

NEWSLETTER

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Friday 17th
April 2026

Important Dates:

- Year 7 Parents Evening Wednesday 22nd April will be rescheduled to After half term TBC
- Industrial action 21st & 22nd April next week.

'Inspiring ambition and excellence,
guided by Christ'

Telephone:
0115 9322896

Email:

schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

Dear Readers,

Welcome back to the new term. Firstly, our congratulations to Mrs Smith, Curriculum Leader of Maths, on her marriage over the Easter half term, and is now Mrs Mayhew. And Happy Easter to all our families.

Staff took some students to see Macbeth at Derby Theatre on Wednesday evening, which was enjoyed by all.

As I am sure you are aware the impending industrial action at school will cause disruption to our usual school life. Several schools in the SRSCMAT are impacted by strike action over the next few weeks, we are working hard to minimise the impact especially for Year 11 Students. Meaningful work will be set for all students by any staff in school and we urge Year 11 to use the time for revision.

I have reassured students that all GCSE exams will go ahead as planned, the Prom is still happening, and we are re-scheduling the Year 11 Leavers day from May 8th to later in June when the vast majority of exams have been completed.

I am looking at ways to further support Year 11 and more information on this will come out to early next week.

Garde ta Foi! Guard your Faith!

Mrs Christina Hartharn

Acting 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.



Parking Reminder for Parents and Carers:

We kindly remind parents and carers that the staff car park is for staff use only, and should not be used for dropping off or collecting students during busier times. During the exam period our Invigilators also attend school which makes the car park area busier.



To help keep everyone safe, we ask that parents and carers drop off and collect students during the busier times, on other roads near to school using safe and considerate parking and not blocking driveways.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support in helping us maintain a safe school environment for all.

Girls' toilets:

Due to safeguarding reasons, the doors to the girls' main toilets are now locked during lesson time, however there are selected toilets around school available to students all day. All toilets are open before school, during break and lunchtime, which gives ample time for all students to use the toilets and avoid lesson disruption. Students with toilet passes can use the toilet when needed. The boys' toilets area do not have a main door but again are out of bounds during lesson time unless a student has a toilet pass. As always, all students should talk to their teacher if they do require the toilet during lesson time. Thank you for your understanding.

Food menus:

Please see below link to the school food menus which started on Monday 13 April 2026:

<https://www.stjohnhoughtonilkeston.srscmat.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2026/03/SRS-New-Menu-Secondary-1.pdf>



NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS

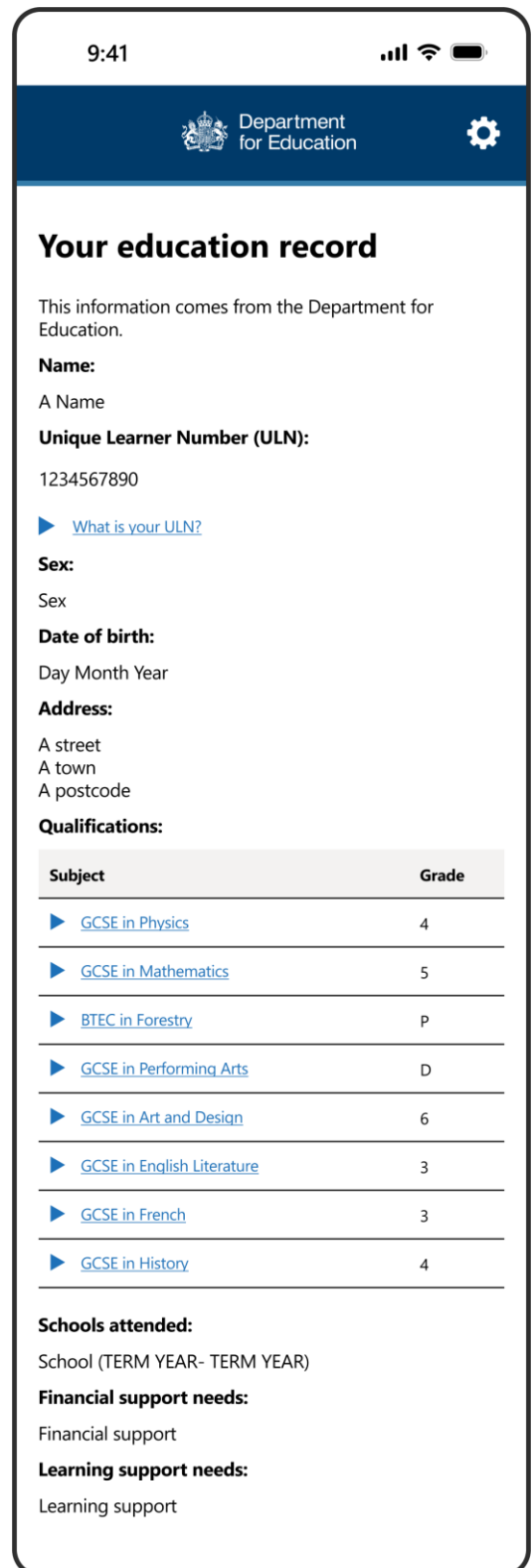
Year 11 Education Record App:

