

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Friday 13th
February 2026

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter and thank you for joining us as always. The half term after Christmas is always one of the most challenging half terms of the year in schools and this year at it has been no exception. I'm sure all of our students and staff are very much looking forward to a week of rest and recuperation, and I would like to thank all of them this half term for their efforts which have not gone unnoticed. With the next half term being extremely short, just five weeks, the next half term in the academic year I am sure will fly by, and before we all know it, we will be in the season of Easter.

After half term, our first day back Monday 23 February 2026 is an inset day and as I stated in the previous newsletter, we will be focusing in school on the needs of our children with special educational needs and disabilities. School will reopen to all students on Tuesday 24 February 2026.

During the first week back, we also have our Year 8 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 25 February 2026 and information has been sent to Year 8 parents directly. Please do make your appointments and take the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with the staff in school.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very restful half term.

More after the half term break... 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

'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.



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.

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](#)

Year 8 Football Thursday 5th February: Saints beat Frederick Gent 5-2:

In an entertaining clash that had everything a football fan could want; Saint John Houghton Year 8 boys put in a dazzling attacking performance to secure a 5-2 victory over Frederick Gent School. From the first whistle to the last, this game was full of energy, goals, and individual moments that kept supporters cheering.



Saint John Houghton started brightly, looking confident on the ball and eager to impose themselves early. Their hard work paid off when they opened the scoring midway through the first half with a well-worked team move that ended with a calm finish from their striker. The home side continued to press, creating chances at will and dominating possession in the middle of the park and later made the game 2-0 and were cruising.

Despite Saint John Houghton's early control, Frederick Gent showed resilience. They battled back and earned a goal of their own just before halftime, giving them hope of a comeback going into the break. However, the visitors' joy was short-lived....

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS

....After the restart, Saint John Houghton came out with renewed intensity. Within minutes of the second half beginning, they built on their lead with a brilliant hit from outside the box that left the goalkeeper with no chance. That goal sparked a spell of creative and dynamic attacking play. A quick succession of goals followed, as Saint John Houghton showcased excellent link-up play, clinical finishing, and sharp movement off the ball.



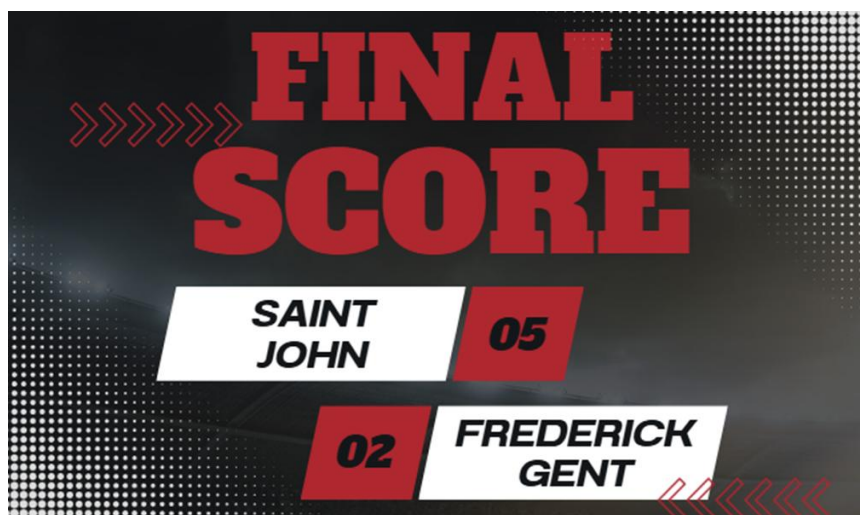
Frederick Gent did not give up, and they managed to net a second goal after capitalising on a rare defensive mistake, making the scoreline 4-2 and setting up a tense final ten minutes. Yet Saint John Houghton sealed the win in style with a fifth goal that was set up by some clever play from midfield and finished with precision. The final whistle confirmed a memorable 5-2 victory for Saint John Houghton — a result that highlighted their attacking strength and teamwork throughout the match. With goals shared among their forwards and strong support from midfield, this performance will boost morale as they look ahead to upcoming fixture.

The Saints now face Heanor Gate in the quarter finals of the County Cup.

Goals came from- Dexter- 2; Charlie- 1; Ewan- 1 and Finn-1.

Man of the match- Ayden P who whipped in balls like prime David Beckham.

Thanks to Thomas G and Blake S for being referees for the game.



SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS

Intermediate Maths Challenge Success:

On the 28th January 2026, students from across the school took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge, a national competition that encourages mathematical reasoning, precision, and problem-solving. We were thrilled to see 50 students take part this year, demonstrating real commitment and enthusiasm.

