

# NEWSLETTER

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

## FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Friday 27<sup>th</sup>  
February 2026

Dear Readers,

We welcome back our students after half term and we also welcome in the season of Lent. I am sure many of you observed Shrove Tuesday with pancakes at home. We are often in school to give out the ashes on Ash Wednesday, so this year felt slightly different with all of that happening in our half term break. However, many of us may be giving up something for Lent or we may be trying to do something extra. Pope Leo has asked us all to focus on 'Listening, fasting and togetherness' this Lent.

As a staff body we began our togetherness on our INSET Day where we had a day of staff development based around SEND. Looking at inclusion and what can be done for those students who really struggle with formal schooling.

On Wednesday this week the Year 8 parents evening was very busy and our thanks go out to you as parents/carers who attend these sessions in order to support your children through their school journey.

Also this week we also had our GCSE MFL speaking mock exams. Despite some obvious nerves, Year 11 have gained some invaluable experience in French and Spanish – preparing them for the real exams in late April.

Garde ta Foi! Guard your Faith!

**Mr S Brogan**  
Headteacher

### Important Dates:

- Year 9 options evening:  
Thursday 5 March 2026  
6:30 – 7:30pm
- Easter Holidays:  
Monday 30 March –  
Friday 10 April 2026

'Inspiring ambition and  
excellence,  
guided by Christ'

Telephone:  
0115 9322896

Email:

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



**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.



### **Uniform Reminder:**

A reminder to parents about our uniform and appearance policy, as we have recently seen an increase in students wearing false nails. Please note that false nails, gel nails, and any form of nail polish are not permitted. Nails must always be natural. The same applies to hair colour, only natural shades are allowed.

### **Parking Reminder:**

Please be mindful that Abbott Road is a residential street, and we ask parents/carers to park sensibly and with consideration for our neighbours.

Parking spaces directly outside the school are for staff only. When driving near the school, especially during busy times, please do so carefully and considerately, as many students are walking in the area. Thank you for helping keep everyone safe.



# NEWSLETTER

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Top Virtue Points for Term 3:

Below are the students who achieved the highest number of Virtue Points in each year group for Term 3. These students have shown consistent positive behaviour and commitment to our school values. Congratulations to them all on their efforts.

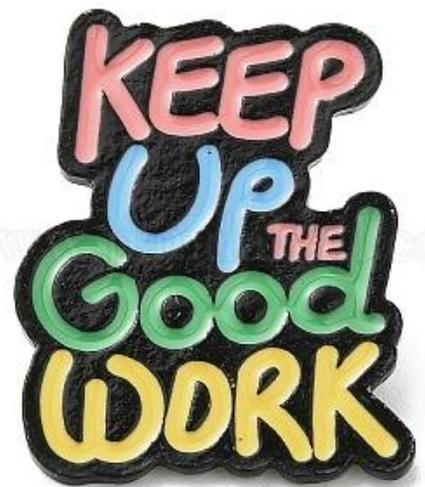
YEAR 7	
Name	Points
Sienna H	30
Joshua T	29
Ollie C	26
Anya R	25
Victoria A	24
Reuben M	23
Jesse T	20
Megan D	19
Tiwalade S	17
Elsie B	15

YEAR 8	
Name	Points
Summer B	23
James A	22
Ayo EA	19
Finlay W	18
Oscar B	16
Joshua R	16
Imogen-Grace C	15
Seth B	14
Elisia T	12

YEAR 9	
Name	Points
Esmae D	26
Emily D	23
Isabel B	22
Eleanor C	21
Lily-Jay S	21
Ethan C	20
Jessica P	20
Santiago R	20
Maisie W	20
Kaiden J	19
Amelia W	19

YEAR 10	
Name	Points
Matilda G	29
Kalma SH	29
Lois-Skye J	28
Summer S	24
Matilda C	20
Ava L	20
Lucy S	20
Imogen K	19
Jacob F	18
Mollie W	17

YEAR 11	
Name	Points
Bethany DR	19
Ifi T	19
Casey E	18
Natalia L	17
Evie H	16
Alex K	16
Danielle M	16
Archie S	16
Lexie C	15
Isabella O	15
Miley S	15



# NEWSLETTER

## SCHOOL NEWS



### Carousel for Term 3 - English:

Below are the students who achieved the highest number of Carousel questions in each year group for Term 3.

