

# NEWSLETTER

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

## FROM THE HEADTEACHER



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

### Important Dates:

- Easter Holidays:  
Monday 30 March –  
Friday 10 April 2026
- Year 7 Parents Evening  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

Dear Readers,

Mr. Steve Brogan is currently supporting another school within the Trust. During this period, I will be serving as Acting Headteacher. Please be assured that it is very much business as usual. Our commitment to providing a stable, high-quality learning environment for all pupils remains unchanged, and our day-to-day operations will continue as normal.

As the term comes to an end, we have said goodbye to two members of our incredibly valuable support team. Miss Boswell part of the pastoral team and Ms Loynes in finance. They have both worked incredibly hard to serve our young people and families at SJH and they will be very much missed. They are moving onto pastures new, wishing them well with their new roles.

I would like to extend my thank to all our families in supporting your children this week, due to our closure on Tuesday and Wednesday. Please be assured that any pupil not able to complete work that may have been set by school, will not be disadvantaged on their return to school.

I hope that you find time to have a Happy Easter, with plenty of chocolate eggs, when it arrives. As Catholics we asked to say 'Alleluia' – Praise the Lord – to celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday!

Garde ta Foi! Guard your Faith!

**Mrs Christina Hartharn**  
Acting Headteacher

'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.



### **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.



### **Food menus:**

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

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

### **Year 8 Football:**

On Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, a selection of the year 8 football team took part in a tournament at Kirk Hallam School. The boys showed great skill, grit and determination and came out winners of the tournament, unbeaten in every game!

Mr Thomson was unable to attend, due to Year 11 parent's evening, so Miss Davies and Harry F stepped into the breach as Caretaker and Assistant Manager, leading the team to victory. In a post-match interview, Miss Davies said, "Myself and Mr Thomson had discussed tactics prior to the game, but I think it was my leadership that got the boys over the line. We even witnessed a goal from kick off and was thanks to the confidence I installed in the boys". The boys involved were:- Oscar T, Ewan T, Michal N, Dexter B, Jacob H, Jasper M, Ruben H and Finn W.

# NEWSLETTER

## SCHOOL NEWS

### School Uniform:

Could all parents ensure that students return after Easter in the correct school uniform. All students will be checked on the first day back and parents contacted if any part of their appearance or uniform does not adhere to the school policy which is outlined below:

All uniform should be worn correctly: Shirts tucked in, skirts at full length

- School Blazer: Maroon for Years 7 to 11, blazer to be worn at all times
- Plain short or long sleeve white shirt – No turned up sleeves, tucked in at all times
- Clip on school tie
- Black V-neck jumpers may be worn during term 2 to 4 but are not permitted during term 1, 5 & 6 (**no black jumpers after the Easter break**)
- Black trousers of a smart tailored fit. No jeans/leggings jeggings/skinny fit or cropped trousers to be worn
- Black dropped waist pleated skirt to be worn at the appropriate length. No belts to be worn and skirts must not be rolled up
- Black tailored shorts may be worn, for term 5 & 6 only
- Plain black socks or black tights only (minimum 40 denier)
- Black leather flat shoes. Boots/sandals not to be worn. No air bubbles in the sole.
- Outdoor coat. No denim or leather jackets. Hoodies, tracksuit tops or tech fleeces are not permitted



### Physical Education Kit

- Years 8 – 11 - School sports top or plain red polo shirt with optional school logo
- Year 7 - School sports top with optional school logo
- School red PE hoodie (optional) or plain red sweatshirt with optional school logo
- Plain black appropriate length shorts, or plain black leggings/tracksuit bottoms (small logo permitted). Cycling shorts are not permitted
- Black football socks or white sports socks
- Indoor trainers. No crocs allowed
- Suitable outdoor trainers during winter/cross country
- Football boots and optional shin pads
- Optional Rugby shirt
- Mouth guards are optional for contact sports



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## SCHOOL NEWS

All uniform and kit can be purchased from the following suppliers:

- Hamiltons: 41 Granby Street, Ilkeston, DE7 8HP (0115 932 6333)
- Morleys: 116 – 118 Bramcote Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 4DR (0115 925 8046)
- Morleys: 446 Nottingham Road, Chaddesden, Derby DE21 6PE (01332 281311)