The DfE have introduced an [App](#) that will enable Year 11 students to access their educational record. Using the App, they will be able to view their exam results and easily show them to colleges and sixth forms. Pupils can also use the App in the future to make applications to sixth forms, colleges or training providers.

As your child’s current education provider, we can provide the initial QR codes to activate this service. However, if students wish to use this service, they must first download the App onto their mobile phone (The Apple version of the app requires iOS version 15 or newer, and the Android version requires 8.1 or newer.). The App is called the ‘DfE education record’ and is available from the App Store or Google Play Store.

If your child would like to use this service, please ask them to download this App ready for us to activate on their phone whilst they are in school. More details on activating the App in school will be given later this term.

Please note that the App does not replace the early morning collection of examination results on results day. However, examination results will be made available on the App later on results day, but depending on the data transfer, some results may take more time to display in the App.



NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS



Reading Recommendations



April 2026

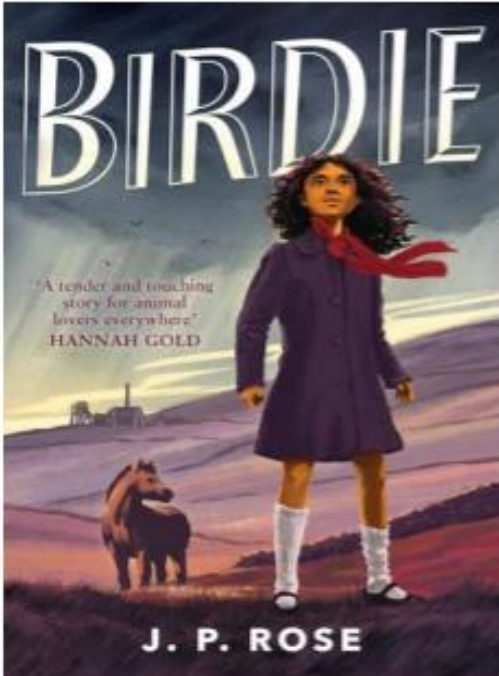
Welcome to our termly reading newsletter. Each term, we will recommend books from a range of genres and styles.

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

The English Department

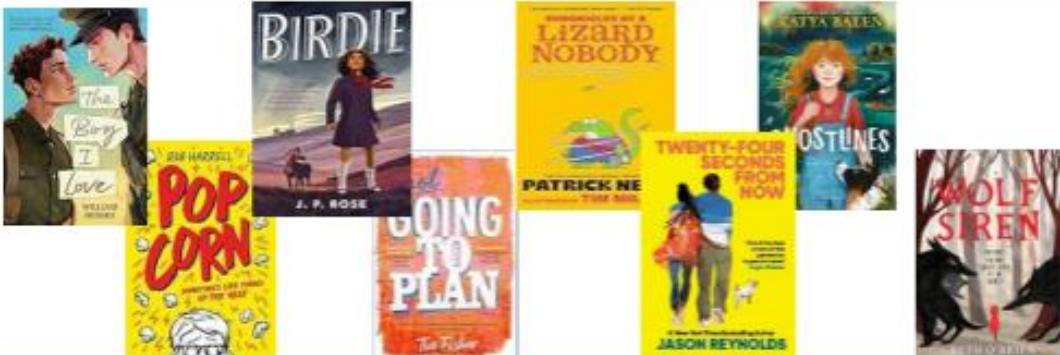


- Birdie
- Adoption
- Racism
- Historical



When Birdie is sent to live with her great-aunt in 1950s Yorkshire, she befriends the village's last remaining pit pony. A story of hope and courage, exploring themes of family, racism and identity.

