

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Friday 23rd
January 2026

Dear Readers,

It has been a busy week in school, and it is hard to believe we are nearly at the end of January already.

Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended the Year 9 parents evening. I hope that this has helped Year 9 start to think about their important option choices. More information on options, will follow in due course.

I would like to congratulate our Year 10 boys who took part in a National Cup fixture against Ackworth Academy, winning 4-0, they will move onto the next round. Further information about their win is on page 2.

Some of our Year 9 and Year 10 students will be taking part in an Intermediate Maths Challenge next Wednesday. We look forward to seeing the results from this.

Year 11 food students will be completing their mock exams next week, we wish them good luck with these.

As always at this time of year we continue to watch the weather forecast, luckily the previous forecast snow, looks like it has moved away from our area, so we do not foresee any disruption next week.

More next week... Garde ta Foi! Guard your Faith!
Mr S Brogan, Headteacher

Important Dates:

- 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

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.



Year 10 Football –

Ackworth Academy v Saint John Houghton:

On Wednesday 21st January, the Year 10 Boys travelled an hour north to play in the last 16 of the National Cup Competition.

On a wet and windy afternoon, the boys started strongly and went 2 - 0 up after two headers by Nathan A. SJH continued to bombard the opposition goal and without an amazing half from the keeper could easily have extended their lead. SJH played against the wind in a tighter second half. As the opposition started to tire, SJH extended their lead through Ryan P before Finlay P scored a worldie from outside the area to give the team an unassailable 4 - 0 lead. The next round will see the team travel to further afield in the Quarter Finals. Well done to all boys involved!



Attendance Matters:

We are now into Week 3 of our Attendance Matters focus, and this week we're celebrating small wins. Every morning your child arrives on time is a step toward stronger routines, better learning habits, and a calmer start to the day. Consistency builds confidence, and we're already seeing pupils taking real pride in showing up ready to learn.



Quote of the Week: "Every day is a chance to get better. Don't waste it."

Wellbeing Tip of the Week: Create a 'reset moment' after school. Instead of jumping straight into homework, screens, or chores, encourage your child to take five minutes to reset — a snack, a chat, a stretch, or simply a quiet moment. A short pause helps them unwind, regulate, and feel more prepared for the next day.

Thank you for continuing to support strong attendance — it makes a bigger difference than you might realise. We are here for you. attendance@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS



Year 10 work experience

Year 10 should continue to look for a placement for their work experience which will take place from Monday 6th - Friday 10th July. Once they have found this, they should log it via the placements tool on their Unifrog account. Please see letters to parents/carers for more advice and tips on how to do this.

Year 11 parents/carers - Y11 1-2-1 Careers meetings

All Year 11 students should now have had at least one careers meeting with the careers advisor. If they require a follow-up appointment, please contact Mr Riley who will arrange one as soon as possible. This maybe to help with a college application or just to seek more help on choosing their Post-16 pathway.

Derby College open day date reminders

Joseph Wright Centre

Wednesday 4th February 2026

Wednesday 24th June 2026 – same day as Digital and Creative Exhibition

Roundhouse

Thursday 12th February 2026 (same week as national apprenticeship week)

Thursday 26th March 2026

Thursday 4th June 2026 (All-sites open evening)

Broomfield Hall

Wednesday 25th February 2026

Wednesday 29th April 2026

Saturday 6th June 2026 – (Open day) – 9am – 12pm

All the open evenings will be from 5pm – 7pm, apart from the Open Day at Broomfield in June, which will be from 9am – 12pm.

Students can register for all the events they want to attend on the website: [Events - DCG](#)

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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.

'Inspiring ambition and excellence, guided by Christ'

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

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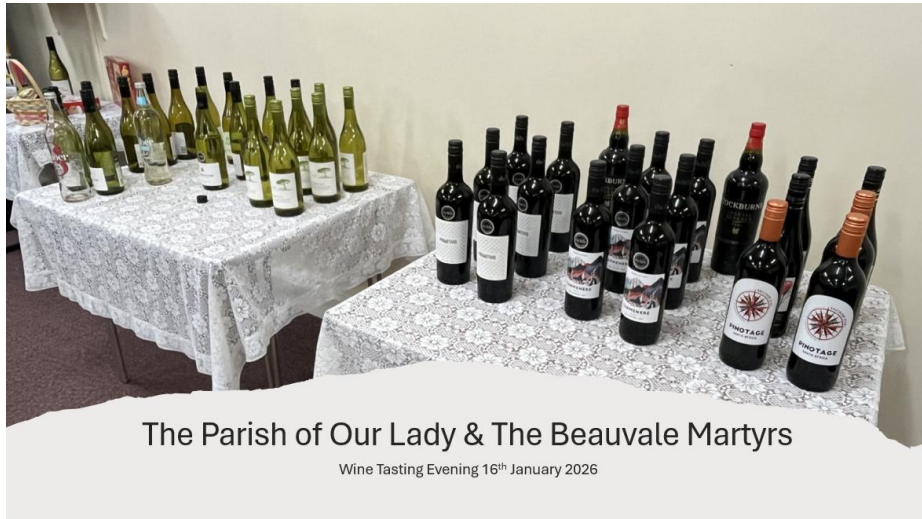
NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

Parish Ambassadors:

Fr Paul, Michael, Lee and Caz, thank you for a wonderful evening.

