

# NEWSLETTER

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

## FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Friday 6<sup>th</sup>  
February 2026

Dear Readers,

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

We are so grateful to those of you who take such an active interest in our school and join us week-in and week-out to hear about the life of our school and our terrific students.

Our Year 11 students are now halfway through their last set of Mock Exams before the 'real thing' in May and June. We are really proud of them and their efforts this week and the determination they have shown to persevere this week. This is always a challenging time for any group of Year 11s, but we could not be more proud of their efforts. Well done Year 11!

The second to last week of any term is always a challenge, as the end of the half term is 'just out of reach' so I sincerely hope that our students and staff are looking forward to the end of next week and the rest that half term brings. Hopefully some warmer, more pleasant weather is just around the corner too. I'm sure I saw some blue sky on Wednesday lunchtime this week, even if it was just a fleeting glimpse!

I will remind you now that the first day after the half term break (Monday 23 February 2026) is an INSET Day where we will be focussing on the needs of our SEND students.

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
- Year 8 parents evening  
– Wednesday 25  
February 2026
- Year 9 options evening  
– Thursday 5 March  
2026 – further  
information to follow

'Inspiring ambition and  
excellence,  
guided by Christ'

Telephone:  
0115 9322896

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[schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk](mailto: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.



### **No. 11 bus – Friday 13 February 2026:**

Kirk Hallam Community Academy will be closed on Friday 13 February 2026, therefore the no. 11 bus will not be running on this day. Students will need to find alternative travel arrangements, apologies for any inconvenience caused.

### **Half term – Monday 16 to Friday 20 February 2026:**

School will be closed Monday 16 to Friday 20 February 2026 for the half term break.

### **Inset day – Monday 23 February 2026:**

School will be closed to all students on Monday 23 February 2026 due to an inset day. School will reopen on Tuesday 24 February 2026.

### **Year 11 Photograph Orders:**

A polite reminder that the closing date for **free delivery** back to school is **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026** for the Year 11 photographs. Order through the Tempest website using the unique reference number that is on the paper order forms by visiting [www.tempest-orders.co.uk](http://www.tempest-orders.co.uk) If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 5).

### **Job Opportunity: Exam Invigilators:**

We are currently looking for casual exam invigilators. Please see the link for more information and to apply: [Exam Invigilator at Saint John Houghton Catholic Voluntary Academy, Ilkeston, Derbyshire | MyNewTerm](#)

### **PTA update - School lottery:**

Thank you to all parents/carers who have supported the PTA with being part of the school lottery. Due to other commitments the PTA has now disbanded, therefore the school lottery will no longer run. Parents/carers who were part of the lottery will have a received an email and any monies paid will be refunded.

# NEWSLETTER

## SCHOOL NEWS



### Attendance Matters – Week 5

We're now in Week 5 of our Attendance Matters focus, and this week we're shining a light on momentum. When pupils build a rhythm of arriving each day, it strengthens their confidence, their friendships, and their sense of belonging. Even on the mornings that feel a bit tougher, showing up keeps that momentum going.

#### *Quote of the Week:*

"Progress is progress, no matter how small — keep moving forward."

#### *Wellbeing Tip of the Week:*

Try a transition moment in the morning. A favourite breakfast, a quick chat, or a short walk can help your child shift from 'home mode' to 'school mode'. These tiny rituals help mornings feel smoother and more predictable.

Thank you for helping us keep attendance strong.

Every day your child is in school makes a real difference to their journey.

We are here for you.

[attendance@sjh.srscmat.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk)**



# SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

# NEWSLETTER

## CHAPLAINCY

### Sharewear:

Thank you for the Sharewear donations. You are welcome to contact Sharewear and deliver any clothing. Please can you only donate SJH uniform and PE kits until we have delivered and sorted the clothing we have. Your support is appreciated. Thank you.



### Thank You...:

...to our Senior Students who go above and beyond to support our school family. Year 7-9 perhaps you could make it your aim to become a Student Leader in Yr 10? Could you find out the name of our Senior Students? Whilst I was praying this week I thought about the Disciples and how they were called by name. Can you think of any connections here? If God had a nick name

for you what would it be? Virtue points for anyone who takes the time to email me their Nick Name. Parents and Carers - do you relate to the Nick Name, 'Son's of Thunder?'