Birdie Bagshaw has never known her parents. Having grown up in a children's home for mixed race children in 1950s Leeds, now she has come to live with her great-aunt in the Yorkshire Dales. From her arrival, Birdie is treated like an outsider by the local children. When their bullying drives Birdie to hide in the nearby coal mine, she finds an unexpected rescuer in the form of Mr Duke, the last remaining pit pony in the village. As the weeks pass, Birdie forms a special bond with the spirited little pony. But his future is in danger, and Birdie comes up with a daring plan to save his life in return . . .



Try one of the Carnegie Medal for Writing Shortlist

NEWSLETTER

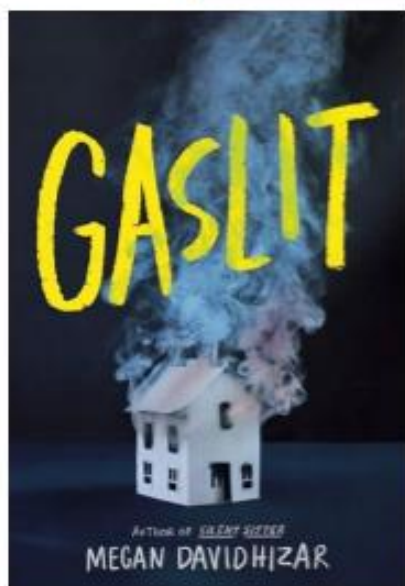
SCHOOL NEWS



Reading Recommendations



April 2026



Ella was supposed to have fun night with her friends until a crippling headache tied to a recent diagnosis cancels her plans and leaves her babysitting her cousin instead.

But when she arrives at the house, she immediately knows something is wrong. The lights are off and the door is wide open. But it's the creeping smell coming from the house that warns Ella of the real danger inside: a gas leak.

In a panic, Ella charges into the house and calls 911. Her aunt and cousins lie unconscious on the floor—and Ella can't rescue them all.

As Ella tries to recover from the tragic accident, deadly lies begin to seep through the cracks of the investigation, and Ella's side effects escalate. She'll soon discover the gas leak might not have been an accident after all—and that someone might be out to kill her next.



Gaslit

Thriller

Illness

Year 9+ Readers



Wolf Siren

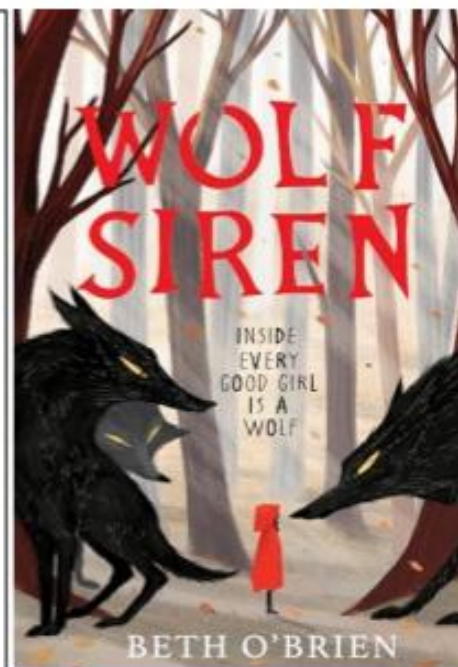
Fairy Tale

Adventure

Fantasy

Red is not allowed to go into the woods. Everyone knows that they are dangerous – because of their strange magic and the wolves that lurk there... But Red finds herself increasingly drawn to the woods and the place where her grandmother disappeared without a trace three years ago. When the woodcutter fails to return home one night and wolves are spotted close to the village boundary, fear drives a deep and dangerous divide between the villagers and the nature they live alongside.

Only Red seems to hold the key – but she has a secret, and exposing it could ruin her family forever ...



