

NEWSLETTER

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Friday 20th
March 2026

Dear Readers,

As we enter the last couple of weeks of Lent it was lovely to share Mass with Year 9. Lots of students took an active part in the celebration and Father Paul and Our Deacon Leigh created a thoughtful and inclusive hour for us all to experience. Father Paul reminded us that Lent can be a season of 'letting go' of the things that may be cluttering our lives or our minds.

On Wednesday we held our second Year 11 Parents consultation evening. Many thanks to all who attended. We know that the success of our Year 11's depends on the strong relationship between home and school.

Good luck to those taking art exams next week and good luck to those taking the exam just after the Easter break.

Industrial action next week will mean that on Tuesday 24th March we will be closed to students and more information has been communicated to all parents. We fully recognise that closing Saint John Houghton CVA causes disruption and inconvenience to families, and this is not a decision we have taken lightly. As always, our overriding priority is to ensure that the school operates safely and that safeguarding arrangements remain secure and robust. Thank you for your continued understanding and support during this challenging period.

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.



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.



Support for Students Who Are Absent from School:

If your child is unable to attend school for a short period of time but feels well enough to complete some learning at home, we encourage them to begin by checking and completing any homework set on Arbor.

Students can also access additional online learning by logging into the Student Portal using their school email details. From there, they can continue their learning through programmes such as Carousel, Sparx, Century, and Oak Academy.

If you have any questions or need further support, please contact the school.

"You Won't Know Until You Ask" Online Safety Campaign:

The Department for Science, Innovation, and Technology (DSIT) has recently launched the 'You Won't Know until You Ask' campaign, providing parents with practical support they can use immediately and the confidence they need to have a conversation with their children about the content they see online.

Backed by behavioural research and academic insights, new guidance has been made available to parents on safety settings, conversation prompts, and age-appropriate advice for tackling misinformation and harmful content – including ragebait and misogynistic content.

The campaign has been developed with expert organisations including Parent Zone and Internet Matters. [You Won't Know until You Ask](#)

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS

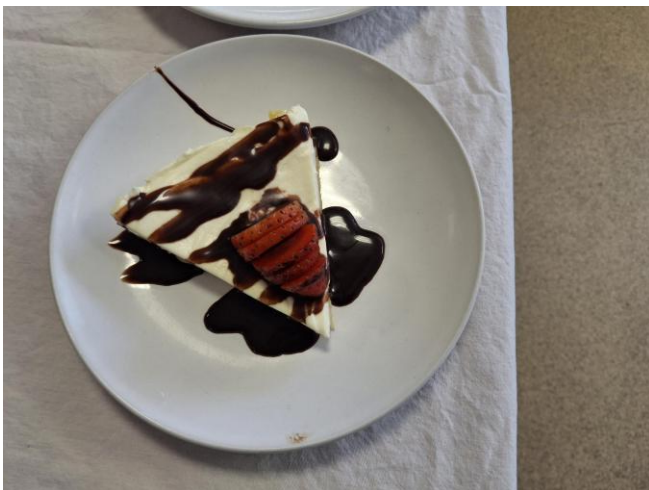
Year 11 Food GCSE Practical:

I would like to warmly congratulate all of our GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students who successfully completed their challenging “3 dishes in 3 hours” practical exam. This assessment requires not only excellent cooking skills but also organisation, creativity, and focus under pressure.

Every student rose to the challenge and produced some truly impressive dishes. The presentation was outstanding and it was fantastic to see such pride, effort, and attention to detail in their work.

Well done to all of the students – you should be incredibly proud of what you achieved!

Mrs Drury



NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS

Year 8 Boys lose out on semi final cup run to Heanor Gate:

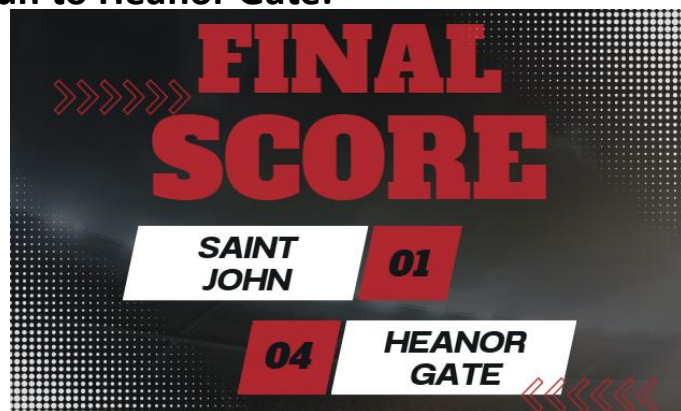
In what can only be described as a wonderful exhibition of football, the year 8 boys sadly lost to Heanor Gate, sadly bringing an end to their Derbyshire cup run.

The Saints looked bright and up for the challenge early on and at half time the scoreline was 0-0. However, as the second half progressed Heanor Gate looked dominant.

We did manage one goal with a nice cross from Jasper and a cool finish from Ewan but the groans and rolling eyes was a harsh reminder that a win was out of reach.

The boys showed spirit and determination, but the game finished 4-1 to the visitors.

