

NEWSLETTER

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Friday 13th
March 2026

Dear Readers,

As we move through March there are some signs of spring on the horizon and a few days in school with the sun shining has lifted us all.

Congratulations to the Year 8 boys football team, this week who put up a valiant effort in their match against Heanor Gate School. Despite playing their hearts out and it still being 0-0 at half time they lost - but well played!

In Year 11 Food and Nutrition, students have been cooking up a storm in their actual GCSE practical exams. Staff have been tasting and evaluating with puddings high on everyone's favourites list.

Adam Thompson MP also visited us last Friday and spent time in the school chapel with Rachel and some of our students. They were looking at our outreach work as a school in the local parishes - more in our chaplaincy section.

Finally, we also focussed on celebrating diversity in our school Celebration of the word., this week. Giving thanks for the uniqueness of humanity.

Garde ta Foi! Guard your Faith!

Mr S Brogan
Headteacher

Important Dates:

- 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



**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

Lunch Accounts:

Please ensure that students' meal accounts are topped up and that any outstanding balances are cleared on School Gateway as soon as possible.

Reception Opening Hours:

Please be aware that from W/C 23 March 2026, our reception opening hours will be changing slightly. Reception will be open from 8:00am to 4:00pm Monday to Thursday and will close at 3:30pm on Fridays.



Year 9 Vaccinations Monday:

Please be aware that Year 9 students who have consent, will be receiving their teenage booster vaccinations in school on Monday. If possible, please ensure your child comes to school wearing a short-sleeved school shirt rather than a long sleeve shirt under their blazers.

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Year 9 Netball Tournament:

On Thursday last week, two year 9 netball teams played in the Erewash Schools netball tournament.

The results were as follows:

- SJH red 2nd place
- SJH black 4th place

Congratulations to all of the girls who played

Year 7 and 8 Sportsahall:

On Tuesday we entered 4 teams into the Erewash schools sportshall athletics competition. The results were as follows:

- Yr 7 girls – 3rd
- Yr 7 boys – 2nd
- Yr 8 girls – 1st
- Yr 8 boys 1st

Well done to all teams, especially the Yr 8 girls and boys who will now progress on to represent Erewash at the Derbyshire Schools final in April.

UK Champion:

A massive well done to Summer B in year 8 who last weekend took part in the U15 UK indoor athletics championships. Summer took part in the pentathlon event. She had an amazing day and took 1st place making her U15 National champion. This is an amazing achievement as Summer is only 13 years old.



NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS



Attendance Matters:

Theme: *“The Power of One Day”*

This week, let’s strip it right back.

Not “perfect attendance”. Not “every day, no matter what”. Just one day. Today.

Every single day in school is one more:

- Inside joke with a friend they’d have missed.
- “Ohhh, I get it now” moment in a lesson.
- Smile or check-in from an adult who actually knows their name and story.

It’s never just a register mark. It’s a tiny brick in who they’re becoming.

Quote of the Week

“One day can change the story.”

This Week’s Mini Challenge

The “No Drama Morning” Challenge

Pick one morning this week and try this:

- Step 1 – Decide tonight: “Tomorrow is our no-drama morning.”
- Step 2 – Prep in 5 minutes: Bag by the door, shoes ready, uniform out. No big speeches. Just quiet preparation.
- Step 3 – One sentence in the morning: On the way out, try: “Let’s just get today done. Future us will be glad we did.”

That’s it. No perfection. Just one calmer morning, one solid day in school.

Thank you for showing up for the “ordinary” days — they’re the ones that secretly change everything.

We’re here if you need us: attendance@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

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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.