YEAR 7		YEAR 8		YEAR 9	
Name	Questions	Name	Questions	Name	Questions
Sienna H	514	Benjamin M	1750	Kadie T	1250
Elijah T	479	Elisia T	961	Gabriella W	1233
Sofia D	353	Harry F	774	Jayden L	731
Noah G	331	Honey P	748	Evie-May M	712
Elize J	294	Kobby A	520	Jasmine Joyce O	545
Connie H	288	Hanna D	493	Amelia W	490
Reuben M	266	Lacie S	295	Eleanor C	406
Sara B	266	Anthony M	290	Lucas M	401
Noah G	253	Jake T	275	Lily T	311
Christopher M	236	Penelope S	227	Zach I	284

YEAR 10		YEAR 11	
Name	Questions	Name	Questions
Imogen K	900	Natalia L	1162
Robyn R	765	Danielle M	958
Lois-Skye J	458	Harvey B	673
Kalma S	421	Isabella O	488
Peyton W	396	Evie H	482
Daniel S	315	Paige B	404
Kyrillos A	301	Hollie Ann P	361
Ruby D	299	Isla F	352
Amelia S	284	Libby H	346
Summer S	251	Mishel C	310

# NEWSLETTER

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Former student- inspirational talk:

On Tuesday 3rd February, we welcomed former student and Head Girl, Stephanie, into school to speak to our students on the topic of INSPIRATION as part of our Celebration of the word. Stephanie told students all about the exciting career she has had since sitting in the same spots they were sat in that very morning. She outlined the ups and downs, the highs and lows of her journey and encouraged students to persevere when things seem like they aren't going your way. We hope Stephanie inspired our current students to achieve their dream job and to aspire to great things!



### Year 10 Work Experience:

There have been some fantastic placements secured for Work Experience from our Year 10 students. For those who haven't secured placements yet, there is absolutely still time for students to contact employers and find a suitable placement. It is ultimately up to the students to find their own placements, as this is all part of the work experience programme, but as well as the support they receive in school, it would be great if parents and carers could offer support wherever necessary to guide students to find a placement. This could be via a family member or friend, or by directing them to local businesses that they could try to contact.

### Attendance Matters – Welcome Back:

Welcome back to a new term. We hope you and your family had a chance to rest, reset, and enjoy some time together. A new term is a fresh start for everyone, and we're excited to welcome pupils back into school.



Good attendance helps children settle quickly, reconnect with friends, and feel confident in their learning. Arriving each day really does make a difference to how smoothly the term begins.

### Quote of the Week

“Every day is a new chance to grow.”

### Wellbeing Tip of the Week

Keep the first week simple. A calm morning routine — breakfast, a quick chat, or a moment to breathe — helps children ease back into school life without feeling rushed. Little things make mornings feel more manageable for everyone.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We're looking forward to a positive, settled term ahead and are always here if you need us. We are here for you.

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

# 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)

# NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE AREA

Service Provided by



## Community Adolescent Immunisation Clinics



Derbyshire School Aged  
Immunisation Service

**For children attending secondary school, SEN, PRU  
or electively home educated in the Derbyshire area.**

If you are a parent/carer and have a child who is year 8 - year 11 and is outstanding a HPV, DTP, MEN ACWY OR MMR immunisation. We can offer an appointment for any of these immunisations at the below clinics.

