

NEWSLETTER

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Friday 28th
November 2025

Dear Readers,

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

Thank you for joining us once again, and just like that, November passed in the blink of an eye! I'm struggling to comprehend how quickly November has gone and how, when we return after the extended weekend for our students (Monday 1st December is an INSET Day of course), we will be in December and will be in the first week of Advent, the period of preparation for Christmas.

Congratulations to our Year 11 students who have now completed their first set of Mock exams, and I am sure are intrigued/interested/terrified to find out how well they did. They have, in the main been superb this week with very few incidents of note. They really do seem 'locked-in' (as they say!) to achieve the best they can.

This week, I was delighted, with Mrs Gabriel our Chair of Governors, to welcome Ms Brzozowska and Mrs Chocholko to the Governing Board as representatives of our parents. It was a really positive meeting; they asked challenging questions of me as the Head and made an instant positive impact on our school community. We look forward to seeing them in school and to working with them for the good of all.

I sincerely hope all of our students enjoy a restful mid-term long weekend and we will see them on Tuesday morning.

More next week... Garde ta Foi! Guard your Faith!

Mr S Brogan, Headteacher



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

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 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



Coats:

We have a large collection of coats and blazers belonging to students in the school office. If your child has lost a coat or blazer, please ask them to come to reception before the end of next week if they are missing a coat. Coats that are not collected will be donated to charity.

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS

Macmillan Coffee Morning:

A big thank you to our kitchen staff for hosting a wonderful coffee morning during our last INSET day! We also appreciate every member of staff who brought cakes and kindly donated. We raised £152.18. Our certificate of achievement is proudly displayed in the reception window, be sure to take a look.



Rolls-Royce Apprenticeships Open Evening - Wednesday 14th January 2026:

Year 10 and 11 are invited to explore the Level 3 apprenticeships Rolls-Royce have on offer and get a real insight into what it's like to start a career with Rolls-Royce.

On the evening, you will be able to:

- Explore our full range of Level 3 apprenticeship programmes at dedicated stands
- Hear directly from current apprentices about their experiences & journeys
- Get expert advice from our Emerging Talent team on how to apply and stand out.

Hosted at: Rolls-Royce Learning & Development Centre (Gate 5A), Wilmore Road, Derby, DE24 9BD from 5-8pm.

You can find out more and register via the link here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1857526926039?aff=oddtcreator>

Attendance Matters:

Every lesson builds on the last, and being present each day makes learning smoother and more rewarding. Good attendance isn't just about marks — it's about confidence, friendships, and future opportunities.

Remember: Our Attendance and Wellbeing Team are here to support you every step of the way — whether it's advice, encouragement, or practical help to keep you on track.

Quote of the week: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." – Nelson Mandela

Wellbeing Tip: Start the day with a healthy breakfast. It fuels concentration, boosts energy, and makes it easier to stay engaged in lessons — helping you get the most out of every school day.



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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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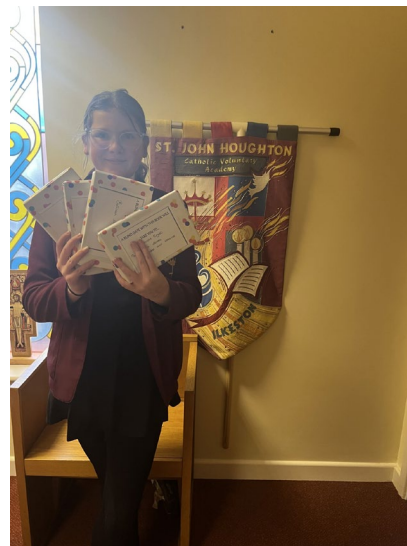
NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

Faith in Action:

Here in SJH we all put our 'faith into action' and this could be by donating your good quality clothes to Sharewear, those daily acts of kindness and having the courage to do what is right and I am delighted that many of our students are taking their faith journey deeper and it was my privilege to gather and explain to our young people why we need Charity support, how organisations began and deep dived into fairtrade. We learnt and remembered about Saints as we are preparing to 'close the door' on the Jubilee Year of HOPE and know this will be a heavy door to close as a new journey begins.