### **Appearance**

#### ***Jewellery***

- One close fitting ring only to be worn on hand
- One watch
- No upper ear or facial piercings to be worn. One small plain nose stud may be worn.
- One pair of close-fitting plain stud earrings in the lobe of the ear
- Bracelets are not permitted to be worn
- One necklace may be worn under shirts, they must be removed for practical lessons

#### ***Make Up***

- Light foundation and mascara are allowed
- Eyebrows should be of natural shape or colour

#### ***Nails***

- No nail polish
- No gel nails
- No acrylic or false nails
- Natural nails only



#### ***Hair***

- Students' hair should be no shorter than a number 2
- Shaved sections are not permitted
- Hair colour must be natural with natural looking highlights allowed (no bright colours eg red, green, purple, pink, blue)
- No tramlines or patterns cut in the hair are permitted
- Only a plain headband or bobble should be worn
- Hair fashions such as flowers/bright and bold hair clips are not permitted
- Long hair must be tied back for PE and practical subjects
- No shaved eyebrows

Any breach of uniform or appearance policy will be dealt with according to the school policy. Parents/carers will be contacted when deemed necessary. If any student is unable to attend the school due to a uniform or appearance issue, parents/carers must contact school to inform them. If the correct footwear is not worn an alternative may be provided. In this instance, students will be given required time to adhere to the policy. This will be given on a case-by-case basis by the Key Stage Leaders.

# NEWSLETTER

## SCHOOL NEWS



### Attendance Matters

Theme: “Rest Well — Return Ready”

As we head into the Easter break, this is the moment to pause, breathe, and reset. Time away from school is important — it gives pupils the chance to rest, recharge, and come back feeling more settled and ready to learn.

The first days back after a holiday matter. A strong start sets the tone for the whole term ahead. Good attendance from day one helps pupils reconnect with routines, re-engage with learning, and feel confident walking back through the door.

Every day in school after Easter will be one more:

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

Small choices early in the term make a big difference later.

### Quote of the Week

**“A good start changes everything.”**

### Holiday Mini Challenge

The “Reset and Ready” Challenge

Choose one simple goal for the break — something that helps make the return smoother:

- Get back into a regular sleep routine
- Organise school bag and uniform the day before returning
- Set one positive intention for the new term
- Talk together about what they’re looking forward to after Easter

One small reset now leads to a stronger start later.

Thank you for your continued support with attendance. We look forward to welcoming pupils back after the break — rested, ready, and prepared for a positive new term.

We’re here if you need us: [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

## CHAPLAINCY

### St Anne's Knitting Group:

Please note we will be on holiday 30.03.26 & 06.04.26. We will meet on 13.04.26 7.00pm - 9.00pm in Ilkeston church House. All welcome. Under 16's must be accompanied by an adult. No charge.

We shared home made bread and brought our favourite topping this week.

'If were sitting were knitting!'



### CAFOD Support:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr Paul, Fr Joby and Fr Joseph for allowing us to meet for our Saint Anne's Knitting Group each Monday evening. We were able to meet earlier during Lent to share homemade bread and soup and make a donation to CAFOD. CAFOD was established in 1960 when a group of women organised the first Family Fast Day to raise funds for a mother and baby health centre in Dominica. During our knitting sessions we often chat about Gospel Values and CST, we pray for each other, our families and the world we live in. Our knitting projects support our Common Home. It was a privilege to be part of supporting those in need around the world. Thank you, Alison, Janet, Tracey, Sue, Jenny, Frances, Andrew and Rachel.



### Walsingham Pilgrimage 2026:

This Pilgrimage will take place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026. The cost is £20 per person which needs to be paid on booking. If you would like to go on the parish coach you can sign up on the sheet at the back of the churches. Rachel will not be attending this year because the First Holy Communion clashes with the Walsingham Pilgrimage but she is very happy to share information and support.