*Chaddesden Fire Station - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 10:00-14:30*

*Genius Building, Alfreton - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 10:00-15:30*

*Genius Building, Alfreton - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 9:30-15:45*

*Chesterfield Loundsley Green - Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 10:00 -14:45*

*Buxton Fire Station - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 10:00-14:45*

*Ilkeston Fire Station - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 9:30-12:45*

**Call IntraHealth on 0333 3583 397 option (5) to book  
an appointment at the fore mentioned clinics.**

[www.intrahealth.co.uk](http://www.intrahealth.co.uk)

# NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE AREA

FREE



## Parent Online Webinar: SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE DURING GCSE EXAMS



### What the session will cover:

- Understanding exam stress.
- How to support your child to cope with exam stress.
- How to get additional support for your child if they are struggling with exam stress.

### When:

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 9:30am - 10:30am**

Registration Link:  
<https://shorturl.at/H2Dqe>



**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 5:30pm - 6:30pm**

Registration Link:  
<https://shorturl.at/MJZtV>



61% of young people say they feel stressed and under pressure to get good grades.

**Register using the above link/QR codes  
or contact us at [changinglives@compass-uk.org](mailto:changinglives@compass-uk.org)**



# NEWSLETTER

## CHAPLAINCY

### School Captains:

It was my pleasure to meet our School Captains: Casey, Evie and Beth this week. We began with a prayer of thanksgiving and I presented them with the 'Season of LENT' badges you will see SJH Staff wearing. If you would like a 'Season of LENT' badge you need to email me your Lent pledge and why but hurry I only have a few left! All who Email, will receive a virtue Point.



***Can you reflect on the God of Kindness today, who is leading you through life - perhaps through ways you haven't noticed yet.***

Casey, Evie and Beth will be booked in for a meeting with Mr Brogan to discuss some student suggestions.

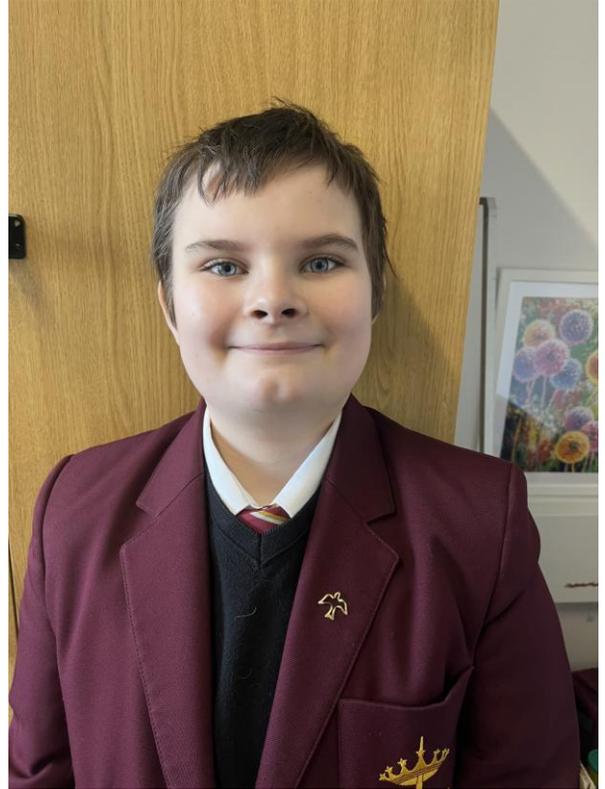
We all wish Casey good strength as he gives up chocolate and sweets this Lent, Beth will join the CAFOD pledge and run 5K each week and Evie will control her snacking during revision times and lean on God.

I challenged our School Captains to remember what they did, how they grew closer to God last Lent - it's wise for us all to remember and have Lent as a time to grow closer to God. A good example of this is: If you gave up chocolate last Lent, perhaps you only purchase Fairtrade Chocolate now or if you went to a weekday mass you continue this good habit along with attending Holy Mass on Sundays.