Our summaries are taken from the Goodreads website:

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

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SCHOOL NEWS



Reading Recommendations



April 2026



At just nineteen, Stephen has already survived a year at the front. Now he is returning to the trenches to lead a platoon, despite his wounds. Broken-hearted from the loss of his first love, Stephen wonders what he's fighting for. Then he meets Private Danny McCormick, a smart, talented young recruit. From their first meeting, there's something undeniable between them – something forbidden by both society and the army. Determined to protect Danny, Stephen must face down the prejudices and ignorance of his superiors as well as the onslaught of German shells and sniper fire.

As the summer of 1916 ticks down to one big push on the Somme, can Stephen and Danny stay together – and will their love save them – or condemn them?



The Boy I Love

Historical

LGBT+

Year 9+ Readers



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.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Attendance Matters

Theme: “Return Ready — Start Strong”

Welcome back to a brand-new term. After the Easter break, this first week is our chance to rebuild routines, reconnect with learning, and step confidently into the months ahead. A strong return doesn't just set the tone — it sets the pace.

We also know that coming back after a holiday can feel a little overwhelming for some pupils. Changes in routine, worries about schoolwork, or simply the shift back into busy days can create anxiety. That's completely normal — and your child is not alone. We're here to help, support, and guide them through the transition.

Each day in school this week is one more:

- Lesson gained instead of lost
- Opportunity taken instead of missed
- Step forward rather than falling behind
- Moment of confidence rather than uncertainty

Small choices now create big momentum later.



Quote of the Week

“The way you begin shapes where you go.”

First-Week Focus Challenge

To help pupils settle smoothly into the new term, encourage them to choose one simple action that supports a calm, confident start:

- Re-establish a steady morning routine that feels predictable and reassuring
- Arrive each day with uniform, equipment, and planner ready
- Set one positive goal for the week — something small but meaningful
- Share one thing they're looking forward to this term
- Talk openly about any worries — we're here to listen and help

If your child is feeling anxious about returning, please reach out. A quick conversation can make a big difference, and we're committed to supporting every pupil to feel safe, settled, and ready to learn.

Thank you for your continued support with attendance. We're delighted to welcome pupils back — refreshed, supported, and ready for a successful start.

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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NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

Happy Easter! Christ is Risen!
He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

EASTER

Easter Prayer: Lord, we thank You for this Easter celebration and all the gifts you give to us. Amen! Jesus has been raised to new life. Alleluia! Thank you, God, for the gift of your Son. Amen.

After Easter Sunday we rejoice in the empty tomb - Jesus's resurrection. Easter is the day Jesus rose from the dead after being crucified. The empty tomb means that Jesus's words rang true. He fulfilled the promises of Scripture and conquered sin and death. Had Jesus not raised from the dead, the world would have seen him as just a prophet or teacher instead of who he is: the Son of God, the Messiah. Jesus overcoming death is the reason we know His name today. It is the foundation of Christianity. With His death and resurrection, Jesus opened heaven to all for us. Because of Easter, we know that no matter what sufferings we experience or what sins we struggle with, God is always with us. Easter is everything.

On behalf of the Saint John Houghton family may I take this opportunity to thank Father Paul, Father Joby, Lee, all the SRSCMAT students and families who served during Lent and Easter, who sang in the choir, cleaned the church, enjoyed the community Easter Eggs hunt and Easter Bonnet gatherings. THANK YOU! Easter lasts for a total of 50 days, from Easter Sunday to the feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles, Mary, and the first followers of Christ.

This year, 2026, Easter was on April 5th and runs until Pentecost Sunday, May 24th.



NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY



Congratulations:

On behalf of our SJH Family I would like to congratulate and celebrate Eliza who has raised £250 for her local dementia charity. Well done and thank you for taking the time to put your love into action Eliza.



NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

Faith in Action:

Congratulations to Thayonita who has met her deadline to complete the Silver Level Faith in Action Award.

Thayonita has completed over 15 hours of service in and out of school, she has worked hard for a Charity event and grown in faith.

Thank you for taking the time to put your faith into action.

On behalf of SJH may I wish you all the very best and please know you will be on our prayers.

Good Luck Thayonita!



Thank You for Your Generosity:

We are pleased to share our thanks after receiving a message from Friends of the Holy Land, acknowledging a donation of £128.47 raised through St Ralph Sherwin. The charity expressed their heartfelt gratitude to all who donated, explaining that this contribution helps support Christian communities in the Holy Land through vital humanitarian, development and healing programmes.