A thank you letter is on the way to Fr Gerardo but he may like to see these too.



To celebrate the New Year Fr Paul, Michael, staff, pupils and parishioners gathered for another wine tasting evening. Fr Gerardo shared a selection of wines. This was a wonderful evening of fun and friendship.

Thank you to all who made this a very special evening.

Faith in Action:

Let's keep the students working towards the Faith in Action Award in our prayers.

- GOLD: Ava L, Lucy S,
- Silver: Tilly G, Imogan G-C, Hanna D and Thayonita
- Bronze: James A

If you think you are still working towards the FiA Award and you are not on the list you must email rose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk immediately.

Please look out for emails with individual targets and news.

Keep going, the charity work you do, the service you give, and the reflections and prayers will change the world we live in.

We are so proud of you and most grateful for your hard work and effort. Good job.

NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY



Charity work in SJH for Missio

Thank you to all staff and pupils who have supported 'The Red Box' collection for Missio, Miss Turgoose has been selling chocolate snowpeople and our Faith in Action Pupils are leading the way with this remarkable charity work, thank you. Every penny counts, every raffle ticket sold, every gift given with a good and gracious heart will never be forgotten. Thank you. Our donations go to our Parish and the total is shown in parish and school news.



Thank You:

SJH Chaplain would like to thank the students who go above and beyond every day to make SJH a better place. Good job and thank you!

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

Mind to be Merciful Cafe:

SJH Thank you to all the parents and staff who visited our SJH Mind To Be Merciful Cafe last week. It was an opportunity to meet and greet, answer some simple questions and a time to pray and reflect. It was a busy day, grandparents phoned and Yr 5 and Yr 6 parents enjoyed this time. With sincere thanks to Mrs Moore and team who provided the light refreshments. Thank you, Lucy for putting your Faith into Action, I would like to thank the students who go above and beyond every day to make SJH a better place. Good job and thank you!



Confirmation at St Alban's:

We will soon begin our next course for those who wish to prepare for and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The programme is open to those who are year 8 to year 11 (up to and including 16 years of age). The sessions will generally take place on Wednesday evenings at St Alban's Church in Chaddesden. If you are interested, then please contact St Alban's parish office on 01332 672914 or email Stalbansoffice@dioceseofnottingham.uk

The first meeting for parents and children will take place on Wednesday 28th January at 7pm at St Alban's.

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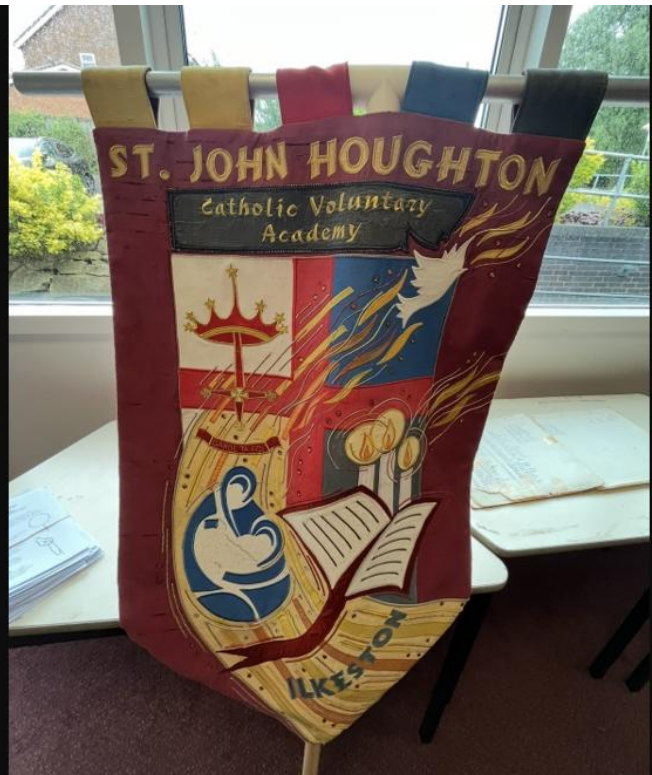
CHAPLAINCY

Vocations
and the
choices we
make in life.



Year 9 Vocations

- With Sincere thanks to our wonderful RE Team who have prepared questions for Mr Brogan, Rachel, Fr Paul, Lee, Michael and Miss Bailey for our 'Yr 9 Life choices' session on Friday 23rd. Please do continue these conversations at home.
- If you would like more information about Parish Life, if you are 'searching' and would like to share conversation please email rose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk 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



**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



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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

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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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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:

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:

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	Friday 27 November 2026
Christmas holidays	Monday 21 December 2026 – Friday 1 January 2027
February half term	Monday 15 – Friday 19 February 2027
Inset Day 4 (Trust)	Monday 22 February 2027
Easter holidays	Friday 26 March – Friday 9 April 2027
May half term	Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2027
All years finish school	Friday 23 July 2027
Inset Day 5	Monday 26 July 2027