Please remember to email our School Captains or make an appointment to speak to them. Casey, Evie and Beth, thank you for your service, for your prayers and your commitment to making SJH a better place for all. You are valued and appreciated. Thank you.

# NEWSLETTER

## CHAPLAINCY



### Saint Valentines Day:

On behalf of our SJH staff please can I say, 'Thank you', to the staff member who donated enough cash to buy every staff member a sweet! The secret donation brightened up everyone's day - thank you. More thanks to all who donated 20p to raise money for Missio. We raised 29.40p which will go into our RED Missio Box and will be handed in to Eastwood Church at Easter. Thank you to Miss Turgoose and Team who have worked so hard on this Charity Fundraiser! Could you use Saint Valentine's Day to research into this Saint or do you have your own special saint you pray to? Rachel and your Tutors are always keen to hear this type of news.

### Encounter:

A special 'thank you' to Chris who pops into see me at breaktimes. We are so blessed to have such wonderful students in SJH who make a difference with their daily small acts of kindness - well done Chris and keep up the good work.

### The Season of LENT:

Competition Time: Can you send a caption to

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

to capture how the mood, energy and busy-ness of your day is? A virtue point to each reply.

Can you find time to Rest in God's love this Lent and let Him just love you, simply as you are?

# NEWSLETTER

## CHAPLAINCY



### Saint Anne's Knitting Group:

Monday evening Knitting Group is a time for friendship - just because we are in the season of Lent does not mean we have to give up all things that bring us JOY, we are meant to be happy and to enjoy the friendships we value but it could be an opportunity to think about what you bring to the table. What do you notice in the photo?

### CAFOD CLUB:

You are invited to join in THE SJH Big LENT WALK

Gather Location: ECO Garden Gate

Time: 1.40pm

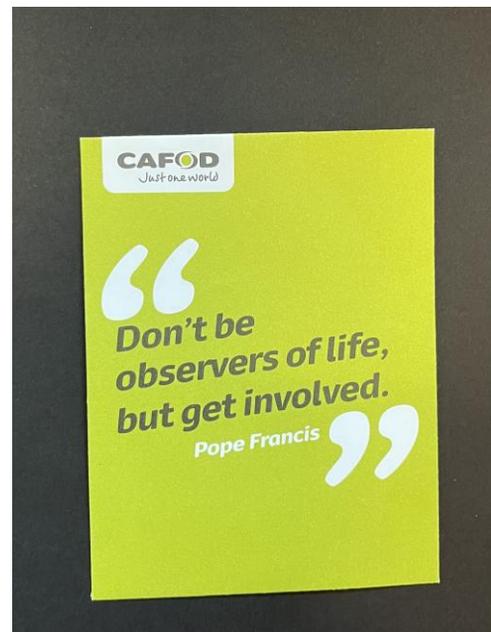
Date: 2.3.26 & 16.3.26

Clothing: Wear suitable walking shoes, coat

Distance: We will walk and talk around our school field with Reflections along the way. We shall enjoy our lunch together in SJH Chapel after the walk.

Make you pledge now to join us and email Rachel your name so you will have your lunch saved.

If you would like to donate cash to CAFOD we will have a CAFOD Collection envelope which will join the Family Fast envelopes and go to Eastwood Church donations with Fr Paul.



### Fairtrade Awareness:

Please take time to look at the Fairtrade Display in our Reception, perhaps you could choose Fairtrade once a week in Lent?

You are welcome to join SJH CAFOD Club and learn more about Fairtrade.

# NEWSLETTER

## CHAPLAINCY

### Prayers:

Whilst on holiday I visited several churches and lit candles and remembered our SJH family in my prayers.

Please note the following times I am available to support:

All meetings will take place in our Chapel on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 Simply come along and I will register you.

