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## Message from the Principal

As we draw to the end of our first term, I would like to thank all students and staff for such a brilliant start to the academic year. Following the refurbishment work at both schools, staff have worked hard to put up new and engaging displays and students have embraced our core values and shown excellence in learning every day. I am also impressed how smart our students look in their new school uniforms. I am aware that the first batch of skirts we received from the manufacturer were rather short. Now we have taken delivery of a longer second batch, we are happy to swap them for you free of charge.

It was encouraging to see so many parents of KS3 students attend our briefing sessions on our new assessment and reporting system. We are confident that our new style reports and assessment processes will help our students make even better progress, but we understand that there are many changes in this area currently being introduced by the Department for Education; for example the move to GCSE 'numbers' instead of grades. If you need any support understanding these changes, please get in touch with Alex Kerr (Assistant Principal) on 3888 or [alkerr@stjohnsschoolcyprus.com](mailto:alkerr@stjohnsschoolcyprus.com) who will be happy to help you.

Since last September, we have been looking for ways to better communicate with parents. Last year we introduced the text service across both schools and a facebook page for KRS. I am pleased to announce that we now have an official St John's School facebook page and twitter feeds for both schools; @SJSCyprus and @KRSCyprus along with my twitter account @mrdbrowning. In early November, we had a film and web development crew visit us from Army Media and Communications, Andover. They are putting the finishing touches to two new websites and promotional video for our schools. The web addresses remain the same; stjohnsschoolcyprus.com and kingrichardschoolcyprus.com and they will hopefully go live just after Christmas; I will keep you updated.

As you can see from the content of this magazine; our students have had a wonderful term both in class and being part of our wider extra-curricula programme. Our schools continue to go from strength to strength and I am very grateful for your support and that of the whole BFC community.

I wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas break and look forward to an exciting new year.

Mr Dan Browning  
Executive Principal  
[@mrdbrowning](https://twitter.com/mrdbrowning)





## Head of School Governors St Johns School Episkopi

Mark Cooling joined the Welsh Guards at 16 years of age in September 1977 after completing his education at Newbridge Grammar School in Wales. He has travelled extensively with the military and served on many operational tours including the Falklands War in 1982.

He was posted to Cyprus in 2014 as the Station Commander at Episkopi where he is responsible for supporting the community and the administration requirements for serving soldiers within Episkopi Station and Headquarters British Forces Cyprus. He has been at the fore front of improving services on site. He encouraged the building of Coffee and Co and the new play park in Dodge. The new changing facilities that are being built at Episkopi swimming pool is another one of his initiatives.

Mark volunteered to join the school governors committee as soon as he arrived on island. His aim has been to ensure that the students at the school have the best learning opportunities to achieve their full potential whilst at St Johns by engaging with, challenging, and supporting the principle, teachers and school. As part of his remit on the committee he is also linked into the Maths department, and has discussed with the head of maths, plans to improve grades for all students. He is passionate that the school is seen as a beacon of excellence and that parents are proud of the facilities and teaching standards that St Johns achieves. *'We have excellent facilities, first class teachers and the right leadership, that in time will get the recognition that this school deserves'.*



*"We have  
excellent facilities,  
first class teachers  
and the right  
leadership"*

Our thanks go to Mark for the support he has offered the school during his time as SGC Chair. We look forward to working with Lt. Col Martin Payne who replaced Mark in December.

## St. John's School Governance Committee (SGC)

Chair: Episkopi Station Commander, Lt Col Martin Payne [BFC-EPI-Stn-Cdr@mod.uk](mailto:BFC-EPI-Stn-Cdr@mod.uk)

Executive Principal: Dan Browning [dbrowning@stjohnsschoolcyprus.com](mailto:dbrowning@stjohnsschoolcyprus.com)

Assistant Principal / Staff Rep: Alex Kerr [alkerr@stjohnsschoolcyprus.com](mailto:alkerr@stjohnsschoolcyprus.com)

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## School Governance Committee - Terms of Reference



The SGC works in accordance with the Terms of Reference provided by SCE. Its purpose is to enable the parent body to contribute to the “strategic direction and governance” of

the school. The aim of this involvement is to improve educational provision and outcomes for pupils and families. There are three main roles that the SGC needs to play in order to achieve this purpose.

- To help set, and continually review the broad framework within which the school is run, focusing particularly on raising standards, establishing high expectations, and promoting effective teaching and learning.

