

NEWSLETTER

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Friday 14th
November 2025

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter and thank you for reading once again.

This week, we have of course, been taking part in remembrance activities. On Tuesday, 11S led us in our Remembrance Celebration of the word, where they drew our attention to lesser-known heroes. I am sure you will join me in paying tribute to all who have defended our liberties and have given us the opportunity to live the lives we live today. May they rest in peace. Without even being asked, Elsie, one of our Year 7 students, wrote a beautiful poem, which we have shared with you on page 3. Please do have a look.

On Wednesday, several of our students were not in school as they attended the District Cross Country Championships. I am delighted to say that we had several students who placed very well. In the battle of the Year 10 sisters, Molly, on this occasion came out on top!

Winter appears to have arrived this morning, and rain is lashing against the office window as I write this article. The forecast for next week is no better. At Saint John Houghton though, 'we make our own weather' and optimism (one of our core virtues) remains, in spite of the bleak outlook. More next week...

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

Important Dates:

- Inset day – Monday 1st December 2025
- Last day of term – Friday 19th December 2025 – closing at 1.30pm
- Christmas break - Monday 22nd December 2025 – Friday 2nd January 2026

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excellence,
guided by Christ'

Telephone:
0115 9322896

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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.

Inset day – Monday 1 December 2025:

School will be closed to all students on Monday 1 December 2025 as it is Inset day. School will re-open on Tuesday 2 December 2025.

Last Day of Term – Friday 19 December 2025:

School will be closing at 1.30pm on Friday 19 December 2025, lunch will be early on this day. The school buses will be collecting students at 1.30pm, apart from the No.11 bus which will not be running that day, apologies for any inconvenience caused.

No. 11 Bus – Monday 15 – Friday 19 December 2025 & Monday 5 January 2026:

As Kirk Hallam Community Academy is closed Monday 15 – Friday 19 December 2025 and Monday 5 January 2026, the No. 11 bus will not be running during that time, therefore, students will need alternative transport during that time. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

BUS SERVICE UPDATE



Lunch Accounts:

We kindly ask that parents/carers regularly check their children's lunch accounts to ensure they have sufficient funds. A reminder that the kitchen are only able to offer 1 lunch of £3.55 and if the account has not been topped up, food will unfortunately not be able to be offered from day 2.

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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Supporting the Poppy Appeal:

This week, Oscar B and Anthony M from 8A have been visiting other tutor groups to sell poppies in support of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. Their efforts have helped raise funds for veterans and serving members of the Armed Forces, as well as their families. A big thank you to Oscar and Anthony for representing our tutor group so well and for helping our school community show its respect and remembrance.



Remembrance Day:

Elsie B in year 7 wrote a beautiful remembrance poem that she read after the 2 minutes silence on Tuesday 11th November. We were so proud we wanted to share it with you:

*Lest we forget, those who fought on our seas,
Who fought for our land, And fought for our trees,
May we never forget the pain they went through,
As they gave up their lives for me and you.*

*So, as I read this poem, On this day,
Let us never forget, they gave their tomorrow for
our today.*



SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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Carousel:

The English Department would like to praise all the students for their hard work on Carousel. These students are in the top ten of each year group.

Term 1 Carousel Year 7 Leaders

Total Questions This Year - 4389

	Name	Number of Questions
1	Sienna H	218
2	Noah G	208
3	Christopher M	181
4	Rueben M	166
5	Mason W	139
6	Elize J	130
7	Summer D	123
8	Sara B	110
9	Harry T	105
10	Andreo C	100

Term 1 Carousel Year 8 Leaders

Total Questions This Year - 4389

	Name	Number of Questions
1	Harry F	625
2	Benjamin M	363
3	Hanna D	323
4	Honey P	204
5	Elisia T	184
6	Jake T	171
7	Lacie S	171
8	Summer B	126
9	Scarlett S	113
10	Ewan T	101

Term 1 Carousel Year 9 Leaders

Total Questions This Year - 4389

	Name	Number of Questions
1	Evie-Mae M	712
2	Jasmine-Jones O	400
3	Zach I	284
4	Eleanor C	170
5	Amelia W	155
6	Jessica H	126
7	Sonny L	120
8	Bethany B	110
9	Lily T	100
10	Thomas C	100

Term 1 Carousel Year 10 Leaders

Total Questions This Year - 4389

	Name	Number of Questions
1	Peyton W	325
2	Kyrillos A	283
3	Lois-Skye J	135
4	Summer S	119
5	Amelia S	115
6	Kalma S	115
7	Matilda C	114
8	Solomon M	95
9	Alice C	94
10	Jack T	85

Term 1 Carousel Year 11 Leaders

Total Questions This Year - 4389

	Name	Questions Quizzed
1	Natalia L	503
2	Danielle M	297
3	Evie H	276
4	Isabella O	271
5	Isla S	245
6	Nancy W	225
7	Hollie Ann P	140
8	Paige B	125
9	Julia H	114
10	Mishel C	114

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Attendance Matters:

As we settle back into the rhythm of the term, it's great to see students re-engaging with their learning. Every day in school makes a difference — not just academically, but socially and emotionally too. Regular attendance helps build confidence, friendships, and resilience.

We know that winter illnesses and darker mornings can make it harder to get into school, but please remember even small improvements in attendance add up to big gains over time.

Let's keep encouraging our young people to be here, on time, and ready to learn.