[rose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:rose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk)

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# NEWSLETTER

## NEWS FROM THE AREA

### Half-Term Open Day:

Join The Manor Foundation at Ilkeston Town FC on Thursday 19th February, 10am–3pm, for a fun-filled community day. Enjoy free football coaching, penalty shootouts, walking football, bike checks, kids-eat-free offers, and a guided walk to Bennerley Viaduct—plus prizes and emergency service displays. More info: [enquiries@manorfoundation.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@manorfoundation.org.uk)

**HALF-TERM FUN**  
Thursday 19th February 2026

**OPEN DAY!**  
10am-3pm at Ilkeston Town FC

Presented by...  
**THE MANOR FOUNDATION**  
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH SPORT

**Walking Football**  
All ages, throughout the day!

**Penalty Shootouts**  
10:30am-12:00pm

**Girls Only Free Football Coaching**  
1pm - 1:45pm  
(For ages 7-15)

**Mixed Free Football Coaching**  
2pm - 2:45pm  
(For ages 7-15)

**Kids eat for Free!**

**Guided walk to Bennerley Viaduct**  
All welcome!  
Meet at the Club Shop at 11:15am!

**Free Bicycle Checks & Minor Repairs**

**Prizes & Freebies**

**Emergency Services meet & explore!**

In partnership with:

**Disability Support**  
For Nottingham and County

**Erewash Borough Council**

**Walk Wheel Cycle Trust**

**WTF! Why Talking Fixes**  
THE WILL GARVEY TRUST FOUNDATION

**East Midlands Medical Services Ltd**

**Ilkeston Town FC**

**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY**

**SPORT ENGLAND**

**Garfield Weston FOUNDATION**

Question? Please contact: [enquiries@manorfoundation.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@manorfoundation.org.uk) Football boots required, available to loan in all sizes!



# NEWSLETTER

## NEWS FROM THE AREA

### Fearless Campaign:

Crimestoppers is urging anyone who has information about knife crime, the storage of knives, or individuals involved in serious violence to get in touch anonymously. No matter how small the information may seem, it could make a real difference in keeping Derbyshire's communities safe.

For young people, Crimestoppers also offers [Fearless.org](https://fearless.org), its dedicated youth service. Fearless is a 100% anonymous online platform designed to empower young people to speak out about crime without fear. Young people can access information, advice and submit information safely and anonymously, without ever having to give their name or speak to the police.



**I know someone  
who is carrying a  
knife.**

**I am worried  
someone will get  
hurt.**

Need to tell  
someone

Don't want my  
name involved

Who can I tell?

**Tell us  
WHAT  
YOU KNOW**

**100% anonymously  
at Fearless.org**

**fearless**  
Part of Crimestoppers

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk)



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# NEWSLETTER

## CHAPLAINCY

### CAFOD

**Catholic Agency for Overseas Development**

**CAFOD is a whole school Charity.**

**CAFOD Club meet each Monday lunchtime.**

~~4<sup>th</sup> October 2025 CAFOD National Activity Day – SJH  
Chaplain leading.~~

~~10<sup>th</sup> October 2025 CAFOD Harvest Fast~~

~~19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 CAFOD national Christmas  
Video with SJH family~~

~~23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 CAFOD and vocations with  
CAFOD raffle~~

**27<sup>th</sup> February 2026 Mass for CAFOD & Family Fast  
in SJH**

**7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk)**



**St Ralph  
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Catholic Multi Academy Trust



# NEWSLETTER

## USEFUL LINKS

Safeguarding concerns please email [safeguarding@sjh.srscmat.co.uk](mailto: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:

<b>Inset day 1</b>	<b>Friday 4 September 2026</b>
<b>Inset day 2</b>	<b>Monday 7 September 2026</b>
<b>Years 7 &amp; 11 return to school</b>	<b>Tuesday 8 September 2026</b>
<b>All years return to school</b>	<b>Wednesday 9 September 2026</b>
<b>October half term</b>	<b>Monday 26 - Friday 30 October 2026</b>
<b>Inset day 3</b>	<b>Friday 27 November 2026</b>
<b>Christmas holidays</b>	<b>Monday 21 December 2026 – Friday 1 January 2027</b>
<b>February half term</b>	<b>Monday 15 – Friday 19 February 2027</b>
<b>Inset Day 4 (Trust)</b>	<b>Monday 22 February 2027</b>
<b>Easter holidays</b>	<b>Friday 26 March – Friday 9 April 2027</b>
<b>May half term</b>	<b>Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2027</b>
<b>All years finish school</b>	<b>Friday 23 July 2027</b>
<b>Inset Day 5</b>	<b>Monday 26 July 2027</b>