- To provide the headteacher with support, advice and information, drawing on the SGC members’ knowledge and experience.
- To ensure accountability for the school’s performance and other matters.

Parents are always welcome to become involved in the SGC. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the School Secretary.

The full SGC Terms of Reference, are available online, at the link below, or by contacting the School Secretary, [pdemetriou@stjohnsschoolcyprus.com](mailto:pdemetriou@stjohnsschoolcyprus.com)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/296307/SGC\\_Terms\\_of\\_Reference\\_Sep\\_2006.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/296307/SGC_Terms_of_Reference_Sep_2006.pdf)

## Retirement of Doug Munro, Senior Education Officer (SCE)

Doug has been supporting service children’s education in Cyprus for decades both as a Primary Headteacher and as the Senior Area Education Officer. He has been a brilliant support to our schools and to me personally over the past 16 months.

I will miss his wisdom, enthusiasm and passion for education that has not waned over the years. I wish him and his family every happiness for the future.

**Dan Browning**  
Executive Principal





## Celebration of German Unity Day - by Mr Yates

To celebrate Germany's 'Tag der Deutschen Einheit' (3 October) the MFL teachers once again turned up in the kind of German clothes which all German people wear every day!

Y8 also came in dressed in the colours of the flag (schwarz/rot/gold) or in German costume. With the help of A Level German students Frans Schapendonk and Matt McDonald, the Berlin Wall was

rebuilt between the hall and the Art Room and after an over the wall discussion in German between the East Germans (Y6 from Episkopi Primary) and the West Germans (Y8) the wall was destroyed – probably faster than in 1989! The East and West Germans introduced themselves with 'Hallo, wie geht's?' and 'wie heisst du?' We all tried the German National Anthem! Some Kaffee

(squash) und Kuchen (cake) followed and everyone felt as if they had recreated history!

Winners of the best dressed were: Megan Rowe, Lewis Keenor, Tia Rudman and Ollie Ford





## Games Club - *by Amber Vara*

### **Miss It - Miss Out!**

The Games Club held its Grand Opening on Monday 16th November. If you missed it, you really missed out.

At the Grand Opening we had tasty nibbles, drinks and great music and of course the room was an Aladdin's cave of new games ready for our eager players.

**"Awesome!" "Brilliant!"** These are just a few of the things people are saying about Games Club.

Don't miss out again, the Games Club is every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at second break in S8.

### **What's your game?**

We've got loads of exciting new games. Here are just a few .....

#### **Have a blast!**

If you've ever played Uno, you and your friends will love Uno Blast.

#### **All 4 one, one 4 all**

Its Connect 4 actually, you know you love it.

#### **A life on the ocean waves**

We can't offer you a posh yacht but we can offer you Battleships!

#### **Make your mind up**

Think you can answer ten questions without saying Yes or No? I bet you can't. Test yourself and your friends with the brilliantly funny Yes or No game.

#### **Chestnuts!**

Sorry, I mean chess nuts! We've got a brand new chess set waiting for you.

#### **I've started, so I'll finish**

My personal favourite is Mastermind. Is anyone up for a challenge?

#### **Please Sir, can I have some more?**

**MORE?** Yes you can! We have lots more games to choose from at Games Club.

Just pop along to S8, Monday, Wednesday or Friday, second break.





## Children In Need - *by Ms Cambridge*

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> saw the arrival of Batman and Elvis at St John's! Was this some kind of scary joke or a nasty trick? Fortunately not, as the appearance of staff and students in fancy dress or civvies meant that Children in Need Day was here again. St John's has always supported this worthy cause and once again we all did our part.

Events included a cake sale, face painting, guess the Pudsey bear competition and the Leadership Team dressing up in school uniform. We were treated to the sight of Mr Armstrong in a skirt, not something we are likely to forget in a hurry, and Mr Browning dressed as a school boy. Some of us even mistook Mrs Kerr for a Year 11 pupil!

A big thank you to all staff, students and parents who baked, bought cakes and dressed up. Our efforts raised a huge amount – €617.26.

Thanks everyone, you are amazing.



*"Some of us even mistook Mrs Kerr for a Year 11 pupil!"*





## Learning about Team Leadership with StudyFlex - *by Ros Kelly*

In October, a number of Sixth Form students at St John's School and King Richard's School were offered the opportunity to work with the Director of 'StudyFlex', Rachel Lambert. They were introduced to a Chartered Management Institute study programme which will lead to them gaining an industry recognised qualification in Team Leadership.

