

NEWSLETTER

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Friday 19th
December 2025

Important Dates:

- Christmas break -
Monday 22nd
December 2025 –
Friday 2nd January 2026
- February Half Term -
Monday 16 – Friday 20
February 2026
- Inset day - Monday 23
February 2026

'Inspiring ambition and
excellence,
guided by Christ'

Telephone:
0115 9322896
Email:

schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

Dear Readers,

Thank you for joining us for the latest edition of our Newsletter and the last one of 2025. We hope our students have enjoyed our festivities in school this week. It has been a week full of joy and we sincerely hope our students have enjoyed it. There really is no school like Saint John Houghton and I am so grateful to all of the staff who get involved and who and make it so special for our students. There can't be many schools where the staff put on a panto for their students in order to ensure they have some fun at Christmas. We always (of course) finish the year with the 12 days of Christmas, a great tradition of our school.

Thank you also to all for their support this week, especially the kitchen staff who provided us with a lovely Christmas Lunch on Wednesday and it was also great to see so many students (and staff) in Christmas jumpers yesterday supporting our charity for this year.

Sadly, the end of a term brings about some change, and today we say 'Goodbye' to Mrs. Eyres who leaves us to take on a new role for the Lead Teacher for Maths at a school in Nottingham. We are so proud that we have been a part of her story and we wish her all the very best for the future in all that she does.

I will end by wishing you all a very merry and peaceful Christmas and we will see you all on 5th January 2026!

More next year... 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.



No. 11 Bus – Monday 5 January 2026:

As Kirk Hallam Community Academy is closed on Monday 5 January 2026, the No. 11 bus will not be running on that day, therefore, students will need alternative transport during that time. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

School Meal Accounts:

Please can all parents make sure that all school meal accounts are topped up, and all debt cleared over the Christmas period. Thank you.



Year 11 Updates for the new Year:

After working hard to complete their GCSE Mock exams Year11 finalised data will be going home to parents/carers on Wednesday 21 January 2026. Although students will know their mock results informally, before the end of term, this would be a good time to discuss your child's progress with them.

Dates for your Year 11 Diary

- Monday 19 January 2026 - Year 11 Photographs. Please make sure you are in school for your opportunity to have an individual and year group photo.
- Mock GCSE Exams Week commencing Monday 2 February 2026 for 2 weeks.
- Parents consultation evening on Wednesday 18 March 2026.

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS



Uniform:

Could all parents/carers please check the school uniform policy during the holiday, and ensure all students return dressed correctly, particularly the footwear section. If there are any issues, could they contact the school behaviour team behaviour@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

Uniform

- School Blazer: Maroon for Years 7 to 11 – **blazer to be worn at all times**
- Plain short or long sleeve white shirt – **No turned up sleeves, tucked in at all times**
- Clip on school tie
- Black V-neck jumpers may be worn during terms 2 to 4 but are not permitted during term 1, 5 & 6. **School blazer must be worn at all times**
- Black trousers of a smart tailored fit. **No jeans/leggings/jeggings/skinny fit or cropped trousers to be worn**
- Black dropped waist pleated skirt to be worn at the appropriate length. **No belts to be worn and skirts must not be rolled up**
- Black tailored shorts may be worn, **for term 5 & 6 only**
- Plain **black** socks or black tights only (**minimum 40 denier**)
- Black leather flat shoes. **Boots/sandals not to be worn. No air bubbles in the sole.**
- Outdoor coat. **No denim or leather jackets. Hoodies, tracksuit tops or tech fleeces are not permitted**

Jewellery

- One close fitting ring only to be worn on hand
- One watch
- No upper ear or facial piercings to be worn. One plain nose stud is permitted
- One pair of close-fitting plain stud earrings in the lobe of the ear
- Bracelets are not permitted to be worn
- One necklace may be worn under shirts, they must be removed for practical lessons

Make Up

- Light foundation and mascara are allowed
- Eyebrows should be of natural shape or colour

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS

Nails

- No nail polish
- No gel nails
- No acrylic or false nails
- Natural nails only



Hair

- Students' hair should be no shorter than a number 2
- Shaved sections are not permitted
- Hair colour must be natural with natural looking highlights allowed (no bright colours eg red, green, purple, pink, blue)
- No tramlines or patterns cut in the hair are permitted
- Only a plain headband or bobble should be worn
- Hair fashions such as flowers/bright and bold hair clips are not permitted
- Long hair must be tied back for PE and practical subjects
- No shaved eyebrows

Attendance Matters – Festive Edition

As we wrap up the final week of term and head into the Christmas break, we want to thank all our students and families for their continued efforts with attendance this year. Every day in school truly counts — it builds confidence, strengthens friendships, and helps students stay on track with their learning.



Looking Ahead to the New Year, January gives everyone a fresh start. Good attendance from the very first week sets the tone for a positive, successful term. Even small improvements make a big difference, and we're here to help every step of the way.

If your child has struggled with attendance this term, please know you're not alone. We're always available to support families with routines, worries, or barriers that make getting into school difficult. Reaching out early can make the return in January much smoother.

- *Quote of the Week* "The magic in new beginnings is truly the most powerful of them all."
— Josiyah Martin
- *Wellbeing Tip for the Holidays* Make space for rest. The festive season can be full of excitement, but taking time to recharge — whether through a quiet walk, reading, or simply slowing down — helps everyone return in January feeling refreshed and ready.

Wishing all our families a peaceful, joyful Christmas. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year with positivity, purpose, and great attendance.

attendance@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

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 your child has diarrhoea and/or vomiting they must not attend until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours (the '48 hour rule') and feel well.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Community Flu Immunisation Clinics:

We would like to inform you that the local School Aged Immunisation Team will be offering Community Flu immunisation clinics for students who were unable to attend their in-school vaccination session, or for parents who would like their child to be vaccinated. Please see the below poster about dates/times of clinics and how to book an appointment.