- Induction to Catholic Life of the School: 9.30am
- Bereavement - if you have lost a Grandparent - 10.00am
- Bereavement - if you have lost a friend - 10.20am
- Bereavement - if you have lost a sibling - 10.40am
- Bereavement - if you have lost a parent - 11.00am
- For all those who feel bullied - 12.45pm
- For all those who feel lost - 2.00pm
- For all those who feel invisible - 2.20pm
- For all those who want to give thanks - 2.45pm



### Justice and Peace:

Oh yes, here in SJH we have fallen in love with Punch! What can you learn from this? Are we a nation who love animals more than humans? Did you notice the Traitors TV programme chose for their charity support for animal and human support? The zookeepers who care for Punch say although he has been scolded by the other monkeys not one single monkey has shown aggression towards him and while Punch is scolded, he shows resilience and mental strength. When you observe these disciplinary behaviours from other troop members towards Punch when he tries to communicate with them, they are asking us to support Punch's effort rather than feel sorry for him. Here in SJH we have invited our



MP, Dr Adam Thompson, into discuss 'Modern Day Slavery'. Our Ambassadors of HOPE: Felix, Max and Evie-Mae will be leading this meeting but look out for your email and invitation to this special meeting and please reply.

If you would like to ask a question to Dr Thompson, please email me:

[rose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:rose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk) before Wednesday 4th March. I am part of the J&P Commission for Nottingham diocese and I will be asking: For me, a big question is whether he thinks the immigration reforms currently before parliament will put people at risk of people being caught in modern slavery, and if so, how those risks will be reduced. (Spoiler – much more, and those risks are not being acknowledged)

# NEWSLETTER

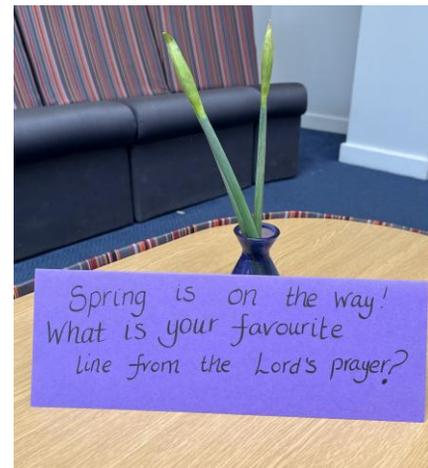
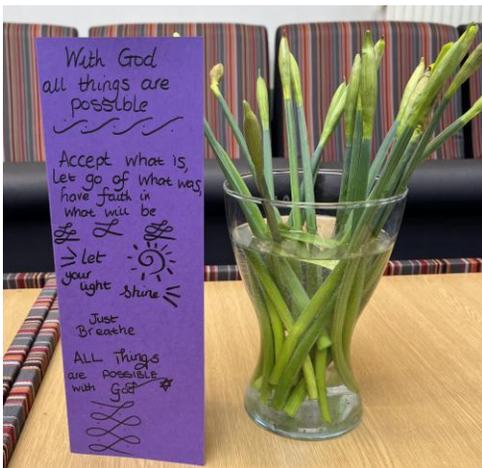
## CHAPLAINCY



### Celebrating and giving thanks for Catholic Education:

Thank you to all our wonderful parents and carers for their support and kindness, to our students who work hard each day and our staff whose hard work and effort make our SJH family a better place to be. Our work is prayer and all these acts of kindness build up the Kingdom of God here on Earth.

Tutors: You are welcome to lead Celebration of the word in our school Reception - and I am happy to support, thank you, Rachel



# NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

YEAR 10 CHARITY  
SUPPORT 2026

FOR  
*Missio*

Easter Egg tombola!  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**PLEASE DONATE** an Easter egg  
by Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

20p per ticket



# 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*

# 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)



# 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  
Sherwin**  
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:

<b>Easter holidays</b>	<b>Monday 30 March – Friday 10 April 2026</b>
<b>May half term</b>	<b>Monday 25 – Friday 29 May 2026</b>
<b>Inset Day 5</b>	<b>Friday 3 July 2026</b>
<b>Last day of term</b>	<b>Thursday 23 July 2026</b>

# 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>