The students were extremely positive about this learning experience and learnt a great deal about themselves such as: communication skills, working as a team and also how to be a leader. Rachel was able to use her own experience of working in the banking industry to give the students a real insight into what is expected of them in the business world. Her down to earth manner and her knowledge of the subject matter were vital in gaining the students respect.

Rachel is an inspirational teacher who began the day by asking the students to identify their own knowledge and experience of team work and leadership. She insisted on everyone contributing, congratulated the students on the areas of knowledge they already had and constantly reminded them about the importance of making a good impression.

Having encouraged the students and made them feel comfortable with speaking out in a public forum, Rachel then introduced the six topics of the course using a variety of interactive tasks which kept everyone fully engaged in the learning process.

Focussing on the skills that employers are looking for in the young people they employ, Rachel offered the students tips and advice on developing these skills. The students found themselves involved in coaching other students, teaching an allocated topic and writing reports. The students came away from the day with advice on how to improve their time management skills, use Work Plans, Personal Development Plans and Gantt Charts.

Rachel also discussed the importance of presentation skills explaining how body language, eye contact and confident delivery can instil a feeling of trust in an audience. She talked about team work and how individually the students have to take responsibility if another member of the team doesn't pull their weight. The students were given a very limited time to prepare and deliver a topic but the presentations were amazing! One student even managed to interpret information being given by another student, write notes for the audience and respond to questions in an incredible example of multi-tasking!

The format of the day had the better aspects of *The Apprentice* Boardroom with students learning why it's important to know who you are and to be true to that in every aspect of your life. By giving the students a realistic view of what employers want, Rachel was able to encourage them to think about how they can use their studies and all aspects of their lives to develop their leadership, problem solving, organisational skills and professionalism.





*"Now we know exactly which university we would like to attend"*

## HE Fair - Hilton Hotel, Nicosia - *by Jack Ford and Joe Ball*

The HE Fair in Nicosia this year gave the sixth form lots of information about what life at university is really like. It also gave us the chance to compare a

variety of universities from all around the UK, from Leeds to London. Each university had its own stall, which you could visit if interested and they

would talk to you about their accommodation, fees, available subjects and general university life. For example, both Joe and myself went to the fair with no clear idea about what we were doing after we finished our A levels. However, now we know exactly which university we would like to attend, what we want to study and even have back up universities to apply for. The HE Fair was very informative in helping us decide about our futures.



## Visit from the Band of the King's Division

On 16 September, the fantastic Band of the King's Division visited St John's School to hold a workshop and concert for our young musicians, along with some brass players from Foley's School in Limassol, and some Episkopi Primary School pupils, all of whom were our guests for the

afternoon.

The band, which is the premier brass band of the British Army, gave youngsters the opportunity to sit in and play and learn alongside the bandsmen in an amazing display of talent and musicianship.

Let's hope they tour Cyprus again very soon!





## Year 10 Trip to Troodos - by Katherine Skinner



The Year 10 trip to Troodos was a memorable experience. Over 30 students from St John's and King Richard Schools joined together to go on a team-building trip to Troodos Mountain in September. The trip started with an adventurous challenge at the Sparti High Ropes Course in Platres. This really challenged the confidence of some students, including me, but everybody completed and enjoyed the courses.

"The experience will help me prepare for the year ahead of me"



Then, after a quick trip further up the mountain, we arrived in Troodos Camp and were greeted by dinner, kindly provided by the Snug Restaurant. That evening, we had a few fun verbal challenges and games to get to know each other.

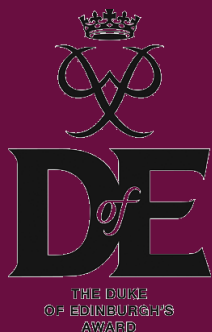
One of the highlights for me was definitely the evenings that were spent doing team-work challenges in our tutor groups, because that was when we were most confident. Whilst in Troodos, we went on a

walk through the mountains, which was very enjoyable. It started out with a couple of quick challenges within our tutor groups, and then we started the walk, stopping for some pictures halfway through.

As a treat that evening, we went out for a delicious Cyprus meze, but not before some shopping in the local giftshops. I think I speak for everyone when I say that this was very memorable, as it was time to just relax and enjoy a meal with old friends and new friends made on the trip. As a year group, we have some very healthy competition between the forms, so having the tutor group competitions was definitely productive, but it also developed our skills with communicating and involved everyone.