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## CHAPLAINCY



### **Beauvale Pilgrimage:**

Could you be the student in 2026 who carries our SJH banner at the Beauvale Pilgrimage? Simply email Rachel and ask to be considered. You do not need to be Catholic, you simply need to give your time with a good and gracious heart.

Please visit Beauvale over the Easter break and enjoy the peace and you could have a cup of tea in the tea rooms!

We know Beauvale Priory is where John Houghton lived and worked, we will celebrate his Feast Day in School and we have the opportunity to attend Mass with our diocese on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026 at 2.00pm our Lead Lay Chaplain, Jamie, will be at the Pilgrimage to support you.

# NEWSLETTER

## CHAPLAINCY



Thank you to the students who put their faith into action! We appreciate all you do for the good of others.



### **Lent:**

The Word of the Week has been 'sacrifice' did you take a moment to thank someone who makes a sacrifice for you this week?

We can reflect on the sacrifice Jesus made and what it means for our lives.

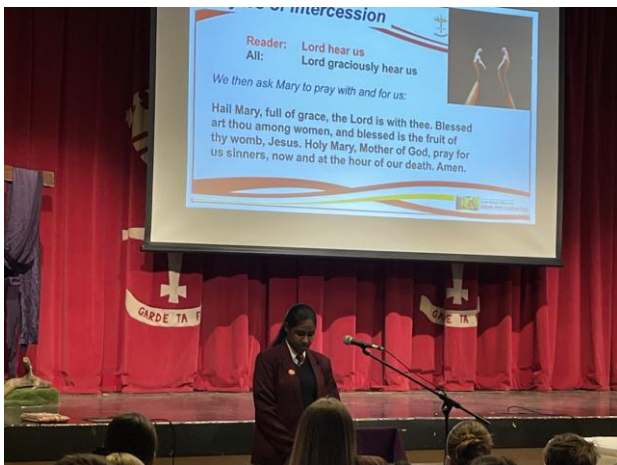
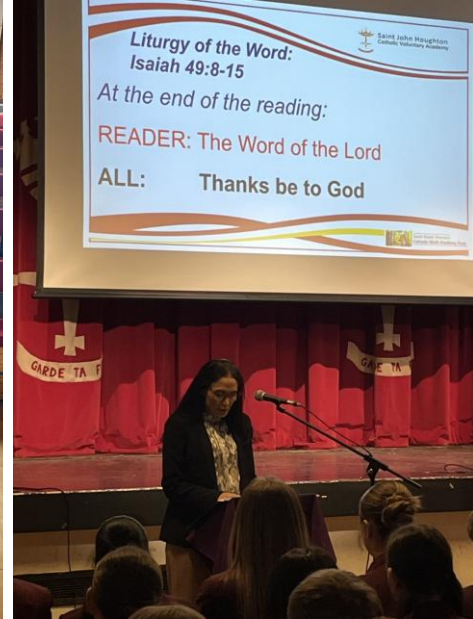
Parish Ambassadors have been baking and these treats will go into our Local Community this weekend.

# NEWSLETTER

## CHAPLAINCY

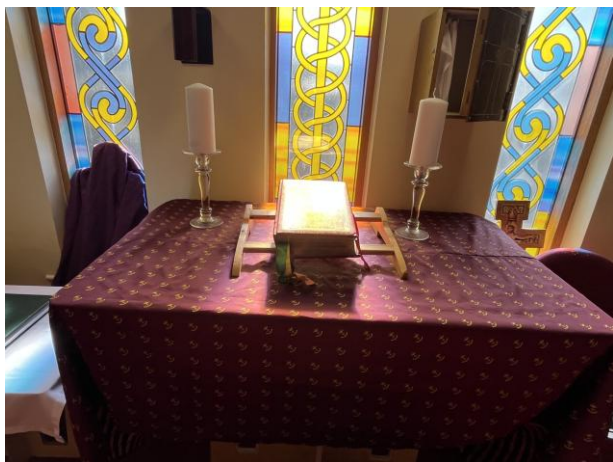
### Year 9 Mass:

Thank you to Fr Paul and Lee who celebrated and supported our Year 9 Mass. This was a wonderful gathering of staff and pupils leading the way. A special thank you to 9J who took the lead. We were encouraged to spend some time in prayer thinking about our Lenten journey so far and what we might do with the journey ahead.



