

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Friday 21st
November 2025

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

‘Inspiring ambition and
excellence,
guided by Christ’

Telephone:
0115 9322896

Email:

schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

Dear Readers,

A very warm welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter and thank you for joining us once again. Thank you also to those of you who were able to join us for our Year 10 Parents' Evening on Wednesday. It felt like an incredibly positive evening, but if there are any issues that need to be followed up, please do not hesitate to contact us using the usual channels. I was discussing with several parents of Year 10 students how quickly the time has gone and will continue to go. Just ask our Year 11 students who are entering their first round of Mock Exams next week. Good luck to all of them.

A fascinating part of my job is working with the School Captains (Beth, Casey and Evie), who are doing a tremendous job driving change on behalf of the student body. They really are doing a great job and are representing our student body superbly.

As we have entered winter and the period of inclement weather, (this week has been particularly cold!), a reminder that it is our intention for school to remain open as much as possible. Any decision made will always be made in the best interests of all in school, prioritising the health and safety of all. When we do need to reluctantly close school due to snow, for example, we will aim to inform parents and staff as early as possible, usually around 7am and we will communicate regularly if there is a changing picture.

More next week... 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.

Inset day – Monday 1 December 2025:

School will be closed to all students on Monday 1 December 2025 as it is an 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



Behaviour Sanctions:

Please be aware that we do not share information about students with anyone other than the child's parent(s) or other legal guardian(s). There have been a number of incidents recently where parents have requested information about another child, e.g. the sanction they received following a 'behaviour incident.' Please be aware that we only share this information with the child and their parent/legal guardian. To do so would be sharing personal information, which we are not entitled to do.

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS

Derbyshire County Council Household Support Fund:

As part of the Government's Household Support Fund Scheme, Derbyshire County Council is distributing funding to households struggling to pay for food, energy, and essential living costs.



**Funded by
UK Government**

As part of the scheme, the Council will again be distributing grocery vouchers. Information about who is eligible for the vouchers is available on the website and distribution will start in **mid-January 26**. They will update the website when all vouchers have been distributed and provide details of what parents and carers should do if they have not received their voucher.

Full details about the scheme and the support available for those experiencing financial hardship is available on the website at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund

Year 11 GCSE Mock Exams - 24th to 28th November:

Year 11 are currently preparing for next weeks GCSE mock exams. We ask that all students arrive to school on time, ready for a prompt start and that any absences are communicated to us before 9am where at all possible.

Year 11 Students should be in their full uniform with all the necessary equipment to take the exam - pen, pencil, ruler and calculator (if required) - we have only very limited supplies to lend to students. A copy of the exam timetable and further exam related information can be found on the school website:

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

Thank you for supporting your child through this exam period and please let us know if we can help.

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS

Derbyshire County Golf:

Liam D in year 10 proudly represented Derbyshire County Golf at their presentation day, where he was honoured as the Under-14 Player of the Year. This is an incredible achievement, and we couldn't be prouder of his hard work and dedication. Congratulations, Liam!



Careers Updates:

Talk from former student

On Thursday 13th November, Year 11 and 9 had a talk from former student Fazane Fox, a fashion entrepreneur who runs her own fashion business. She talked about her career and how she navigated her way from being a student in Saint John Houghton, to where she is today. Students learnt about how a career can have many ups and downs and how perseverance is a key skill to have.

British Council Event - Year 9

On Tuesday 17th November, during their PSHE lesson, Year 9 joined in a national conference run by the British Council about Careers in Languages. Students learnt a lot about different careers and how the subjects they learn in school, can go on to play a big role in their future job choices.

West Notts College events

West Notts College have given us details of the following events:

- Try a Trade Construction Taster – Tuesday 25th November – 4:30pm-6:30pm – The Old Brewery Campus, NG18 1AH
- College Open Event – Saturday 29th November – 10am-1pm – Derby Road Campus, NG18 5BH

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS

Savoy Cinema Visit:

Over 90 SJH students celebrated their positive behaviour in school by being rewarded with a visit to the Savoy Cinema in Nottingham on Wednesday.

The students who were invited received the most Virtue Points, no sanctions and had good attendance at school. The students watched How To Train Your Dragon with the comments from the students as follows:

"Really enjoyed the film, it was both funny and sad"

"Great entertainment"

"Had a great time"

Miss Turgoose would like to thank all the students who were on the trip for representing Saint John Houghton so well out in the wider community; living up to the excellence virtue. We had numerous compliments about your manners and that always makes us proud! Well done!

The Term 2 reward trip is Bowling, so keep up the positive behaviour and excellent attendance!



Attendance Matters:

Regular attendance is the foundation of success in school. Every lesson builds on the last, and missing even a single day can make it harder to keep up. We want to remind families that arriving on time and being present every day helps students feel connected, confident, and ready to learn.

Good attendance isn't just about academic progress — it also supports friendships, wellbeing, and a sense of belonging. Let's continue working together to ensure our young people make the most of every opportunity.