Personally, as a result from being on the trip, I can say now that I am a more confident person, and that the experience will help me prepare for the year ahead of me, with my exams. Everything that happened on this trip is thanks to the amazing faculty members who planned the trip, and were willing to take 30 teenagers up a mountain for 3 days. So, on behalf of all the Year 10 students from KRS and SJS, a massive thank you to them, and I hope that we can always remember the amazing time we had.





*"Cooking on  
stoves, putting up  
tents, team work  
and leadership"*

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award Training Weekend - *by Ms Dakin*

On what was the coldest night of the year so far; 22 Year 10 and 12 students took part in their Bronze or Silver training camp at Happy Valley Camp Site. It was a great opportunity for the students to improve their skills in map reading, using a compass and taking bearings in preparation for their expeditions taking place in the Akamas in January or



February next year. Cooking on stoves, putting up

tents, team work and leadership are just some of the skills required to complete a Duke of Edinburgh Expedition. It was a great weekend and the training was led by Phil Dakin, Episkopi Youth Centre with support from SJS staff, the community police and military personnel. Thank you to everyone involved.



## New Tuck Shop Design - *by Anna Wilmot*

As part of the redesigning of the school, the Pupil Leadership Team were assigned to develop the tuck shop by recruiting A level student, Daisy Bowater, who came up with two designs of 'beach shack' or 'contemporary school'. Both these designs were presented, in model form, to the students and a vote was cast by the pupils. The winning design was the 'contemporary school' and the tuck shop will now be developed to this design.





## GCSE Drama Performance 26/11/15 - by Shona Henry

On the evening of the 26<sup>th</sup>, the Year 10 and 11 Drama students (both performance and technical) came together to put on a performance evening @thestudio. For the Year 10's it had to be based on Macbeth as that is the play we study for our exam. The Year 11's got to choose their inspiration from a list provided by the exam board, both groups opted to use 'shadows' as their stimulus. For the Year 11's it was worth 40% of our overall grade, that led to quite a lot of stress and nervous feelings, as although we were only performing to a small audience it was very nerve racking!

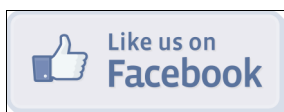
We had all been spending lots of after school rehearsals trying to get our performance as good as possible, which included learning lines, gathering costumes, designing lighting, recording sound tracks and finalising the set design. When the performance night came, it went extremely well. I think we all enjoyed being able to show our hard work to an actual audience. The whole evening's theme was on the practitioner Brecht, so we included lots of his aspects of drama, including placards, changing the set in view of the audience and fragmentary props (a single object representing a larger picture).

All three Year 10 groups did an excellent job, especially as it was their very first performance during GCSE Drama. The Year 11's also did an extremely good job, especially under all the stress and pressure.

Massive thank you to Ellie Winston (Y13) for stepping in last minute for sound, and Jess Mansfield (y12) for operating the camera. Also, thanks to Mr Bones for ensuring we had everything we needed and the night went smoothly and finally thanks to the audience for coming to support us.

"When the performance night came it went extremely well"

### New St. John's School Facebook Page



You can now keep up-to-date with all the latest St. John's School news and information on Social Media. Visit and like our Facebook page





## X-traordinary Performance with Sam Bailey - *by Ms Edwards*

This academic year began with a real highlight for our music students, and members of the school singing group.

X-Factor winner, Sam Bailey, visited Cyprus for a whistle-stop tour of the island, giving two performances whilst here.

During the workshop, some of our students performed for Sam and she was able to then give feedback on their voices and their delivery of the songs – and Sam was bowled over by these performances from the year 11 GCSE Music group – in particular, Erin Hart and Danielle Atkinson.

This was a huge honour for St John's – Sam is one of the most down to earth, modest ladies we've had the pleasure of welcoming into school. Her manner with the students was absolutely fantastic and she was so thrilled to spend time with them. She signed autographs and had numerous selfies with anyone who wanted one.

We are now looking forward to Sam's return visit, at some point next year, where we hope she will be able to work more closely with our GCSE singers and, once again, welcome our students onto her stage at her various performances in and around Episkopi.

*"Sam was  
bowled over by  
these  
performances"*



The first performance was at our school amphitheatre on 18<sup>th</sup> September where some of our students had the pleasure of performing alongside Sam.