I have put forward Ava L and Tilly G for their School Colours again because their service is above and beyond supporting the First Holy Communion Programme and Ava is also leading the way in Parish Ambassadors and Christmas parish celebrations.



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Charity Support in SJH for the Season of Advent:

Year 7 are invited to bring in items for their Tutor Reverse Advent Bags: Tinned food, tea, coffee, sugar, selection box, crackers, toothpaste, shampoo, these bags will go into our local community.

Year 8-11 have been given a Tutor Challenge to raise money for 'Let The Children Live!' Our Christmas Jumper money donations will also go to 'Let the Children Live.'

Positive Points:

The following students have been noticed for a positive attitude and manners and rewarded with Virtue Points: Lexi P, Henry D, Maxwell O-A, Robyn R, Leo M, Logan L, Ewan T, Poppy Z. Aiden W, Dylan P, Elsie B, Josh T, Felix H, Jessica P, Thayonita R and Jessica S.

The Word of the week next week is: Prayer. We will be given time to pray and think about what God might be saying to you. Why not spend some time on your INSET day talking to God.

Pray with us:

Headline news: *Nigeria sees one of the worst mass abductions as 315 taken from St Mary's Catholic School.*

Action: Representatives from SJH gathered to pray.

Parish Ambassadors have Prayers to take into the Parish to be added to the 'Prayers of the Faithful' at Mass.

Please can you join us in prayer at home:

God-with-us, you sit down in our midst. Nothing can separate us from your love. Can this include the despair in our hearts that the world's wrongs cannot be changed? You are with our brothers queuing for aid, or sisters cradling starving children, those digging in the rubble of homes and today we bring to you the stolen children, staff and clergy from the school in Nigeria. You sit in our midst, confused, angry, helpless, as we hold your suffering people in prayer. God-with-us, we must believe that your great love can never be contained by the walls of separation or cancelled by lies and hatred. You sit down in our midst: breathe hope into the world. Amen.

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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"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 –
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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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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 –

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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	Buddy A	Gulseren S	Emily D	Jack B	Nazim G
English	Elize J	Oscar T	Zofia S	Aaron E	Mishel C
Science	Mangan R	Joshua R	Alexander H	Alexander M	James G
Theology / RE	Ava F	Charlie L	Gabriella W	Joseph A	Maisie L
Geography	Joshua T	Isla F	Lily T	Summer S	Antonia L
History	Antonia B	Oscar B	Daisy W	Jacob F	Evie O'N
Music	Sara B	Kobby AB	Maisie W	Ruby D	Logan S
Computing / Business	Jarvis H	Anthony M	Evie-Mae M	iMedia: Lloyd B Business: Daniel S	iMedia: Ava S Business: Finn P
MFL	<u>Spanish:</u> Anya R	<u>Spanish:</u> Emma S <u>French:</u> Michal N	<u>Spanish:</u> Eleanor S <u>French:</u> Oscar R	<u>Spanish:</u> Joseph R <u>French:</u> Ava F	<u>Spanish:</u> Sophie A <u>French:</u> Harry B
PE / Health & Social Care	Isabella G	Isabella F	Ernest Y	<u>PE:</u> Alfie S <u>GCSE PE:</u> Declan Z <u>H&S Care:</u> Grace Q	<u>PE:</u> Luke C <u>GCSE PE:</u> Leo D <u>H&S Care:</u> Ruby M <u>Sports Studies:</u> Isaac L
Design	Teddy BT	Logan L	Remy K	<u>DT:</u> Kyrillos A <u>Engineering:</u> Charlie B <u>Food:</u> Ryan P	<u>DT:</u> Sebastian F <u>Engineering:</u> Anton C <u>Food:</u> Dawn M

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 – Reuben M for his brilliant effort in all lessons.

Year 8 – Isla T for always living up to the SJH values.

Year 9 – Thomas C for his fantastic effort and continuous improvement.

KS4 Mr Ritchie:

Year 10 - Aaron V - For following the Saint John Houghton way and his hard work.

Year 11 - Antonia L - For her continued hard work and effort in all lessons.

The Saint John Houghton Award:

Elize J in year 7 has been nominated by staff for this week's St John Houghton Award, she has been nominated for the compassion she shows to others and for being a role model to her peers.

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