If you require any help or support, please get in touch. Attendance@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

Quote of the Week

"The secret of getting ahead is getting started." – Mark Twain

Wellbeing Tip

Try a short "gratitude pause" at the end of each day. Write down one thing you're thankful for — big or small. This simple practice can boost mood, reduce stress, and help you approach tomorrow with a more positive mindset.



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 | - 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.

'Inspiring ambition and excellence, guided by Christ'

Telephone: 0115 9322896 | Email: schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

Chaplaincy updates:

May I take this opportunity to thank all involved for organising the Chaplain's INSET on Monday. NDCRS (Virtue points for all if you can tell me what these initials stand for...email rrose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk).

We began the day with Holy Mass and you were prayed for during this Mass. This was a time to gather, share and plan ahead.

This weekend we will celebrate the Feast of Christ The King - please make a special effort to attend Mass in your parish, if you would like me to support you and sit with you then simply email me and it will be a privilege to support you.

I am delighted that Michael will be leading Adoration in my home in December and several First Holy Communion families and members of our SJH family will attend - if you are wondering what Adoration at home looks like or would like a chat about this then please do email me, thank you.

Could you have a look at CAFOD World Gifts? Small catalogues will be in your parish and in SJH and would make a great Christmas gift to send to those in need in developing countries. Let me know what you think.

Thank you for the time and support given for me to attend a First Aid Course on Wednesday and Thursday this week - I am delighted to say I have kept my First Aid certificate updated and happy to use on Retreats, outings and in schools.

Luce will be visiting SJH. The Diocese have put together a box of goodies for our 'Jubilee Year of HOPE' and SJH will receive this box from Saint Benedicts School on Monday 24th and deliver Luce to St Thomas Primary School on Friday 28th. If you would like the opportunity to be on the Meet and Greet Team or Delivering Team please email Rachel - you do not have to be Catholic to join in with these opportunities, you are welcome and loved just as you are!



Sharing God's Love:

Earlier in the year several students visited an Alpaca Farm; we chose this yarn and have knitted this lovely hat which will go into our local community this week.

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

SJH November Bereavement Service:

Well done and thank you to all who planned and delivered our Remembrance Service. A special note of thanks to James A in year 8 for his service and support. We were blessed to be joined by Fr Paul and Michael. Thank you to all the brave and wonderful students who came to reflect, share their loss, spend time in prayer and to care for others. Thank you to our Tutors who have collected names of our loved ones we have lost this year or would like to remember in our prayers during November.

I BRING YOU HEAVEN - written by my prayer friend: Polly Wilton

I have gone before you
and yes, I see
your pain, your grief, your tears
this day, and not in vain
for you will grow, in faith and hope
bearing fruit for those in need
I bring you Heaven.

I have gone before you
and yes, I see
just how much I mean to you
how much more you mean to one another
you comfort and hold, console and support
your lives torn apart
brought closer together
I bring you Heaven.

I have gone before you
and yes, I see
that in my death Christ love is born
I bring you heaven I have gone before you
and yes, I see
you share with me this precious hour
this life in Christ
Eternity, you live with me in Heaven.

I have gone before you
and yes, I see, God's love for you, God's love for me, I live with you in Heaven.



SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

Faith in Action:

Well done and thank you Lucy S for making this gorgeous display for our Mary Altar in Reception. More thanks to Grace and Maisie for their weekly support with taking care of our Altar



Can you give a helping hand?:

Team Chaplaincy are selling these lovely mitts for a small donation to Charity. A huge thank you to Miss Bywater who has spent many hours 'giving a helping hand.'

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

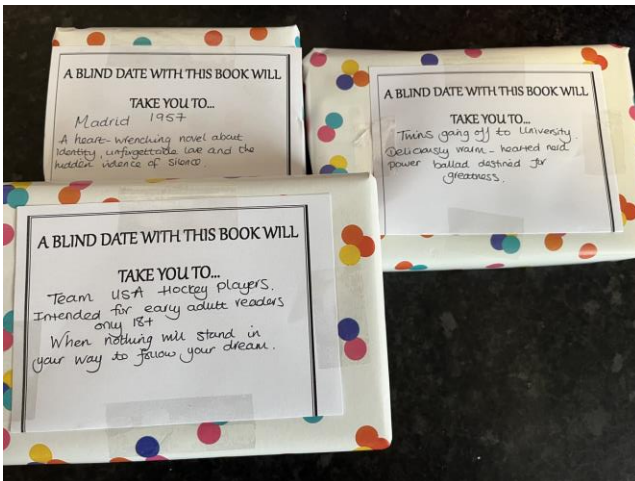
NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY



Parish Ambassadors:

Parish Ambassadors and Saint Anne's Knitting Group have prepared 'Peace Doves' which will be given this week end to support the 'Turning on the Christmas Lights' in Eastwood this Saturday with 'Churches Together'. Will you be there to support?



Charity Support:

Team Chaplaincy are selling books for 20p each - all donations go to Charity. Please support!

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: 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 –
schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

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**



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

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



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:

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):

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