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SCHOOL NEWS



Reading Recommendations



March 2026

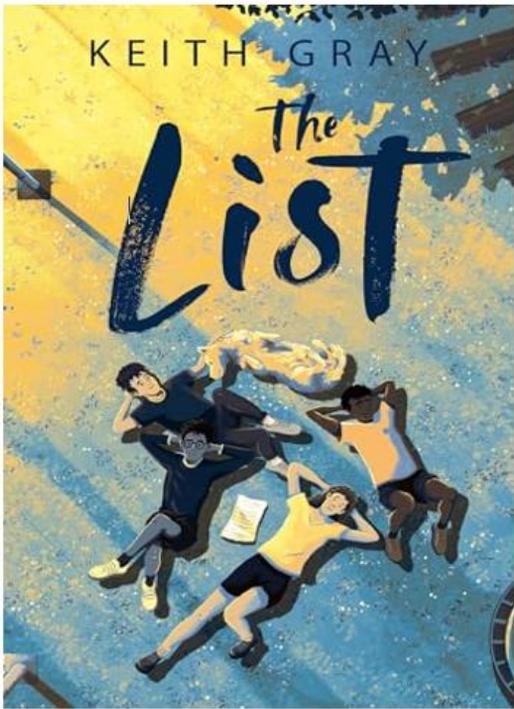
Welcome to our termly reading newsletter. Each term, we will recommend books from a range of genres and styles.

Don't forget to checkout our reading lists aimed at specific year groups. All are available from our website.

The English Department



- The List**
- Friendship
 - Relationships
 - Adventure



Can friendships survive as Denny relives the good times and rewrites the bad in this comic and compelling tale from award-winning author Keith Gray?

It's the end of the summer and Denny is having to move away with his mum now that she's found a good job, but he's not planning on leaving quietly. He's made a list of scores to settle and wrongs to right before he goes. He asks his best friend, Jake, to help.

Jake is absolutely gutted that Denny is leaving and worries what life will be like without him. Of course he'll do anything to help, no matter how weird or unrealistic the items on Denny's list might be. But the list is more powerful than either of them realise – it can make and break friendships.

Try one of the Carnegie Medal for Writing longlist

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SCHOOL NEWS



Reading Recommendations



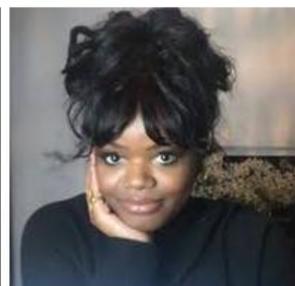
March 2026



Enter the world of Below London, the magical home of monsters, where causing a ruckus is the best thing you can do.

Notorious troublemaker Rayleigh Mann has just discovered he's the son of the infamous Bogey Mann. There's just one problem: Bogey is missing and Rayleigh is the only one who can find him. But to do so, Rayleigh must travel to Bogey's world...Below London, where Rayleigh's penchant for tricks just might help him survive an adventure straight out of his wildest dreams--or perhaps his most terrifying nightmares.

With a hilarious voice, Caribbean inspired lore, and endlessly fun magic, the first book in Ciannon Smart's thrilling middle grade fantasy series is perfect for fans of Nevermoor and The Marvellers.



Rayleigh Mann in the Company of Monsters

Fantasy

Monsters

Adventure

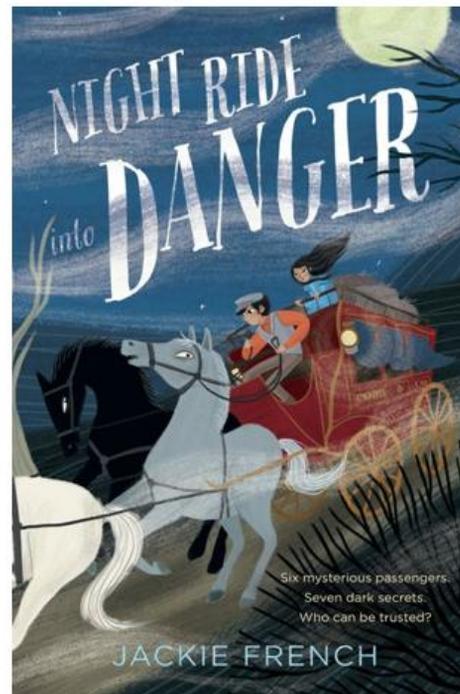


It's a dark and dangerous journey for the Cobb and Co night mail coach, but when his coach-driver father is injured, young Jem Donovan must take the reins.

Surely a boy like Jem can't handle a team of four horses and guide the coach on a rough bush track through fog and untold dangers?

But there are six passengers on the coach tonight, each with a secret.

And if Jem can't get them all to their destination by morning, the seventh secret could be deadly ...



