

NEWSLETTER

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Friday 1st
May 2026

Dear Readers,

Happy bank holiday to you all – let's hope the weather holds!

This week Mrs Ellis ran the Junior maths challenge – well done to all who took part and showed their maths prowess π

Our French and Spanish GCSE Speaking exams have also concluded this week – many thanks to all our students who worked hard and showed up on time! Also, to our MFL teachers and Parents/Carers for supporting students through this stressful time.

Next week we have school open for Year 11 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday – although it is closed to all other years due to Industrial action. Our expectation is that ALL Year 11 students attend and all the school buses will be running to help facilitate this.

On these three days Year 11:

- May wear their Leavers hoodies instead of a blazer
- Buy food at both break and lunch time
- Should bring their own extra revision materials to support them in supervised self-study sessions

We will be posting information about the GCSE Exam booster sessions shortly – for up-to-date information please visit:
<https://www.stjohnhoughtonilkeston.srscmat.co.uk/curriculum/gcse-exams/>

I end with the words of Pope Leo this week: 'Our mission calls us to be "bridges" and "channels" of Peace'.

Our next full newsletter will be Friday 22nd May. We will be issuing a Parent bulletin instead on the 8th & 15th May.

Garde ta Foi! Guard your Faith!
Mrs Christina Hartharn
Acting Headteacher

Important Dates:

- Year 7 Parents Evening - 22 June 2026 - further information to follow
- During any Industrial action, school closed to Years 7,8,9 & 10 – Open to Y11 every day.

'Inspiring ambition and excellence,
guided by Christ'

Telephone:
0115 9322896

Email:

schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

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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:

To help keep everyone safe, please be mindful of the following parking arrangements:

- Staff car park is for staff only – no drop-off or collection during busy times.
- Please do not park on grass verges.
- The car park is busier during exam periods.
- Use nearby roads for drop-off/collection, parking safely and considerately.

Thank you for your support in keeping our school safe.



Road Safety Reminder:

We have had a few reports of unsafe road crossing by students who attend SJH. Please remind your child to take care, stop and look both ways, and avoid using phones when crossing the road.

Fidget Squishies:

We have seen an increase in students bringing gel-filled Squishies (such as Needoh) into school. Some students are also suggesting this is being supported by school for anxiety and stress in lessons, but this is not the case. These items are not to be brought into school and will be confiscated in seen.



Current Vacancies: Maths Teacher and Exam Invigilators:

We currently have vacancies for both a Maths Teacher and Exam Invigilators to support our school. Full details and application information are available via MyNewTerm using the links below:

- [Exam Invigilator at Saint John Houghton Catholic Voluntary Academy, Ilkeston, Derbyshire | MyNewTerm](#)
- [Teacher of Maths at Saint John Houghton Catholic Voluntary Academy, Ilkeston, Derbyshire | MyNewTerm](#)

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Work Experience:

Request for support

Are you a parent who could support a Year 10 student this year with work experience? Year 10 are completing a week-long work placement from 6th - 10th July. Most students have secured a placement already, but with the deadline looming next week, there are still some students who are yet to find a placement despite sending many emails. Therefore, if you are able to offer a placement at your workplace during that week for one of our students (and the company you work for has employer liability insurance), please contact the school office. It would be very much appreciated. Thanks.

In the Community:

Miss Turgoose would like to give a shout out to Harrison for his brilliant effort in helping the community over the weekend when the ice-skating competitions professional photographer wasn't available. He stepped up to the challenge taking 1000s of photos over a 4-hour period and then helped the club to share them and he was that brilliant he's been asked back for future events! Well done, Harrison!



Derbyshire Schools golf competition:

On Monday 27th April, Liam D, George Q, Olly S and Charles A represented Saint John Houghton at the Derbyshire Schools Golf tournament. It was a fantastic event with some great performances. The students went on to win the competition and will now represent Derbyshire at the National event in July. Well done all on a fantastic achievement!