Our students achieved a fantastic range of Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates, recognising excellent performance across a challenging paper. We are especially proud that the Best in Year students have not only achieved top results but have also qualified for the prestigious UKMT follow-on rounds; the Pink Kangaroo or Grey Kangaroo, depending on their score. These rounds are invitation-only and place students among the top performers nationally. Students will be participating in the event on the 19th March 2026.

A huge congratulations to all students involved; an outstanding achievement!

Year 9	Certificate	Year 10	Certificate
James E	Gold	Aaron E	Gold
Zain M	Silver	Cora G	Silver
Sonny L	Silver	Callum B	Silver
Jacob L	Silver	Nathan A	Silver
Matthew S	Bronze	Jack T	Silver
Angel C	Bronze	Lois-Skye J	Silver
Tyler M	Bronze	Millie W	Bronze
Maisie W	Bronze	Emil W	Bronze
Remy K	Bronze	Justin P	Bronze
Harrison B	Bronze	Sophie S	Bronze
		William J	Bronze
		Amelia S	Bronze
		Alicia K	Bronze
		Joseph R	Bronze

Here is an example of a previous Intermediate Maths Challenge question for you to try for fun!!!!

It is possible to choose, in two different ways, six different integers from 1 to 9 inclusive such that their product is a square. Let the two squares so obtained be p^2 and q^2 , where p and q are both positive.

What is the value of $p + q$?

a) 72 b) 84 c) 96 d) 108 e) 120

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SCHOOL NEWS



Attendance Matters – Week 6:

As we reach Week 6 and the end of term, we want to celebrate the determination and commitment our pupils have shown — especially our Year 11s, who have now completed their mock exams. Their resilience, focus, and effort over the past few weeks have been outstanding, and strong attendance has played a huge part in helping them feel prepared and confident. This week is all about recognising progress. Whether it's improved routines, better punctuality, or simply showing up on the harder days, every step forward matters.

Quote of the Week: “Take pride in how far you’ve come and have faith in how far you can go.”

Wellbeing Tip of the Week: Encourage your child to take a gentle pause as the term ends. A short moment to reflect — What went well? What did they overcome? What are they proud of? — helps them finish the term feeling grounded and ready for a fresh start after the break.

Thank you for your continued support this term. Attendance truly shapes confidence, progress, and future opportunities, and we're grateful for everything you do to help your child be here, learning and growing.

We are here for you. attendance@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

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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.

'Inspiring ambition and excellence, guided by Christ'

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

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

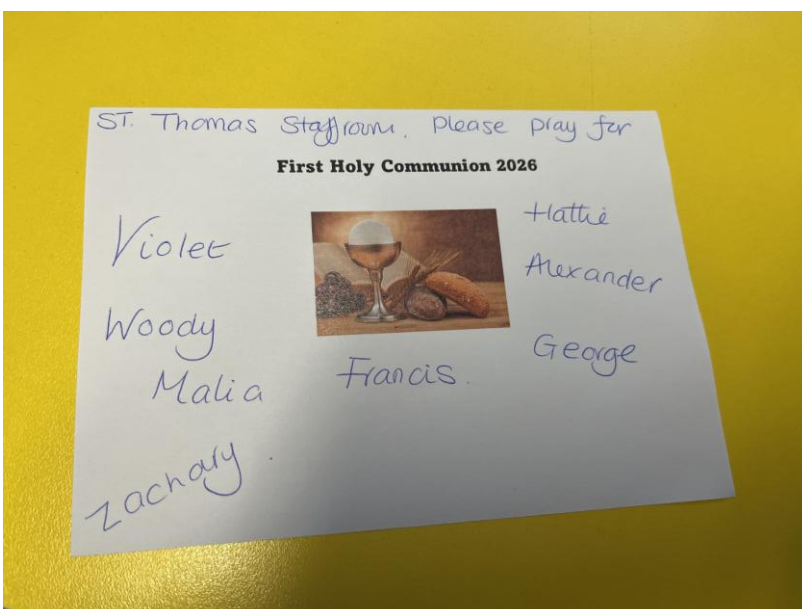
Ambassadors of HOPE

Each SRSCMAT School has an Ambassadors of HOPE Team, here in SJH we have Felix, Evie-Mae and Maxwell. On behalf of SJH they joined Jamie, our Lead Lay Chaplain, on a Teams meeting this week. Our focus is Modern Day Slavery. Our Ambassadors of HOPE would like to share that they have contacted our MP Adam Thompson, and he has accepted our invitation into SJH and will be in school on 6th March 2026 to share his thoughts on Modern Day Slavery.

