

NEWSLETTER

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Friday 6th
March 2026

Dear Readers,

Thank you to everyone who attended the Year 9 Options Evening. It was wonderful to see so many families engaging with the next steps in students' learning journeys. Making decisions about the future is never easy but we will support all our Year 9 students to navigate this stage of their education. The deadline for making choices is Wednesday 25th March 2026 and these will then be processed by the team in school. If you have questions about the process please contact school who pass on your query to the relevant people to respond.

Well done to our Year 11 students who have completed their MFL speaking mock exams. Your hard work and commitment are recognised and appreciated. In addition, good luck to all our GCSE Food students, who will begin their real GCSE practical exams next week. We know you'll do brilliantly.

Next week, we have our second 'Educate Against Hate', exploring the important theme of diversity. The Celebration of the word will focus on celebrating our differences and how that brings joy and opportunities into so many lives.

As we end the 3rd week of Lent it is also a point of reflection for ourselves. Pope Leo has asked us to "disarm" our language by fasting from harsh words, promoting listening, and fostering community. Something for us to carry into next week.

'Inspiring ambition and
excellence,
guided by Christ'

Telephone:
0115 9322896

Email:

schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

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.



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.



Children and Phone Safety – NSPCC:



The NSPCC's guidance on children, mobile phones and online safety is a useful resource for parents to draw on. It addresses one of the most common questions schools are asked: when is a child ready for a phone, and how can families manage the risks?

The guide offers balanced, practical advice on readiness, boundary-setting, parental controls, and ongoing conversations about safe and responsible use. This

resource can help reinforce consistent messages between home and school, reduce anxiety, and support a shared approach to online safety.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/children-phones-online-safety/>

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS

Attendance Matters:

Welcome to Week 2. This week we're focusing on the *real-life benefits* of steady attendance — the things children feel straight away. Being in school each day helps them keep up with classwork, stay connected with friends, and avoid the stress of catching up later. It's the small, everyday moments that make the biggest difference.



Quote of the Week

"Show up for today — tomorrow will thank you."

Wellbeing Tip of the Week

Try a **five-minute tidy-and-talk** in the evening. While your child gets their bag or uniform ready, have a quick chat about their day. It keeps things calm, organised, and helps them feel supported without it becoming a big sit-down conversation.

Thank you for helping your child build strong habits. These little routines really do make school feel easier and more manageable.

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

Parent Support Webinars for Exam Preparation We know that the upcoming exam season can feel overwhelming for both students and families. To help, we're sharing a series of free support webinars designed specifically for parents and carers. These sessions offer practical advice on revision routines, managing stress, and supporting your child's wellbeing during exam preparation.

You can join using the links below:

<https://connect.kooth.com/events/event/exam-stress-families>

<https://connect.kooth.com/events/event/exams-families>

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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Telephone: 0115 9322896 | Email: 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 1st April, 10:00-14:30

Genius Building, Alfreton - Thursday 2nd April 10:00-15:30

Genius Building, Alfreton - Monday 6th April 9:30-15:45

Chesterfield Loundsley Green - Wednesday 8th April 10:00 -14:45

Buxton Fire Station - Thursday 9th April 10:00-14:45

Ilkeston Fire Station - Friday 10th 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

NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE AREA

FREE

NHS

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 13th March 9:30am - 10:30am

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



Wednesday 15th 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



NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

First Holy Communion:

Date for your diary: Our First Holy Communion children and families will be sharing an update of their journey so far, the weekend of Saturday 25th April and Sunday 26th April during the Mass.

Session 6: SJH 6.00pm - 7.15pm 22.04.26 Fr Paul will be attending.

Session 7: SJH 6.00pm - 7.15pm 13.05.26 Small change donations to Missio welcome.

First Holy Communion Rehearsals: 20th, 21st, 22nd May.

First Holy Communion Dates: 6th & 7th May, 13th & 14th May, 20th & 21st May

Chaplaincy:

Here in Saint John Houghton we pray three times a day. During Lent all are offered a little bit more time and space to turn back to God. You are welcome to use these 'One Minute A Day' sheets to support your family during Lent. Please encourage your child to speak to me and use the Chapel during Lent so they may grow in faith.

8.45am Mass in SJH:

On behalf of the SJH family may I take this opportunity to thank Fr Paul for celebrating a beautiful Mass in our Chapel in Lent. A special thanks to Ava, Matilda, Tilly and Lucy who joined us along with members of 9J, and we had several staff and parishioners and Cathy Gabriel too. With thanks to Paula and team who prepared a great breakfast for us - just what was required to be 'sent out' to make our world a better place.

