closer to gold! Updates will be sent out accordingly.

# SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

# NEWSLETTER

## 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
  - 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.**



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# NEWSLETTER

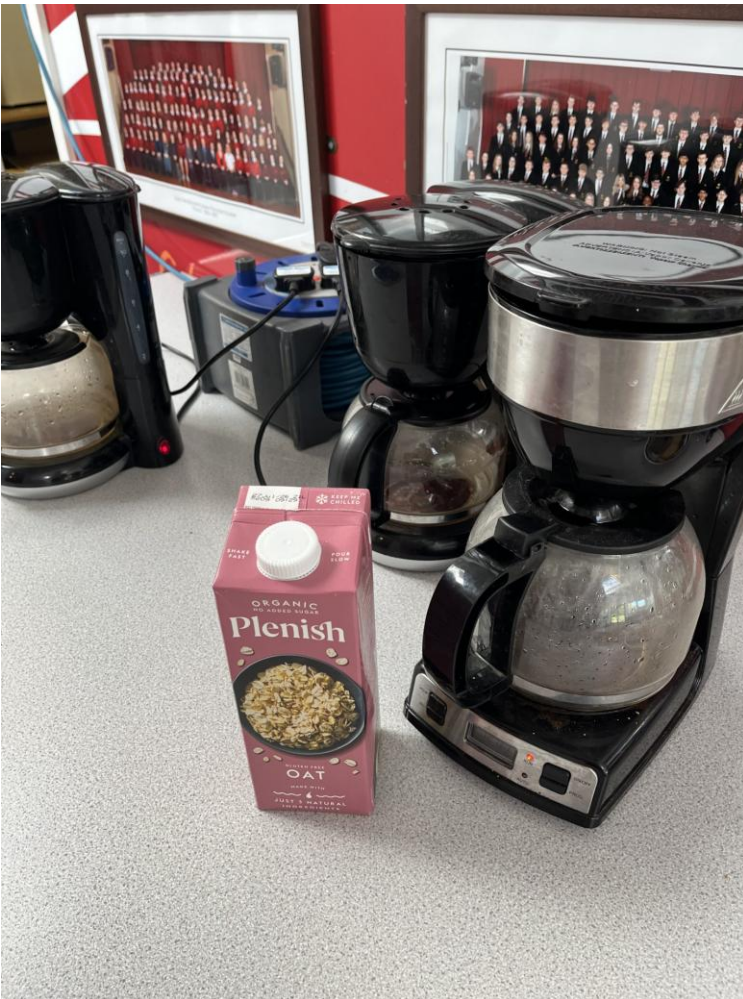
## CHAPLAINCY

### Missio

Thank you to all who donated to our Chaplaincy Charity, Missio last week. I would like to point out Rylee for his generosity and kindness. Well done and thank you for leading the way, Rylee.



### School Captains live Servant Leadership:



Wow! What a great example from our School Captains who served our staff refreshments at break time this week, they acknowledge their hard work and effort. It was a joy to see Mr Brogan shake hands with Casey, to see Beth chat away to staff and Evie's home-made cake was simply the best. Thank you to all the staff who took the time to enjoy conversation with our School Captains.





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# NEWSLETTER

## CHAPLAINCY

### **Mary, the mother of God:**

With thanks to Grace and Maisie who keep our Mary altar in great condition. Have you brought in fresh flowers yet? You are invited to bring in flowers and leave a card in memory of a loved one, in your own name or for a family member or friend. Look at your tutor noticeboard and see the posters, add your name to your month. What we do in Parish Life we try to do in SJH and volunteers like Amelia-May O are wonderful Parish Ambassadors. We always want to know your parish news!



### **Saint Anne's Knitting Group:**

'Where did you get that hat, where did you get that hat?' made by St Anne's Knitting Group using animal friendly baby Alpaca yarn! If you can name this wonderful parishioner and friend of SJH send your names in to Rachel and win a prize [rrose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:rrose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk)



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# NEWSLETTER

## CHAPLAINCY

### **Friends of SJH Coffee Morning:**

Thank you to all our supporters! SJH are keeping their SYNOD promise and opening their doors for conversation and refreshment. Thanks to all the students who supported this event. Special praise to our School Captains, Valentina H, Jess S and Jasmine H.



### **CAFOD Club:**

Watch out for the CAFOD Fairtrade SJH video in next week's daily morning prayers made by Imogen and Avanna. Amazing hard work and effort - thank you very much. All welcome to CAFOD Bingo on Monday lunchtime in HU1.



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# NEWSLETTER

## CHAPLAINCY



### Competition Time:

Please email Rachel the meaning of our SJH School Badge and win a prize.  
[rrose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:rrose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk)

### We Have Winners!:

Winners from last weeks caption competition are:

Staff: Mrs Adams

Student: Sonny L, Lily R

Your quote for this image will be in Daily prayers next week  
Thank you!



### St Thomas and Parish Links:

It was a blessing to visit St Thomas and lead Year 4 in a Beauvale Retreat. We will see Michael in SJH, and I know you will give him a warm welcome. Michael is on his Extended Parish Placement; he is training to be a Priest. Please keep Michael in your prayers, thank you.

# 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](mailto:schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk)



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



# NEWSLETTER

## USEFUL LINKS

Safeguarding concerns please email [safeguarding@sjh.srscmat.co.uk](mailto: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

# NEWSLETTER

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

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

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