We will run this hour-long meeting in the way Pope Francis taught us, we are looking forward to meeting him. Have you any questions and suggestions you would like us to share on your behalf? Please email Rose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk



A special thank you to Felix, Maxwell and Evie-Mae for their time and hard work on this. Every student in SJH was offered this opportunity and Felix, Evie-Mae and Maxwell have accepted this challenge, and they are learning new leadership and listening skills as they go on this journey. I am certain this will put them in a good place if they decide to go for School Captain in the future!



Prayer Request

I have had the joy of supporting St Thomas and The Priory school this week as our young people prepare to receive the sacraments. We would like you to join your prayers with ours as we pray for our children by name and walk with them on their faith journey.

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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CHAPLAINCY



We are a Missionary Church

We are a Missionary Church, we are 'sent out' to share The Good News and one simple way of welcoming, helping and giving is to give good quality food just for the pleasure of giving. Why not make a cake this half term and invite friends and family to enjoy it with you? Let us know how you get on please.



Beauvale Priory

Why not visit the place where Saint John Houghton lived and worked over half term? Check the website for Beauvale Tea Rooms to make certain they are open! I met Fr Paul here this week to plan the Beauvale Pilgrimage. Please add the date to your diary and know you are very welcome. Are you willing to carry the SJH banner for us and commit to being there on the day? Please email rrose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk if you would like to be considered for such an honour.



SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

Thank You:

On behalf of our Parish and SRSCMAT it is my privilege to thank these wonderful students for leading our younger students and their parents in the First Holy Communion Program. Individual letters and praise will be sent home for this outstanding and world class support. I hope you will lead our SJH family one day as School Captains if you so wish, I know we would be in very good hands!



NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

BEAUVALE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE

May 3rd, 2026

IN HONOUR OF

ST. JOHN HOUGHTON & ST. ROBERT LAWRENCE



2.00pm MASS celebrated by Rt. Rev. Patrick McKinney

Refreshments available afterwards

Beauvale Priory, New Road, Moorgreen

NG16 2AA

For further information Tel 01773 713532

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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

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	Victoria M	Harry A	Tyler M	Marley L	Finn P
English	Anya R	Farleigh S	Jemima A	Robyn R	Mary F
Science	Benjamin L	James A	Joshua A	Aaron E	James G
Theology / RE	Elsie B	Willow B	Jessica S	Alice C	Hollie Ann P
Geography	Sofia A	Belle C	George W	Geavanah FH	Victor O
History	Teddy BT	Jacob B	Thomas C	George Q	Casey E
Music	Eugene C	Imogen-Grace C	Mila D	Oliver J	Georgia C-S
Computing / Business	Abigail G	Lydia W	Amelia-May O	<u>iMedia:</u> Finley A <u>Business:</u> Justin P	<u>iMedia:</u> Jamie M <u>Business:</u> Ronnie A
MFL	<u>Spanish:</u> Leo M	<u>Spanish:</u> Sophie F <u>French:</u> Finlay W	<u>Spanish:</u> Isla T <u>French:</u> Nieve S	<u>Spanish:</u> Lois-Skye J <u>French:</u> Tatiana C	<u>Spanish:</u> Weluchi O <u>French:</u> Paige B
PE / Health & Social Care	Isabella G	Sofie C	Nicolo S	<u>PE:</u> Matilda G <u>GCSE PE:</u> Toluwanimi O <u>H&S Care:</u> Jennifer M	<u>GCSE PE:</u> Hallie B <u>H&S Care:</u> Summer P <u>Sports Studies:</u> Jack B
Design	Stanley H	Filip S	Emily D	<u>DT:</u> Ellen T-B <u>Engineering:</u> Jenson S <u>Art:</u> Lucie M <u>Food:</u> Ella-May B	<u>DT:</u> Sebastian F <u>Engineering:</u> Ethan G <u>Art:</u> Tymoteusz G <u>Food:</u> Samuel A

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.



WELL DONE!

KS3 Miss Turgoose:

Year 7 - Jake P for his excellent attitude on his derby county programme

Year 8 - Charlie L for always striving for excellence

Year 9 - Grace R for her excellent effort in lessons

KS4 Mr Ritchie:

Year 10 - Ava L and Matilda G for all their service to the school

Year 11 - Natalia L who consistently shows excellence in all lessons and has an excellent attitude to learning

The Saint John Houghton Award:

Lois-Skye J in Year 10 has been nominated by staff for this week's St John Houghton Award. She has been nominated for striving for excellence and for supporting the school community.

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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