Star of the Week: Thayonita R who has gone above and beyond with her service, positive attitude and support. Thank you Thayonita.

One Minute with God
JESUS IS THE LIGHT

We begin with the **SIGN OF THE CROSS**
 • In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM
 "The Lord is my light."
 Psalm 27:1

WORD
 A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.
 Glory to You, O Lord.
 "I am the light of the world"

The Gospel of the Lord.
 Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

WONDER
 I wonder how I can be a light for someone else today?
 Write your answer in the thought bubble.

PRAY
 Jesus taught us that His light shines through us.
 Help me to show God's light by
 DEAR GOD,
 AMEN.

TODAY'S ACTION
 Be a light by doing one kind thing that makes someone smile.

GOD'S PROMISE
 "The light shines in the darkness."
 John 1:9

We end with the **SIGN OF THE CROSS**
 • In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

Lent:

During Lent, we are challenged to look three ways.

We look **UP** to God by adding more prayer into our daily life.

We look **IN** to our hearts and reducing something in our life so that we can see what is important.

We look **OUT** to others and see how we can help those in need.

We do this through the practice of the three pillars of Lent, which are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.



The Big Lent Walk:

God is good! We have been blessed with sunshine as we step out, counting our steps, for The Big Lent Walk, supporting CAFOD and one another.

Well done Yr 11 who are leading the way.

The Word of the Week next week is Almsgiving: Your Mission: Find a way to give something to charity or to someone in need this week. Please can you donate an Easter Egg for our Easter Egg tombola (see poster on next page), all profit goes to CAFOD and Missio. Thank you!

Outstanding pupil: Maxwell A-O, well done and may God bless you for all you do.

NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

YEAR 10 CHARITY
SUPPORT 2026

FOR
Missio

Easter Egg tombola!
Friday 27th March 2026

PLEASE DONATE an Easter egg
by Thursday 26th 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



**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	Maia R	Ava G	Jasmine H	Aleksander Z	Ruby M
English	Noah M	Lauren M	Abigail W	Isaac T	Jamie M
Science	Bailey S	Maxwell OA	Harrison B	Joshua K	Joshua F
Theology / RE	Lewis R	Lydia W	Joseph F	Matilda C	Evie H
Geography	Archie P	Poppy Z	Isabella T	Amelia SJ	Charlie BM
History	Arlo S	Elisia T	George W	Grace Q	Gabriella H
Music	Victoria M	Isabella F	Ava M	Aaron V	Harry B
Computing / Business	Joshua T	Hanna D	Fraser HG	<u>iMedia:</u> Matthew M <u>Business:</u> Geavannah FH	<u>iMedia:</u> Mary F <u>Business:</u> Oscar H
MFL	<u>Spanish:</u> Lilly-Jean M	<u>Spanish:</u> Penelope S <u>French:</u> Oscar B	<u>Spanish:</u> Thomas C <u>French:</u> Eva P	<u>Spanish:</u> Kalma H <u>French:</u> Robyn R	<u>Spanish:</u> Ethan G <u>French:</u> Isla F
PE / Health & Social Care	Leo D	Amelia C	George M	<u>PE:</u> Dean Y <u>GCSE PE:</u> Jack T <u>H&S Care:</u> Cora G	<u>PE:</u> Julia H <u>GCSE PE:</u> Casey E <u>H&S Care:</u> Emily L <u>Sports Studies:</u> Ifi T
Design	Noah H	James A	Ava R	<u>DT:</u> Kyrillos A <u>Engineering:</u> Alexander M <u>Art:</u> Oliver J <u>Food:</u> George Q	<u>DT:</u> Harry W <u>Engineering:</u> Nazim G <u>Art:</u> Antonia L <u>Food:</u> Connor H

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.



KS3 Miss Turgoose:

Year 7 - Ollie C for his brilliant enthusiasm for school life

Year 8 - Xavier F for his brilliant manners and effort both in and out of lessons

Year 9 - Sebastian K for his fantastic effort across all subjects in school

KS4 Mr Ritchie:

Year 10 - Zain AJ for his hard work and effort in lessons

Year 11 - Ifi T for an excellent Year. Showing excellence and determination

The Saint John Houghton Award:

Connor H in year 11 has been nominated by staff for this week's St John Houghton Award. He has been nominated for striving for excellence and for supporting the school football team throughout his years at school.

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:

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