During the afternoon, Sam came into school to do a workshop with the students, where she chatted to them, held a Question and Answer session with them, and then she sang with them. The students had prepared Shania Twain's 'From This Moment' ready to perform with Sam at the evening concert, which was absolutely amazing.





## Geography GCSE Residential

Being at the forefront of new developments and supporters of fieldwork opportunities in Geography our GCSE students were supported to go to the UK to visit one of the award winning Field Studies Council Learning Locations. This builds upon and extends the experience of students from Key Stage 3 where we use the local area to enrich the learning of all.

So in July 2015 there was another cohort of students that experienced a successful week being immersed in Geography all day, every day. A visit to The Field Studies Council Centre in Orielton, Pembrokeshire was the location for becoming experts in geography fieldwork and case studies.



“We are looking forward to our current students repeating the pattern of previous years”

The weather in Wales was not as kind as in previous years but this didn't stop the Geography. The locations to collect data included Saundersfoot Bay, Tenby, Afon Syfnwy and the Stackpole Estate. Students used a range of technical equipment in the field including flow meters, flood risk assessments and questionnaires. Data was recorded and analysed using statistical tests and the iPads. Throughout the visit we were supported by Luke who was our resident expert for the week.

We are looking forward to our current students repeating the pattern of previous years and meeting or exceeding their target grade on their Controlled Assessment worth 25% of their final mark. For our new GCSE students (2015-7) we have been able to book the centre again for June 2016.

### Year 9 Geography Trip to Paphos - *by Archie McVicar*

On 6th October, Y9 went on a trip to Paphos harbour as part of our tourism topic. While we were there, we undertook many investigations to see what effect tourism has had on Paphos. We counted pedestrians, cars and compiled questionnaires for both tourists and locals to

see how they thought of the area as a tourism destination, and what effect the thought this had had. We did these investigations in groups at four places along the sea front and afterwards we compiled our findings to display all

the data we found on that day. We then used the data to make a GCSE style project on the effects of tourism in Paphos.





*"A highly  
valuable tool in  
raising  
standards and  
skills"*

## Year of Fieldwork 2015/16

Fieldwork and other out-of classroom learning experiences are increasingly being recognised across the curriculum as a highly valuable tool in raising standards and skills in participants of all ages. The 'Year of Fieldwork', which will run over the academic year 2015-16, brings together a range of partners to celebrate these skills and opportunities and to offer support for those that wish to develop these further.

***The principal purposes of the Year of Fieldwork are to:***

- Highlight examples of good practice and the support that we, and others, provide to support schools to enhance the fieldwork that they provide
- Encourage more schools to undertake geographical fieldwork at all phases of the curriculum, and examination classes
- Raise awareness of the value of fieldwork to geographical education and the benefits that it provides to young people
- Promote the benefits of fieldwork as a valuable and transferable skill across a range of subject areas.



Although initiated originally by partners from the field of Geography, The Field Studies Council recognises that these skills and the associated benefits are not purely in the realm of geography and is enjoyed and can benefit all curriculum subjects.

## Remember, Remember, 30 Days of Movember

Did you notice recently that many of the men around the bases have been sporting some seriously impressive face furniture? Did you wonder what on earth was going on? Did you notice that our very own Mr Roberts was one of them?

What's it all about? They were all growing their moustaches for Movember! Their hairy journey started on 1<sup>st</sup> November. Their mission was to grow those

lovelies for 30 days and we have seen some epic moustaches as a result!

The aim of Movember is to raise awareness and much needed funds for men's health issues and encourage men to take better care of themselves. The idea is to grow a moustache for the month of November, and that's where the name came from MO... for moustache and ...Vember for November: MOVEMBER.

Mr Roberts and all the other similarly hirsute men

around the bases did a fantACHEstic job of raising awareness and raising money for the charity.





## No.1 Rally Driver visits St. John's - *by Ms Wolanski*

The Year 13 ICT A level students are currently working on a digital artwork and imaging project. They have been lucky enough to work with a local celebrity as their client. Panikos Polycarpou has been the No 1 Rally driver in Cyprus. His success came at a very young age as he followed into his father's footsteps rally driving. His father now owns Alkis Car Servicing in Episkopi village who has an excellent reputation and long standing relationship with the sovereign base community. Panikos works for his father as a mechanic but his real ambition is to return to No 1 status in Cyprus. He is also an Ambassador for the FIA Road Safety Campaign, which is a very prestigious position to hold.