Night Ride into Danger

History

Adventures

Australia

Our summaries are taken from the Goodreads website:

<https://www.goodreads.com/>

NEWSLETTER

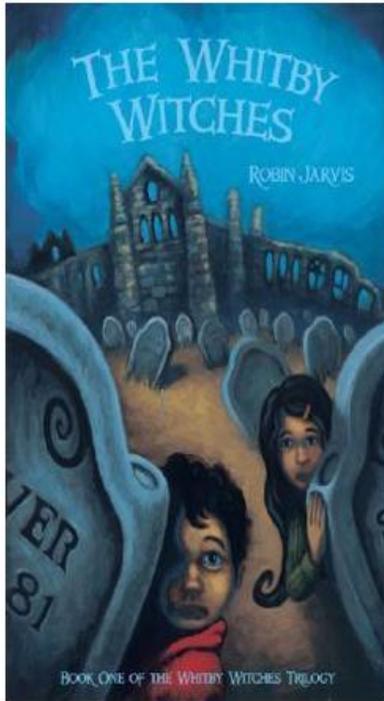
SCHOOL NEWS



Reading Recommendations



March 2026



At first glance, the small seaside town of Whitby seems quiet and charming, but eight year-old Ben and his older sister Jennet soon learn that things are not always as they seem. Moved about from foster home to foster home, Ben and Jennet hope to make a fresh start in Whitby. But Ben sees things and people others cannot. There's something unusual about Alice Boston, their new guardian. And what is that horrible howling Jennet hears late at night? Something wicked's brewing in Whitby.

Can Ben and Jennet put it to rest?

The Whitby Witches

Fantasy

Witches

Adventure



We love hearing about books you have read so let us know what book you think everyone should read!



A student who reads is a student who succeeds.

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

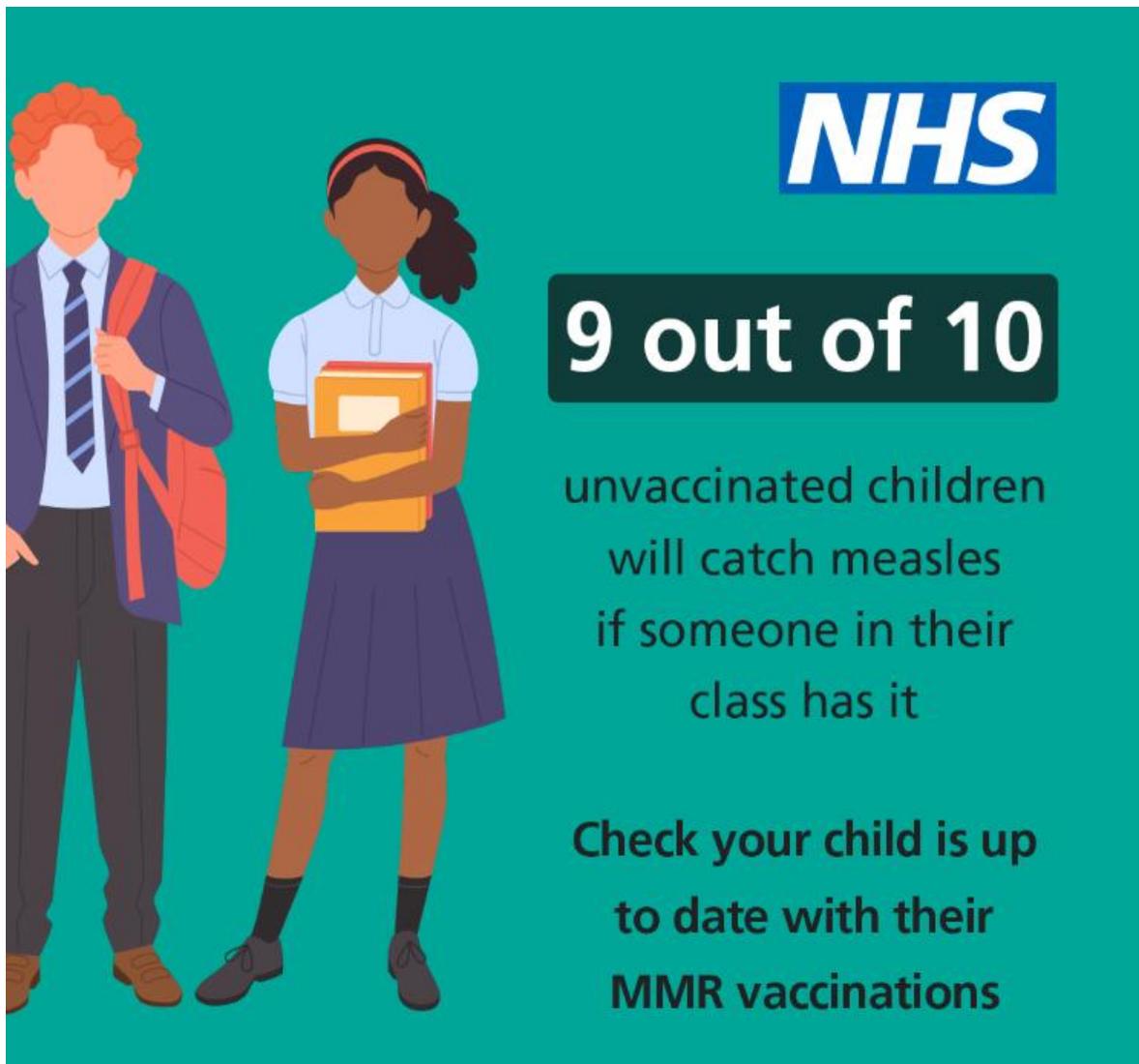
Measles: Key Information:

There has been a significant rise in measles cases across England, with outbreaks particularly affecting unvaccinated children including those in schools and early years settings.

Measles is a highly infectious viral illness that can spread rapidly in educational settings through coughing, sneezing, and close contact. It typically begins with cold-like symptoms, followed by a rash a few days later.

The MMR/MMRV vaccine is the most effective way to protect children and staff, and to control the spread of measles.

Please see the following information from DCC's Health Protection Team:



NHS

9 out of 10

unvaccinated children
will catch measles
if someone in their
class has it

**Check your child is up
to date with their
MMR vaccinations**

NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE AREA

MEASLES



There has been a sharp rise of measles cases in our communities

Most of these cases are young children who have not had the MMR vaccine.



Measles is a very serious infection



The measles virus spreads through air, in areas such as playgroups, nurseries and schools. It can make the body prone to serious complications that affect the lungs and brain. **1 in 5 children who contract measles will need a hospital visit.**

Measles can also affect adults



Measles can make people with vulnerable immune systems very ill e.g., cancer, pregnancy, or if taking certain medications.

Symptoms include...

- High fever (>39°C)
- Red & watery eyes
- Runny or blocked nose
- Cough** and cold like symptoms, followed by a...



Rash which spreads from the face down to the rest of the body, and white spots may appear inside the cheek



The MMR Vaccine

The MMR vaccine is free and safe. **Two doses provide life-long 99% protection against catching measles.** It is part of the routine NHS childhood vaccinations to protect against measles, mumps and rubella.

The MMR vaccine is given in **two stages**:
1st dose - at 1 year of age.
2nd dose - at 3 years 4 months of age.

There are 2 vaccine brands in the UK. One of these does not contain pork gelatine (**Priorix**). This can be requested from your GP surgery.



What to do if you suspect your child has measles?

If you are worried that your child has measles, get advice via your GP or 111. **Do not send them to school or visit relatives.**

Seek urgent help by calling 999 or attending A & E, if they:

- become drowsy
- are taking half their usual amount of feeds/fluids
- have a rash that does not fade when pressed
- become short of breath



If you're an adult who has not been vaccinated

Ask at your GP surgery. Vaccination is **especially important if you are pregnant** or have a vulnerable immune system. It's never too late!