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## CHAPLAINCY



### Stations of the Cross:

Thank you to all the students who have spent time in our Chapel and reflected on the Stations of the Cross. Lent is a hard journey but it can help us to grow closer to God.



### Catholic Life Induction:

Moving schools can be a challenge and here in SJH we give the time to welcome all our new staff and pupils to our school family. If you feel you would like more information about Catholic Education please email Rachel.



### CAFOD The Big Lent Walk:

Well done to all the students who have taken the time to walk with me for justice over Lent! Your steps will be added to the CAFOD Big Lent Walk!



### Friendship:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students who call into my room each week to say hello and offer a helping hand. Thank you!



# NEWSLETTER

## CHAPLAINCY

### The Season of Easter

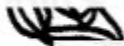


#### Holy Saturday – 4<sup>th</sup> April

Blessing of Food Baskets: **10am Eastwood**  
(święconka)

#### Easter Vigil: 7.00pm Stapleford

(with blessing of the fire & lighting of the Easter candle)



#### Easter Sunday – 5<sup>th</sup> April

Sunrise Service at Colliers Wood 6.30am  
(meeting at Colliers Wood carpark at 6.20am)  
followed by breakfast at Eastwood Baptist  
Church at 7.00am.

#### Easter Sunday Mass

(With the renewal of our baptismal promises  
& blessing with Easter water)

**Mass: 9.30am Ilkeston**

**Mass: 11.00am Eastwood**



#### Easter Week:

Easter Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April **Mass: 9.30am Stapleford**

Easter Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April **Mass: 9.30am Ilkeston**

Easter Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April **Mass: 9.30am Eastwood**

Easter Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April **Mass: 9.30am Ilkeston**

Easter Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April **Mass: 9.30am Eastwood**



Every year beginning on Palm Sunday, we celebrate what we call Holy Week.

During this week we have the opportunity to walk with Jesus through his passion and death to the glory of his resurrection.

Easter is the pinnacle of our faith; it's what our faith is founded on, because the resurrection of Jesus holds the promise for all of us who try our best to be faithful to the Lord and follow his way - in *his* rising to new life, we can be sure of *our* rising to fullness of life with him one day.

Please try your best to join us for the three days of celebrations leading up to Easter, The Holy Triduum: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. If you're not able to join us, be with us in prayer wherever you are, and remember we are keeping you very much in our thoughts and prayers.

This Easter, let's share the joy of the risen Jesus with our families, our friends and all those we love!

With prayers and blessing to you all,

Fr Paul and Fr Joby

# NEWSLETTER

## CHAPLAINCY

### Holy Week and Easter Celebrations 2026

#### The Parish of Our Lady and The Beauvale Martyrs

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Newman  
Telephone 01773 713532 Email: paul.newman@dioceseofnottingham.uk  
Assistant Priest: Fr Joby John  
Telephone 07436 941750 Email jedavazhi@gmail.com

#### Palm Sunday

(Blessing of Palm crosses at all Masses)  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March **5.00pm Stapleford**

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March **9.30am Ilkeston**  
**11.00am Eastwood**

Please take a palm cross home with you and display it in your home



#### Holy Week

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March Mass: **9.30am Stapleford**  
Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March Mass: **9.30am Ilkeston**  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April Mass: **9.30am Eastwood**

**Chrism Mass (Cathedral) 11.30am**

**Parish Passover 7.00pm**  
(The Social Centre Eastwood)

#### The Sacred Triduum

#### Holy Thursday – 2<sup>nd</sup> April

**Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7.00pm Ilkeston**  
(Followed by 'watching' before the Blessed Sacrament until 9.00pm)

#### Good Friday – 3rd April

**Churches Together Walk of Witness:**  
**11.30am – 12.30pm**  
(leaving from St Mary's Eastwood at 11.45am)

**Solemn Liturgy: 3.00pm Eastwood**

**Stations of the Cross: 7.00pm Ilkeston**  
(with veneration of a relic of the true cross)



# 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

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



**St Ralph  
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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>