Community Flu Immunisation Clinics



School Aged Immunisation Service

For children who are attending primary and secondary schools or electively home educated in the Derbyshire and Derby city areas.

Non-porcine flu vaccinations also available.

Monday 22nd December - Nottingham Road Fire Station, Chaddesden 10:00-15:00

Tuesday 23rd December - Genesis Enterprise Centre, Alfreton 9:30-15:25

Tuesday 23rd December - Standen Lane Fire Station, Buxton 10:15-12:40

Friday 2nd January - Genesis Enterprise Centre, Alfreton 10:00-14:05

Please note this is a free vaccination for any eligible child.

**Call IntraHealth on 0333 3583 397 option 5 option 2 to book an appointment at the fore mentioned clinics.
www.intrahealth.co.uk**



SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

Year 7 Residential to Alton Castle:

Thank you to Miss Turgoose for leading the Year 7 Retreat and Mr Carr & Miss Leverton for being The Dream Team. It was wonderful to be with you and pray with you.

Thank you to the Admin Team who spent hours making lists and timetables and to the wonderful parents/carers who paid for this special trip and did all the laundry at the end!

Alton Castle offered us the most wonderful prayer opportunities, Holy Mass, climbing, walking, survival skills, mountain biking and so much more. Please see SJH Chaplain X(twitter) for all the details.

Thank you, Year 7 students, for your friendship, your generosity, wonderful attitude and behaviour and for making this Retreat the best ever!



Year 7 Alton Castle “Basement Boys” and Josh lead the way.



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CHAPLAINCY

Ambassadors of HOPE and Community Carol Service:

Well done, Maxwell, Summer and James for bringing hope to all and thank you for representing SJH at the Community Carol Service. Maxwell said the church was really beautiful with great singing with gifts of candles to take home as a reminder to be a light to others. We are delighted to offer our students these opportunities.



Pilgrims of HOPE:

Thank you to all the students who have given hope to others this year. As a family of schools, we have worked on our Pilgrim of HOPE bike. Well done to all who have added their Faith in Action craft, added 'rose tinted glasses, to see a brighter future', window of hope, buckets of joy and peace along with Scripture to match the craft. We hope the bike will literally light up (as we added fairy lights) Eastwood Church in 2026.

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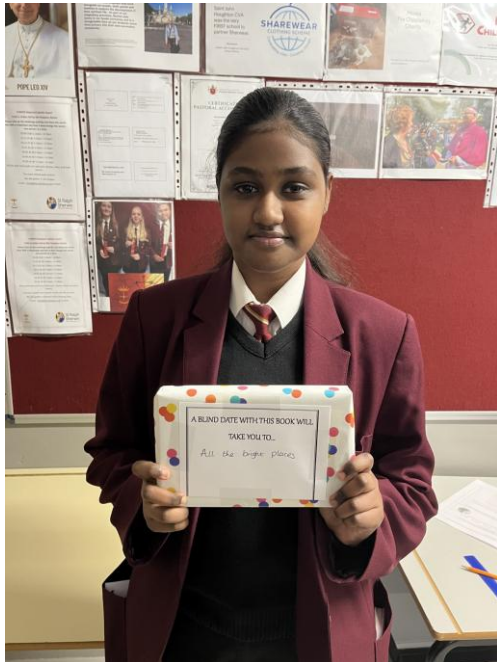
SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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CHAPLAINCY

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

So many of our students leave our Celebrations of the word, mass and morning prayer ready to serve others and Robyn has been noticed for her care for others. Well done and thank you.



Faith in Action:

Well done Thayonita for your Silver Level Faith in Action Charity work. Thayonita has wrapped and organised a date with a good read and will sell these books in perfect condition for 20p and all money raised will go to Missio. Her target is to raise £2.00 by May, perhaps you could buy a book from Thayonita and support Missio at the same time?



Spreading Advent Joy:

James, Summer, Josh, Ollie, Leo and Lewis have been recognised this week for sharing the Advent joy and friendship in SJH. These wonderful students work steadily and consistently to be the best versions of themselves - well done all and enjoy the holiday.



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Christmas Dinner 2026 in SJH:

Thank you for all the team work to organise timings, rotas, music, powerpoints, and THE COOKING and SERVING of sooooo many wonderful meals on Wednesday. Thank you very much Mrs Moore and team for making Christmas Dinner a very special occasion for alland of course Santa came too.



SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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CHAPLAINCY

The final Celebration of the word for schools in the Jubilee Year:

On Tuesday morning we joined Bishop Patrick on Teams for the closing of the doors celebration. Bishop Partick thanked all the schools for filling his Diocese with hope and reminded us to be good friends to one another. It was a pleasure to sit with some Year 7's to hear this message which will be passed onto all in Daily Prayers in 2026.



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Adoration at home in Advent:

Adoration is a special time when we 'sunbath' with Jesus. As Catholics we believe that the host is Jesus and to be in the same room as Jesus offers a special prayer time. We do have Adoration on our school calendar in SJH and when Fr Paul offered Adoration at home I accepted the invitation. This was a beautiful time for a SJH family and a First Holy Communion Family to spend time together and after the Adoration time we had refreshments. Michale, who is studying to be a Priest, led Adoration on Tuesday evening. If you would like to learn more, please do contact me rose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk



NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

The Beauvale Society

*would like to wish all of
our wonderful members*

*a happy and joyful Christmas,
and a hopeful and peace-filled New Year.*



*We look forward to seeing you at the next
Beauvale Pilgrimage in May.*



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 –

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**St Ralph
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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:

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