Find out more

- www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mmr-for-all-general-leaflet/mmr-for-all-general-guide>



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 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**



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NEWS FROM THE AREA

HAMILTONS
SCHOOLWEAR SPECIALISTS

**EARLY BIRD
UNIFORM SALE!**

SAVE 10% OFF!
APRIL 1ST – MAY 31ST

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EARLYBIRD10

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IN-STORE?
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NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

Ambassadors of HOPE:

SRSCMAT asked us to look at Modern Day Slavery and take action. Felix, Maxwell and Evie-Mae took the lead and prepared a reflection with Catholic Social Teaching in mind. Rights and Responsibilities. *Human Rights, Protection, Right to life.* Let's journey together: to one another, to our families and to the larger society, so all have the right to life. **Please read the Scripture: Love is the greatest: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13**



Pope Quote: In human society one man's natural right gives rise to a corresponding duty on other men; the duty, that is, of recognizing and respecting that right. Every basic human right draws its authoritative force from the natural law, which confers it and attaches to it its respective duty. Hence, to claim one's rights and ignore one's duties, or only half fulfil them, is like building a house with one hand and tearing it down with the other. (St John XXIII - Pacem in Terris)

Take time to reflect on these questions:

How can your actions reflect the message of this scripture?

How can this passage help you to know what true love is all about?

Maturity does not lead us to run away from the World and its structures. Instead, when we are dealing with that part that resists what is new, we are creative and inventive in everyday relationships.

How can we place ourselves at the service of others?

How can we treat all persons with justice and equality?

How can we show God's love in our everyday relationships with each other?

Our existing social system now finds itself in tension with the community ideal. Our new relationship with God to live the Gospel we cannot avoid the tensions of an imperfect World.

Mission: Please follow CAFOD and watch their videos.

Please read the Just Now Magazine.

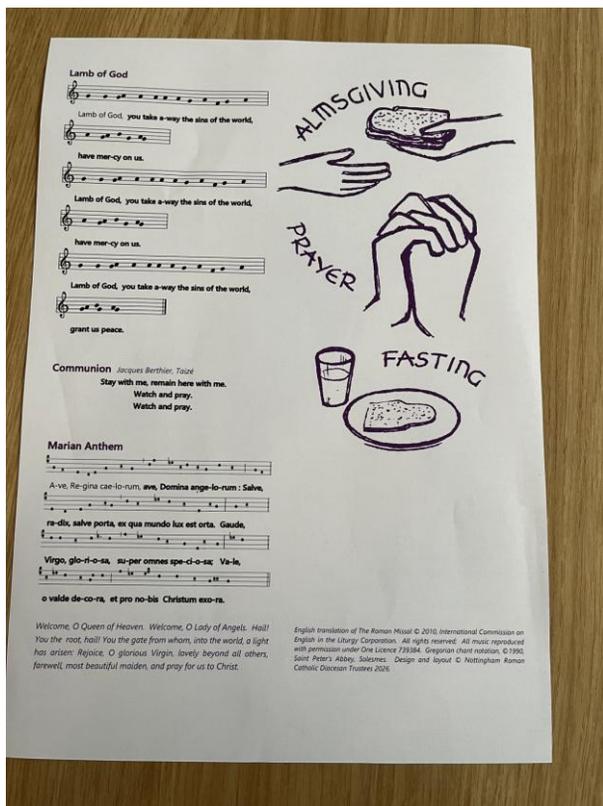
The Briars Team suggest we watch the film: 12 Angry Men. Let us know if you do!

NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

Continued...

Our Ambassadors of Hope invited our MP into school to have a 'Pope Francis Style Meeting' and invited some Faith in Action and Year 7 Team Chaplaincy students to join in. Student Voice: I am really grateful to have been part of this meeting, to be honest, before the meeting I had very little information about Modern Slavery and didn't even know my MP. Now I have met Dr Adam Thompson, and I have learnt so much about the wider world and how good people can find themselves in dangerous situations and I believe Adam is working hard for a just and safe



Chaplaincy INSET Day:

May I take this opportunity to thank all involved for leading and delivering the Chaplaincy INSET day this Monday. With special thanks to Fr Simon who celebrated a beautiful Mass.

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

NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

CAFOD The Big Lent Walk:

Year 11 and SJH Sound and Light Crew are taking the lead with the steps for justice. Are you hungry for change and can you join us on Monday - we will be leaving SJH at 1:45pm meeting by Reception and will return in time for teaching and learning - bring a coat!



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

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

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