Our generosity enables families to remain, thrive and maintain their presence in the birthplace of our faith.

Thank you to everyone who contributed — your kindness and solidarity are deeply appreciated.

Beauvale Pilgrimage:

On the 4th May 1534, John Houghton and Robert Lawrence were executed for refusing to accept King Henry V111 as Head of the Church in England. They had both been priors at the Carthusian priory at Beauvale. On the three days before their death they held service of prayer in preparation for their ordeal. The Beauvale Society holds a Triduum every year leading up to the celebration of the Pilgrimage at Beauvale Priory Ruins.

This years celebrations are:

Thursday 30th April 7pm St John's Stapleford - a short service and reflection. Rachel, our School Chaplain, will attend and hopes to see students in school uniform. All Welcome.

Friday 1st May 7pm at Our Lady's Eastwood - Vigil Mass to commemorate the Martyrs death. (Rachel can not attend) All welcome

Sunday 3rd May 2pm Pilgrimage Mass with Bishop Partick at Beauvale Priory Ruins. Rachel will be attending and is asking for students to join her and wear school uniform. All welcome.

NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

St Anne's Knitting Group:

have made this beautiful blanket and this will go to SPUC (Society of the protection of the unborn child) and will be handed over at the Pro-Life Chain on 25th April 2026 at 10.00am - midday on Trent Bridge during a silent chain of witness.



Dear Saint Anne's Knitting Group,
"Happy Easter!" I hope this very short message of thanks Finds You all well? May I begin by sharing some words from Pope Leo: "Charity has the power to change reality, it's a genuine force for change in history.

All your support for CAFOD is really making a difference, your generosity in October provided fresh water for families in Ethiopia and your generosity in Lent supported your brothers and sisters in Bangladesh, Sudan and Zimbabwe, so all your efforts, generosity and support are making a real difference. The continual generous support of the Parish of Our Lady's and Beavale Martrys is truly inspirational and on behalf of CAFOD a huge thanks to one and all.

This evening as you sit and knit you may wish to pray for the people of Sudan as we remember and pray especially this April for the people of Sudan as it is three years now since the conflict, but you will be hearing more about that in your Parishes with an emergency appeal at the end of this month.

It is encouraging always to remember that as supporters of CAFOD you belong to International Caritas whom after the United Nations is the second largest humanitarian aid charity universally, so all that you are doing is making a difference, so thanks.

Each Parish does unique and different things to support CAFOD and I was delighted to hear that your knitting group chats about CAFODs work and the best kept secret of the Catholic Church its social teaching which continuously encourages us to live out the gospel values which evidently you are doing each time you meet and knit together.

Certainly, next year when I write my annual report for the Diocesan Yearbook I will have to include: Saint Anne's knitting group and thanks for all that you do to support CAFOD.

As we are still in the season of Easter may I wish you all a very happy Easter and I look forward to hearing more about all the great things you do in your Parish and group to support CAFOD. Please do remember if you are organising anything on a larger scale or wish to invite me to your group in the future it would be a joy to meet you all, but, I cannot knit! My thanks again for all you do for CAFOD

NEWSLETTER

CHAPLAINCY

Student Voice:

Joshua emailed in to ask us to contact the local care home to share joy and conversation.

Thank you Joshua for living our Mission!



CAFOD Club and student voice:

Well done to all the students who supported CAFOD Club this week. We have sent letters to the local Care Home. Well done and thank you to Joshua who inspired friends to join him.

Great idea Joshua!



Faith in Action Award:

Congratulations to Lucy and Evie-Mae who met the deadline for their Gold Level Award.

More congratulations to Ava (Gold), Tilly (Gold), Thayonita (Silver), James (Bronze), and Jess (Silver) who have completed their awards.

Please look out for your letters of evidence in the post or email which will be delivered by 10th May and you should hear the results and be presented your certificate and badge in June.

Many congratulations for all this hard work, the hours of service and you love in action. This is the Catholic equivalent to the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Here at SJH we are very proud of you all and thank you for adding this to your C.V.

NEWSLETTER

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

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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



**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:

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