One exciting new addition to the team was Harry F in role as Assistant Manager- his style is a cross between Sean Dyche and Sam Allardyce and he gave a very invigorating team talk, prior to kick off!



Film Club

As the days begin to get longer and sunshine comes back into our lives – Mr O’Grady prepares to lock up the projection booth for the summer.

But before we make like Benidorm’s finest - Mr Riley, and apply the factor 50, let’s enjoy 2024’s beautiful animation *Flow*.

Room E3, every Friday, 1:35pm. Bring a packed lunch.



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Attendance Matters: Theme: “One Week Left — Make It Count”

We’re in the final stretch before the Easter break. One week. Five school days. Five chances to finish the term on a strong note. This week isn’t about looking back at what’s been difficult — it’s about using the days we do have left to build a bit of momentum before the holiday. A good final week can make the return after Easter feel smoother, calmer and more settled.

Every day in school this week is one more:

- Lesson finished instead of missed
- Conversation had instead of avoided
- Step forward rather than standing still
- Small wins now make a big difference later.



Quote of the Week: “Finish strong, start stronger.”

This Week’s Mini Challenge: The “5-Day Countdown” Challenge

Pick one goal for the final week — something simple and achievable:

- Arrive on time once more than usual
- Stay for one extra lesson
- Complete one piece of classwork they’ve been avoiding
- Attend every day this week, even if the mornings feel tough

One goal. Five days. A clean finish to the term.

Thank you for helping your child make these last few days count. A strong end now sets up a better start after Easter. We’re here if you need us: attendance@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

🌟 Celebrating Attendance Success! 🌟

As we head into the final week of term, we’re excited to celebrate the fantastic attendance achievements of our students. This year, learners have truly embraced our positive attendance culture, and the Golden Ticket Scheme has been a huge hit—most students have already earned their place in the prize draws!

🎉 Upcoming Prize Draws

Thursday 26th – Key Stage 4 Friday 27th – Key Stage 3

Students will have the chance to win £30, £20, and £15 gift cards—so make sure they’re in school and in the running!

🍫 Easter Egg Spot Prizes All Week!

As an extra treat, we’ll be giving away Easter Eggs every day next week. These will be awarded to students who have shown real effort and improvement in their attendance—another great reason to be in school every day!

Let’s finish the term strong and celebrate all the brilliant commitment our students have shown. Keep up the great work, everyone! 🌟



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

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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

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NEWS FROM THE AREA

HAMILTONS
SCHOOLWEAR SPECIALISTS

**EARLY BIRD
UNIFORM SALE!**

SAVE 10% OFF!
APRIL 1ST – MAY 31ST

ONLINE ONLY
USE CODE:
EARLYBIRD10

PREFER TO SHOP
IN-STORE?
GET 5% OFF!
USE CODE:
INSTORESARE

41-43 GRANBY STREET, ILKESTON DE7 8HP | 0115 932 6333 | info@hamiltons.biz
www.hamiltons.biz

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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: 19.03.26 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



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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 –

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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	Maja S	Isabella L	Allura L	Robyn R	Oscar H
English	Jarvis H	Elisa T	Phoebe S	Aaron E	Shantelle T
Science	Rafaella H	Oscar B	Dhruv J	Chevin G	Ruby M
Theology / RE	Ames H	Lydia W	Jasmine H	Ryan P	Kayla N
Geography	Alfie C	Max W	Esmee D	Liam D	Nazim G
History	Sofia A	Imogen-Grace C	Valentina H	Ellen TB	Evie ON
Music	Iris A	Elsie SR	Jaycee C	Ruby D	Isabella O
Computing / Business	Paisley B	Florence A	Rosie H	<u>iMedia:</u> Finlay M <u>Business:</u> Sophie S	<u>iMedia:</u> Mary F <u>Business:</u> Cole B
MFL	<u>Spanish:</u> Ollie C	<u>Spanish:</u> Scarlett S <u>French:</u> Summer B	<u>Spanish:</u> JJ W <u>French:</u> Daisy W	<u>Spanish:</u> Mollie W <u>French:</u> Ava F	<u>Spanish:</u> Archie S <u>French:</u> James G
PE / Health & Social Care	Antonella B	Sophia V	Isla T	<u>PE:</u> Matilda C <u>GCSE PE:</u> Toluwanimi O <u>H&S Care:</u> Kalma SH	<u>PE:</u> Evie H <u>GCSE PE:</u> Anton C <u>H&S Care:</u> Scarlett W <u>Sports Studies:</u> Isaac L
Design	Buddy A	Lacie S	Reggie R	<u>DT:</u> Finley A <u>Engineering:</u> Joseph R <u>Art:</u> Peyton W <u>Food:</u> Owen D	<u>DT:</u> Jack M <u>Engineering:</u> Hugo M <u>Art:</u> Livvy-Jo S <u>Food:</u> Weluchi O

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: James H for always striving to do what is right.

Year 8: Summer B for her amazing athletic achievements becoming a world champion last week! How brilliant!

Year 9: Zofia S for her effort across all of her subjects.

KS4 Mr Ritchie:

Year 10: Imogen K for giving service to the school by litter picking everyday.

Year 11: Beth DR for her service to the school, being a school captain and being the highest virtue point scorer in her year group.

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

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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