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Word of the Week:

The Word of the Week is 'Vocation' and a vocation is God's call to each of us. It is the unique way that God calls us to serve him and others. It was my pleasure to contact four former Saint John Houghton pupils and nominate them for the 'Called by Name' Nomination Card where Bishop Partick will send them a letter of congratulations and arrange a meeting with them because they have been noticed for the faithfulness, their qualities of service and leadership. All are welcome to see Rachel and learn about Saint Carlo Acutis and Saint Pior Giorgio Frassati. Please note our Vocations Director is Fr Neil Peoples and you may contact him on email by: vocations@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Saint Anne's Knitting Group:

We will be meeting on Bank Holiday Monday at 7.00pm - 9.00pm in Ilkeston and we will enjoy scones with cream and jam, we are a Parish Knitting Group so please do not be alone all Bank Holiday, call in and meet the Team. To help with numbers please email

Rose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk if you are planning to join us, thank you.

We are named Saint Anne's after Jesus' Grandma - not the Town Saint Anne's in Nottingham. We give glory back to God - even if we think we match the colours and styles, we are reminded that God is the Creator of all - just take a look at this colourful bird to see the truth!



We are delighted to share that these beautiful handmade items will be given with love to a good home.

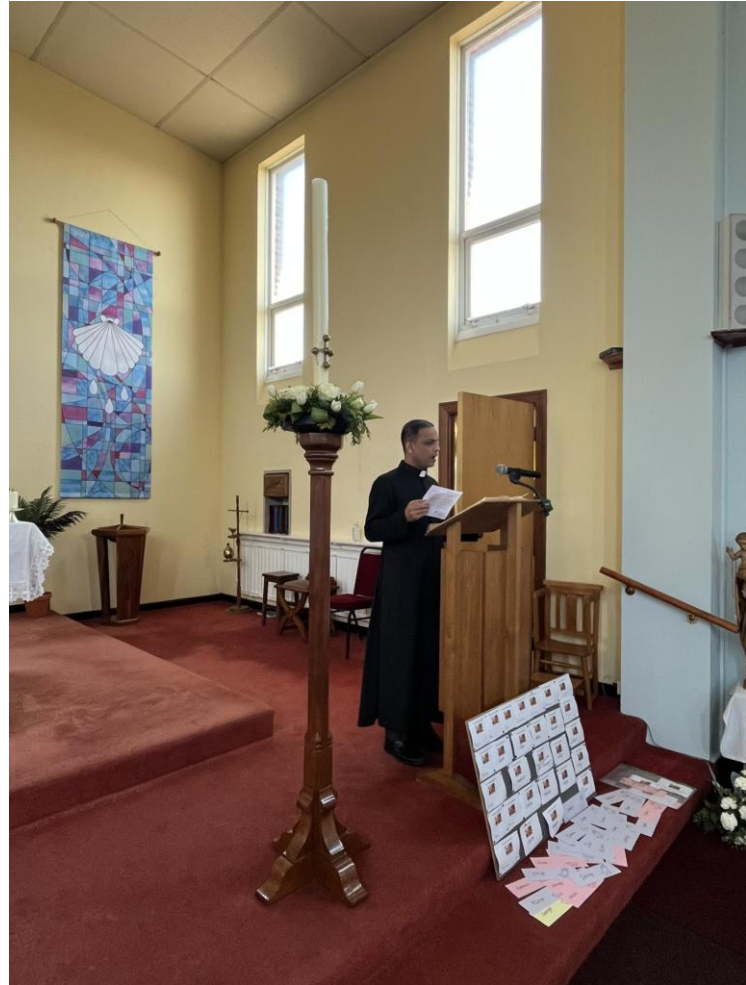


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First Holy Communion:

On behalf of the SJH family may I take this opportunity to praise all the children who shared their First Holy Communion journey with us at Mass this weekend. You are invited to take a name and pray for that child. You could simply say, 'Dear Lord, please be with XXX today, help her/him to feel your love in a powerful way today. Amen.'



Missio:

Well done and thank you to our wonderful SJH students, who continue to show incredible generosity and compassion through their ongoing support of Missio. Their commitment to helping others and making a positive difference in the wider world is something we are very proud of.

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Chaplaincy Competition Time:

A prize for the first student who emails, rose@sjh.srscmat.co.uk the name of this Church and their Parish Priest.



Diocese of Nottingham:

The Beauvale Pilgrimage
3rd May 2026

In honour of the Beauvale Martyrs
Saint John Houghton and Saint Robert Lawrence
(4th May 1535)

With thanks to Pheobe who will be carrying our SJH Banner at the Pilgrimage.
With more thanks to SJH Admin Team for printing the Booklets.

All welcome and all encouraged to meet at The Beauvale Stone at 2.45pm

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Prayer of the Pilgrims:

For Elsie and her family who will be walking to Beauvale and we hope you do not look like this Pilgrim!