The students were given the treat of meeting their client in person and being able to see one of his rally cars up close. Panikos showed off the safety aspects of the car and allowed them to explore for themselves, including experiencing what a driver and co-driver would feel in the confined interior during a race.

The students are now well underway with their examination projects and are currently designing new material and social media banners/logo's for both his road safety campaign and his personal rally brand. To encourage their competitive nature, Panikos also challenged them to create materials that he can use whilst out and about in The Republic of Cyprus with the FIA Campaign and also for his social media sites. The final artwork and designs will be presented to Panikos early in the new year, a winner chosen and the designs uploaded to Panikos's Facebook, Twitter and YouTube sites. May the best man win!



## The Great 6th Form Escape - *by Sixth Form*

On 26th November, 6th form students and tutors visited the Escape Rooms in Limassol as part of their team building and enrichment programme.

Three rooms were experienced, the John Munroe Office, the Prison room and the Taken room. Two of the three groups managed to escape but to protect the innocent we shall not name and shame the team who failed.



"two of the three groups managed to escape"

After all the fun a healthy appetite had been built up so all the teams visited Pizza Hut at Limassol Marina for a debrief. We are looking forward to our Christmas Meal at Memory Lane on 14th December.





## Street Artist Zabou Experience Day - *by Mr Bougeard*



forms and techniques of Street Art as well as introduced us to many different Street Artists. We then met Zabou herself and she showed us many projects that she had taken on. They were amazing! Some of the pictures covered whole buildings while others were just normal sized graffiti artwork. Neverthe-

ning. After, we were shown how we were going to create our own painting using stencils. This process started with a piece of card with a simple black and white picture. The black lines had to be cut out with a scalpel – this took forever to do and left our hands sore by the end of it! We then were able to

*“Some of the pictures covered whole buildings”*

Working with the Street Artist Zabou was a great experience. It allowed all the students to learn new skills and take part in something that will stay in school for many generations. At the beginning of the day we were given an introduction to Street Art. We saw pictures that showed us many different



less all of them were stun-

go outside and start spraying. The walls had to be done first then we could paint using the stencil we had cut out. We sprayed the stencil lines in the basic colour of the picture and then took the stencil off. We could then fill in the empty space before putting the stencil back on to paint the black lines. Everybody who took part in this had a great time and we were able to develop many different skills as well as work with a really talented and fantastic artist.





## 6th Form Fundraising Activities

On Friday 25th September the sixth form held a cake sale in aid of McMillan Cancer Fund. Within 10 minutes all the cakes had sold out, but they raised €125 for the charity. A fantastic achievement!

A second cake sale was held on Friday 16th October. This time even more cakes were donated and the amount raised was €193.40. This was divided equally between The Big Brew up for SSAFA and Breast Cancer awareness.



### SJS Christmas Shoebox Appeal - *by Mr Francis*

On Monday 30th November, the sixth form launched the whole-school Refugee Christmas Shoebox Appeal. The aim was to provide refugee children at the refugee centre in Kofinou, near Limassol, with some semblance of a normal childhood by delivering shoe-boxes full of gifts at Christmas time. Each tutor group was asked to create a minimum of two wrapped shoe-boxes of gifts for children and had to think carefully about the type of gifts that the children would like, what they might need or things that would be fun to play with. They also included a personal message, Christmas card or photo from their tutor group to make it more personal for the recipient. Some of our 6th form students will be delivering these boxes in time for 20th December when the refugee camp are having a special Christmas celebration day. Many thanks to all staff and pupils for their enthusiasm and support for this fantastic cause.





## Café Noel 2015

Wednesday 9th December saw St John's Hall packed to the rafters with the local Community coming together to support the talented students on show, beginning our celebration of Christmas. This annual event is always popular with both the parents, the students and the teachers as it is such a lovely way of bringing together our community as one, and supporting one another at what can be a difficult time for some families.

This year's programme began with the simple rendition of 'Silent Night', sung by Year 7 student Olivia Day, which then led on to the school's Singing Group's rousing performance of 'Ring Out The Bells'. The programme moved on to include vocal solos by some of our year 11 GCSE Music students such as Danielle Atkinson (The First Nowell) and Erin Hart (In The Bleak Midwinter). Ensembles from the Cyprus Music Service, such as the String Ensemble and the Wind Band, and Episkopi Primary School Choir gave a beautiful performance of 'Listen to the News' and 'Candle Flame'.