Need some support? Attendance@sjh.srscmat.co.uk



Quote of the Week

"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out." – Robert Collier

Wellbeing Tip

With the colder weather setting in, it's easy to feel sluggish. Try to get outside for at least 10 minutes of fresh air each day — even a short walk can boost mood, energy, and focus. Pair it with a warm drink afterwards for a simple wellbeing reset.

Football Active:

We wanted to share information about Football Active. Football sessions designed specifically for children in Year 7 and 8 who love football.

Our sessions are pressure-free and focused on enjoyment, perfect for children who want to have fun, improve their skills, and stay active, without the need to commit to playing for a team.

For more information:

www.footballactive.co

Facebook- **Football Active**

Instagram- **football_active**



SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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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:

- | | |
|---|---|
| - 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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NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

ELSA:

It is a privilege to work in Catholic Education, and I would like to thank all involved for supporting me in gaining this qualification; please know I will use it well and I do pray for our SJH families each day.

Derbyshire Educational
Psychology Service Training

Certificate of ELSA title

Rachel Rose

Completed the six-day Derbyshire County ELSA training course in 2025

This certificate confirms the title of Emotional Literacy
Support Assistant (ELSA) for academic year 2025-2026*



Kat Thorn

Dr Kat Thorn,
Senior Educational Psychologist

*Making a difference: Enabling positive change through listening,
optimism and insight*

*Attendance at reflective supervision sessions with an EP is essential in order to maintain the ELSA title



S4S Derbyshire
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SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

Dear friends,

May I take this opportunity to share the news that my lovely mum, Anne Jennifer, died on Monday after a short illness of Cancer. I have been with my family in North Wales over the past few days and apologise if I have missed any appointments. We are very grateful for a lovely mum, the time we had and our belief that she will Rest in Peace in Heaven.

With love and thank you for your prayers and good wishes,

Rachel Rose



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



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NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

Friends of Saint John Houghton Catholic Academy

"Be still and know that I am God."

Psalms 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: 8.05.26 Yr 11 - 9.10am

Date: 17.06.26 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 –
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NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

CAFOD

Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

CAFOD is a whole school Charity.

CAFOD Club meet each Monday lunchtime.

~~4th October 2025 CAFOD National Activity Day – SJH
Chaplain leading.~~

~~10th October 2025 CAFOD Harvest Fast~~

**19th December 2025 CAFOD national Christmas
Video with SJH family**

**23rd January 2026 CAFOD and vocations with
CAFOD raffle**

**27th February 2026 Mass for CAFOD & Family Fast
in SJH**

**7th March 2026 SJH lead the Diocese in The Big Lent
Walk**



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NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

Saint John Houghton Catholic Academy

“Love means doing what God has commanded...2 John 1:6...and He has commanded us to love one another.

Missio Charity Work

~~—Date: 18.09.25 Collecting small—
—change.~~

~~—Date: 07.10.25 Yr 7 Cake Sale—~~

Date: 28.11.25 Yr 8 Sponsored silence

Date: 16.04.26 Whole School Bake Off

Date: 12.05.26 Yr 9 Rosary for missio

Date: 02.06.26 Yr 10 Sweet sale for missio

This is taking place at **Saint John Houghton Catholic Academy, Abbot Road, Kirk Hallam, Ilkeston DE7 4HX**

Contact –

schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk



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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	Christopher M	Farleigh S	Santiago R	Mia P	William H
English	Victoria M	James A	Emily D	Daisy LJ	Cole B
Science	James M	Elsie SR	Frasier HG	Kyrillos A	Nieve C
Theology / RE	Megan D	Joshua R	William H	Matilda C	Mishel C
Geography	Charis I	Fillip S	Maisie W	Amelia SJ	Charlie BM
History	Rafaella H	Isla F	Lily-Jay S	Aaron E	Scarlett L
Music	Paisley B	Finlay W	Caitlin K	Oliver J	Bethany DR
Computing / Business	Lilly-Jean M	Caitlin C	Sienna S	iMedia: Finlay M Business: Marley L	iMedia: Emily L Business: Sophie A
MFL	<u>Spanish:</u> Bailey S	<u>Spanish:</u> Phoebe J <u>French:</u> Charlie L	<u>Spanish:</u> Aleksandra S <u>French:</u> Finlay M	<u>Spanish:</u> Imogen L <u>French:</u> Ruby D	<u>Spanish:</u> Scarlett W <u>French:</u> Ellie-Mai R
PE / Health & Social Care	Lexi P	Summer B	Abigail W	<u>PE:</u> Mollie W <u>GCSE PE:</u> Ryan P <u>H&S Care:</u> Riana B	<u>PE:</u> Isla F <u>GCSE PE:</u> Oliver S <u>H&S Care:</u> Julia H <u>Sports Studies:</u> Oliver S
Design	Oakley C	Kobby AB	Sophie R	<u>DT:</u> Jack B <u>Engineering:</u> William B <u>Art:</u> Alicia K <u>Food:</u> Natasha G	<u>DT:</u> Harry W <u>Engineering:</u> Farren S <u>Art:</u> Eleanor HM <u>Food:</u> Luke D

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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 - Jesse T for always having manners and being respectful.

Year 8 - Reuben H for always following the Saint John Houghton way.

Year 9 - Jenson D for thinking about others before himself.

KS4 Mr Ritchie:

Year 10 – Mollie and Peyton W for coming 1st and 2nd in the Erewash school's cross country.

Year 11 – Ifi T for an excellent start to Year 11.

The Saint John Houghton Award:

Joshua B in year 10 has been nominated by staff for this week's St John Houghton Award, he has been nominated for striving for excellence and his determination to succeed.

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:

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