SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Friday 6th November 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after our half term break – time has flown again! Year 11 finish their two 2 weeks of mock exams this week and they have been exemplary in their attitude and behaviour through these exams. I hope they will be able to find some rest this weekend from all their efforts.

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At this time of year, we remember all those that have died and left us. November is traditionally known as the month of the dead in the Catholic Church and it also includes Remembrance Day on the 11th. As such I thought it is only right that we reflect on all our family, friends and members of the community that gone before us:

Loving and merciful God,
This month we remember those who have gone before us and now rest in Your eternal peace. We thank You for the gift of their lives, for the love they shared, and for the memories that remain in our hearts.
As we remember their courage, kindness, and faith, help us to live as Your disciples, following the example of Christ in all we do. Comfort those who mourn, strengthen those who feel alone, and fill our hearts with hope in the promise of the Resurrection.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.
"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen."

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

Important Dates:

Wednesday 11 November 2026 – Year 10 Parents Evening

Friday 27 November 2026 – Inset Day

'Inspiring ambition and excellence, guided by Christ'

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

St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust

SAINT JOHN HOUGHTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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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.



PSHE & RSE:

As part of our PSHE curriculum we cover Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). If you would like to know more about the resources that we use, please see our website (link below). St. John Houghton Catholic CVA follows the Nottingham Catholic Diocese prescribed RSE resource called TEN:TEN. Parents can access these resources by following the link in the parent letter on the website. If you have any questions about RSE then please contact schooloffice@sjh.srscmat.co.uk
https://www.stjohnhoughtonilkeston.srscmat.co.uk/curriculum/subjects/#1635955221907-4c6375de-7fbb

Autumn/Winter food menus:

Please see below link to the Autumn/Winter food menus:
https://www.stjohnhoughtonilkeston.srscmat.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2026/11/Autumn-Winter-menus-2026-2027.pdf

Remembrance Day – Wednesday 11 November 2026:

Students who are part of an armed services youth group, may wear their service uniform to school on Remembrance Day.

Inset day – Friday 27 November 2026:

School will be closed to all students on Friday 27 November 2026 due to an inset day.

No. 11 bus service - December 2026 & January 2027:

Due to Kirk Hallam Academy closing on Friday 11 December 2026 for the Christmas holidays, unfortunately the no.11 bus service will not be running during our last week of term, week commencing Monday 14 December 2026.
They also have an inset day on Monday 4th January 2027, so the bus will not be running on that day too. Therefore, students who use this bus will need to make alternative arrangements on these days, we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

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NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS

ATTENDANCE MATTERS - EVERY DAY COUNTS

Dear Parent/Carer,

At SJH, we are committed to ensuring that every student receives the maximum benefit from their education. Regular attendance and good punctuality are essential to academic achievement, wellbeing and preparation for adult life. Attendance at school is not optional. It is a legal requirement and a shared responsibility between school, students and families.

The Importance of Arriving on Time

School begins at **8:45am** and students should be in school, ready to learn, by this time. Morning registers close at **9:15am**. Students arriving after 9:15am do not receive a morning attendance mark because the registration period has ended.

Important: A student who arrives on time every day receives 10 attendance marks each week. A student who arrives after 9:15am every day receives only 5 attendance marks. This can result in **50% attendance for the week**, despite attending school each day.

Why Attendance Matters

Students who attend regularly and arrive on time are more likely to make strong academic progress, feel settled in school, develop positive friendships, build confidence and establish routines that support future success. Every lesson, every day, provides valuable learning opportunities.

Preparing Young People for Adult Life

One of our responsibilities as a school is to prepare young people for adulthood. Employers, colleges, universities and training providers expect individuals to attend regularly, arrive on time and meet their commitments. Good attendance helps students develop reliability, responsibility and resilience - qualities that will benefit them throughout their lives.

Where families experience difficulties affecting attendance, we encourage early communication with school so that appropriate support can be explored. Contact: Attendance@sjh.srscmat.co.uk

BE HERE. BE ON TIME. BE READY TO LEARN.

Every day matters. Every lesson matters. Every minute matters.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us ensure that all students attend school regularly, arrive punctually, and make the most of every opportunity available to them.

Yours faithfully,

Attendance Team

Saint John Houghton Catholic Voluntary Academy

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

2026-2027 School holidays and Inset Days:

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 year's finish school	**Friday 23 July 2027**
Inset Day 5	**Monday 26 July 2027**

NEWSLETTER

DATES FOR THE DIARY

2027-2028 School holidays and Inset Days:

Inset day 1	**Monday 6 September 2027**
Inset day 2	**Tuesday 7 September 2027**
All students return to school	**Wednesday 8 September 2027**
October half term	**Monday 25 - Friday 29 October 2027**
Inset day 3	**Friday 3 December 2027**
Christmas holidays	**Thursday 23 December 2027 – Wednesday 5 January 2028**
February half term	**Monday 21 – Friday 25 February 2028**
Inset Day 4 (Trust)	**To be confirmed**
Easter holidays	**Monday 10 – Friday 21 April 2028**
May half term	**Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June 2028**
All year's finish school	**Friday 21 July 2028**
Inset Day 5	**Monday 24 July 2028**