Piano solos were played by Myles Dixon and Archie McVicar - Archie playing his own Composition that he has written for his GCSE Exam, despite only being in Year 9!

Another GCSE Composition performed was the beautiful song 'Christmas Holiday' written by year 11 GCSE Music student Gianna Smith and performed by Gianna, Danielle and Erin.

Cyprus Music Service Woodwind students performed confidently 'Gaudete' and Carys Larwood performed a flute solo, 'Waltz of the Flowers'.

The evening demonstrated the musical talent that is evident here at St John's and the enthusiasm of the students when it comes to performing.

We must mention here also the very well-presented Sixth Form Waiters and Waitresses who supplied their guests with refreshments throughout the evening and ensured that the audience was well looked after during the performances.

The evening, as per tradition, ended with the whole audience rising to their feet to sing 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', in the usual competitive manner with the song moving from table to table.

Hosts Dave Yates and Rich Harris insisted that this was done with enthusiasm and vigour, before allowing Mr Browning to conclude proceedings with his final vote of thanks to the students, the staff and the parents who all contributed to such a successful evening of Music here at St John's.



*'The evening demonstrated the musical talent that is evident here at St. John's'*





## Medi MUN Training Day- *by Joe Ball*

Pupils from St John's and KRS attended the Model United Nations training day on the 14th of November at the English School, Nicosia. This training day gave participants the chance to find out what the real UN really does and how it works. It also gave students the opportunity to meet people from schools around Cyprus and the Mediterranean. Participating in Medi MUN is a good way to feel involved in current world events. We were trained on how to research the topics from our assigned country's perspective and briefed on the formality of debating these topical issues within our General Assembly. You may think that you need to know all about politics and the United Nations but you learn things while you are there and I enjoyed it because I haven't done anything like it before.



"The chance to find out what the UN really does"

## New House Names Competition - *by Iona McVicar*

I was one of the prize-winners of the House Names competition, which was a competition that involved every pupil from both St Johns and King Richard schools. The idea was to come up with two new house names, which would join both schools together and similarly reflect both what we stand for as schools, and where we are located in Cyprus. The house names which won were Apollo – God of the Sun, and Poseidon – God of the Sea. These were chosen as they reflect the Greek heritage that we are surrounded by here in Cyprus, and represent the sun and sea, two important features of Cyprus! The fact that they are Greek gods also shows excellence and leadership, and shows that we are a school that can achieve great things.

The winners of the competition got the opportunity to spend a day with a graphic designer, coming up with concepts for the logos and mottos of each house. It was a fantastic way to meet new people from King Richard, and was a lot of fun. We brainstormed what Apollo and Poseidon meant to us, and then linked some of

the ideas with our core values of Excellence, Learning and Leadership to create the motto. We did research about the type of lettering or font we thought would best represent each house and eventually, after a lot of deliberation, came up with four possible designs for each house, which the graphic designer would bring to life. These will then be shown to the Senior Leadership Team for the final say. All in all it was a fantastic experience, and I was very grateful to have had such a big part to play in the schools future.





## Tag Rugby Tournament - *by Mr Lister*

On 11th November 2015, pupils from Year's 7,8 and 9 took part in the Cyprus tag Rugby tournament at Happy Valley, playing against teams from all over the island including, Nicosia, and Heritage School. There were two teams with St. Johns students, one from AKI Rugby club who played three and won two and a St. Johns team who played three and won one. This was a fantastic opportunity for the students, many of whom have only been playing Rugby for a few

weeks. The students used many of the school's core values and were very suc-

cessful, producing some fantastic performances. Well done to all involved.



*"The students  
used many of the  
school's core  
values"*

## Cross Country Competition SJS v KRS - *by Mr Marsden*

On 19th November St. John's and King Richard took part in a Cross Country Competition at Happy Valley. SJS got the majority of the top three places but KRS won the team competition 229 to 334, so extremely close. Well done to both teams!





## Swimming Gala - *by Mr Lister*

Well done to the victorious SJS swim squad who won with 230 Points to KRS's 181 in the Swimming Gala which took place on 8th October. The standard of swimming was excellent, showing 1st class technique and a secure knowledge of competition rules. Altogether there were 48 swimmers from KS3 (from both schools). SJS sixth formers did a fantastic job as lifeguards and helping to with the administration. Great morning had by all.