*Lord,
Be for us,
a companion on our journey
the guide on our intersections
the strength during fatigue
the fortress in danger
the resource on our itinerary
the shadow in our heat
the light in our darkness
the consolation during dejection
and the power of our intention
so that under your guidance, safely and unhurt, may Elsie and all, reach the end of their journey and strengthened with gratitude and power, secure and filled with happiness.*

For Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Marriage Preparation Course:

This Saturday I shall be leading a Marriage Preparation course from 10am - 4 pm.

Please can you pray for all engaged couples.

This is a positive, gentle course to help couples see their relationship is not accidental, their differences are not obstacles but gifts, love is self-giving and not self-centred, marriage is a place of privilege and a gift lived daily. Love is never about control, coercion or power. It is an honour to support past pupils to see marriage as a covenant and not a contract, to be sealed with grace.

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Bishop Patrick's Good Idea:

Last Sunday was 'Good Shepherd Sunday' and the Bishop has given each Parish a number of postcards - 'Called By Name' where all can nominate young men aged 18 and above who we have noticed for clear qualities of service and leadership. Perhaps you know someone who you believe has a vocation and can see God is calling them to serve him and others? I have written to 5 past pupils from SJH. Please pray for Vocations for the Religious Life.

Prayers:

I was delighted to light some candles and pray some from prayers for our Saint John Houghton family after Mass on Sunday.



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NEWS FROM THE AREA

HAMILTONS
SCHOOLWEAR SPECIALISTS

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NEWS FROM THE AREA

Game On!

Join us for tabletop game sessions and try out our selection of board and fantasy games.

Bring a friend or make new ones!

At Ilkeston Library Tuesdays 3-5pm

For more information call 01629 533275

Suitable for age 10+



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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

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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	Noah H	Ruby B	Kalead L	Lilah S	Danielle M
English	James H	Summer B	Lily T	Maggie L	Nancy W
Science	Henry D	Oliver EB	Eleanor C	Kyrillos A	Alex K
Theology / RE	Gabriel DP	Sasha B	Amelia-May O	Amelia SJ	John G
Geography	Joshua T	Una D	Megan H	Alice C	Oscar H
History	Liam B	Sofie C	Alexander H	Jenson S	Paige B
Music	Avanna F	Rosie O	Zofia S	Oliver J	Georgia CS
Computing / Business	Harry P	Poppy BM	Dominika P	<u>iMedia:</u> Jamine T <u>Business:</u> Matilda C	<u>iMedia:</u> Anton C <u>Business:</u> Sophie A
MFL	<u>Spanish:</u> Benjamin L	<u>Spanish:</u> Harry A <u>French:</u> Isla F	<u>Spanish:</u> Amelie H <u>French:</u> Isabel B	<u>Spanish:</u> Ellen TB <u>French:</u> Finlay M	<u>Spanish:</u> Abigail H <u>French:</u> Kyra-Anne B
PE / Health & Social Care	Reuben M	Michal N	Jemima A	<u>PE:</u> Jack B <u>GCSE PE:</u> Jacob F <u>H&S Care:</u> Jennifer M	<u>GCSE PE:</u> Joshua F <u>H&S Care:</u> Ruby M <u>Sports Studies:</u> Lucie B
Design	Victoria A	Leo M	Tommy P	<u>DT:</u> Zain AJ <u>Engineering:</u> Romal-Axel R <u>Art:</u> Zuzanna K <u>Food:</u> Imogen L	<u>DT:</u> Freddie L <u>Engineering:</u> Hugo M <u>Art:</u> Ronnie A <u>Food:</u> Orlaith C

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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 - Isla B for always having a positive attitude

Year 8 - Rylee-Scott G for putting in brilliant effort across all of their lessons

Year 9 - Florence A for trying her hardest in all of her subjects

KS4 Mr Ritchie:

Key stage 4 - Congratulations to Olly S, Charles A, Liam D and George Q who won the Derbyshire schools golf tournament this week and will now compete for Derbyshire in the national event

The Saint John Houghton Awards:

Jack B in year 11 has been nominated by staff for this week's St John Houghton Award. He has been nominated for striving for excellence and for his determination to succeed.

Imogen K in year 10 has been nominated for this week's St John Houghton Award. She has been nominated for her service to school and the respect she shows to others.

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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>

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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

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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