"I enjoyed the atmosphere and team spirit" said Aaron Branton, Year 7 swimmer involved in the recent Swimming Gala between St John's and King Richard's Schools. A fantastic performance by SJS KS3 students led them to winning the coveted Swimming trophy. There were great individual and team performances from both teams. Oscar Henderson, winner of the Y7 backstroke and front crawl said "it was enjoyable and fun to be part of the team". KS4/5 students supported the event acting as team captains, scorers and time-keepers. Well done to all students involved.

"I enjoyed the atmosphere and team spirit"



**St. John's School Uniform - Current Prices**

Uniform Item	Cost
Polo Shirt	€7.00
Skirt	€7.50
Shorts	€10.00
Boys Trousers (must be grey not black)	€15.00
Girls Trousers ( must be grey not black)	€15.00
Jumper	€13.00
Cardigan	€13.00
Blazer (can be worn without a jumper)	€25.00
Fleece (must be worn over a jumper)	€13.00
Hoodie (KS4 & 5 only, must be worn over a jumper)	€15.00
Lincoln Green Polo Shirt (until Sep 2016)	€10.00
York Red Polo Shirt (until Sep 2016)	€10.00
PE Shorts	€6.00

**ABSENCE REPORTING**

If your child will not be attending school for any reason, please inform the school as soon as possible by calling (2596) 8003/3888 after 0730hrs, or send a text to 97843894 at any time.

A copy of the "Request for Absence during the school term" form, is available to download from the school website:

[www.stjohnsschoolcyprus.com](http://www.stjohnsschoolcyprus.com)

(go to the Community section, then Parents section)

**LEAVERS**

As soon as you know your leaving date, we would really appreciate it if you could please inform the school straight away. The "Departure" form is available to download from the school website:

[www.stjohnsschoolcyprus.com](http://www.stjohnsschoolcyprus.com)

Or, alternatively, please contact the school office on (2596) 8003/3888, during school hours. This enables school records to be collated, ready for parents to collect (a signature will be required).





# Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year





Date	Event	Details
4 January	School Reopens	
11-15 January	Exam Week	Year 13 Exam week
18-19 January	Musicians in School	Musicians working with SJS pupils
22 January	Geography Trip	Year 7 Geography trip to Choiroktia
23-28 January	ICT Trip to UK	Year 10 and A level Students Visiting UK
28 January	Parent Meetings	Year 11 Parent Meetings
3 February	Parent Meetings	Year 10 Parent Meetings
5-7 February	Medi MUN	Medi MUN Conference Nicosia
5-7 February	D of E Expedition	D of E Practice Expedition
12 February	School Closes	Half Term
22 February	School Reopens	
25 February	Parents Meetings	Year 12 and 13 Parent Meetings
27 Feb – 6 March	Year 12 UK Visit	<i>Designing your Future</i> UK Trip Year 12
9 March	Parent Meetings	Year 9 Options afternoon and Parent Meetings
22 March	Parent Meetings	Year 7 Parent Meetings
23 March	Sports Day	Sports Day with KRS
23 March	School Closes	Last day of Term for Pupils – Easter Holiday
24 March		Staff INSET Day
11 April	School Reopens	
13 April	Sixth Form Options meeting	TBC
15 April	Geography Trip	Year 7 Geography Trip to Melandra Coast
22-25 April	D of E	D of E Award Expedition
2 May	May Day Holiday	School Closed
11 May	Parent Meetings	Year 8 Parent Meetings
20 May	Geography Trip	Year 8 Geography Trip to Kyros River
27 May	School Closes	Half Term
6 June	School Reopens	
6 June	Exam Period	Year 7-10 Exam Period begins
7 June	History Trip	Year 10 Trip to Kolossi Castle
9-10 June	History Trip	Year 10 History Coursework Trip
10-16 June	Geography Residential	Year 10 Geography Residential
15 June	SJS Prize giving	TBC
16 June	Festival of Sport	KS3 Festival of Sport at KRS
17 June	Year 11 Prom	TBC
4-8 July	Exam Week	Year 12 Exam week
6-7 July	Year 6 Induction days	
18-20 July	Activities Week	
20 July	School Closes	End of summer Term



**ST JOHN'S SCHOOL, Episkopi, Cyprus, BFPO 53**

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