# In this issue...

-Café Noel Returns -Inspiring Charity Events -Fantastic School Trips





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# In this issue...

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# **Message from Mrs Kerr**

This is my first ever magazine entry as Acting Principal of St John's and my first term in post has been a whirlwind of new experiences and a huge learning curve. What I have learnt from my 22 years as a teacher is that a learning curve is never a smooth curve, it should be called the learning roller coaster!

I have focused very closely of communicating to the whole school community the values that I hold very dear which are of hard work but also of trust, respect and kindness. You will see from my article about bullying that this is something that the staff and I at St John's will work tirelessly to support students in making the right choices.

We have seen an improvement in the conduct and behaviour on the buses and Andrew Armstrong, the duty staff and myself are regularly



getting on to buses and liaising with the bus escorts to ensure that behaviour that is unacceptable is challenged. I am clear with the students that poor, disrespectful behaviour or vandalism on the buses will also be dealt with in school.

It is true that the responsibility for the buses is held by the families offices and administered through the Hive and so all parental complaints still need to follow this process. The school has no power to give a temporary or permanent bus ban. I do however feel responsible for how the students treat adults in responsibility and each other, so we will continue to work as a team with the families office, the community police, the bus escorts and the students to improve the bus experience for all.

We welcomed Jon Gleed to St John's as our new Head of MFL (Modern Foreign Languages) just after October half-term. He joins us from Kings School in Germany and he has already had a huge impact reviewing the curriculum and resources to ensure the best learning experience for our students.

The charity fundraising this term has been astonishing. What has really impressed me is that much of the thinking, planning and doing has been done by students. The Operation Christmas Child event, Children in Need, Transverse Myelitis, Christmas Grotto and Cancer Awareness days all involved vital input from students showing great student leadership. The total amount of money and value of goods raised this term is well over €1000. This truly shows St John's is a small school with a big heart.

Our 6th form students are well into the process of applying for universities and it is great to see that students are getting great offers from the universities of their choice. Y11 students will be moving from the mock exams into thinking about their choices for next year in January and this will be a keen focus of the Y11 Parent Evening. We also have some study skills training planned for KS4 to help students even better plan their studies over the coming months.

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to all our teachers, admin staff and support staff who work tirelessly to ensure the students are fully supported in every sense of the word. We are all here because of and for the students and I could not be more proud of the team effort I have had the pleasure to lead this term.

### MEET...

# Lynne Everett - Governor

#### **Reflections from a School Governor**

Shortly after my arrival on the island, in February 2016, I was invited to join the SJS Governors and happily accepted. I have been involved in education for over 30 years, initially as a teacher and then in youth work, training and management roles; additionally, I have a personal interest in MOD schools, with four of my children attending KRS in Dhekelia, between 2000 and 2009.

Whilst hoping that I could contribute positively to the School Governance Committee, coming into a new job as Head of the BFC Youth Service, I anticipated that increasing my knowledge of both St John's school and of current developments in formal education, could also benefit the Youth Service and ultimately the young people with whom we both work.



St John's School and the BFC Youth Service share the aim of enabling all young people to reach their potential and I

see the role of the Governance Committee as supporting the school in achieving that aim. As Governors, we aspire to 'add value' to the school community, by understanding the ethos and workings of the school and through questioning and challenging; additionally, we all 'link up' with a department, in order to gain a deeper understanding of one area of the curriculum.

As an ex PE teacher (many decades ago), I gravitated towards linking with Mrs Edwards, head of the Expressive Arts department and through my visits have learned about the workings of the department, their priorities and their strategies for constant improvement and progression. I also learned about the vast array of opportunities available to SJS pupils, through the department, both within school and as extra-curricular activities.

I have been invited into the school on a number of additional occasions and have had the pleasure and privilege of observing EPQ presentations by sixth form pupils, participating in a PSHE workshop and attending the prize giving evening.

I look forward to the coming school year and to working with Lt Col Payne, Mrs Kerr, the school governors and other members of the school community in our best efforts to support the school and ultimately maximise the achievements of each and every pupil.

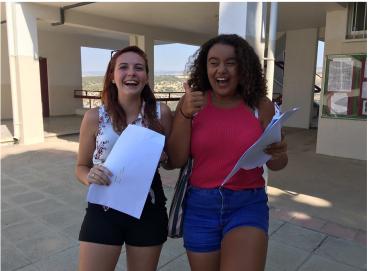
# Exam Results 2017

### Official St Johns 2017 results!

With the new way we are measured as a school, we have had to wait until now for the government, via the Department for Education, to release the final figures that let us show how well we have done as a school.

Progress 8 now judges the school based on how well it has progressed students from where they were judged in their KS2 SATS.

Once again St John's is proven to be better than the average UK school. In fact we have achieved a progress 8 score of positive value added 0.16. This, in simple terms, means that on average across all students in all KS4 subjects, those at St John's school in 2017 did better than they would have done if they had attended the majority of other UK schools.



INSPIRE

It once again shows that in our international context and in relation to our constant mobility our school community of students, parents, staff and governors have worked together to allow students to be the best they can be.

Other great news to share here is that if a child was lucky enough to be at St John's from Year 7 through to year 11 they on average achieved 0.51 positive progress 8, meaning they achieved more than half a grade better in every subject than similar students in UK schools. A judgement that OFSTED have proven to be seen in Outstanding schools.

With some subjects at SJS managing to achieve grades for students 3 or even 4 above their government predictions, we can now celebrate a great set of results.

We are looking forward now to working hard with students in year 11 and their families to achieve even better results for them to open up as many doors to an exciting future for them all...

I want to thank all the teachers and staff who put so much effort in supporting me through year 11., it's not the easiest of years for students (never mind the staff!) Many offered after school sessions every week to help consolidate our learning and develop revision techniques and materials. I couldn't count the amount of times our teachers told us that the "exams will come sooner than you think" but they are right, it seemed that as soon as Christmas was over, I started marking off the weeks until my first exam and that was incredibly stressful! But I knew that if I had a problem I could ask any of my teachers and they would have helped me immediately. I know that this year marks the newer, harder exams for the year 11s, but if you keep on top of your revision and go to staff straight away if you have a problem, I'm sure you'll do great! **Rosie Favis** 

## INSPIRE

# **Dabaso School**

St John's has been supporting Dabaso school in Kenya by raising money for nine years. Under Graham and Ann Lawrence, the school has been able to develop into a thriving community where children are safe and gain many resources that drastically help to improve the students'

learning. One of the most successful aspects that St John's has been able to support is the introduction of a school library where students are able to loan out books to take home to read. Money has also gone towards the construction of a new classroom that provides much needed shade and shelter for lessons during the heat of summer. This classroom, along with many others, has also been newly furnished with desks and benches, enabling the children to learn and write properly rather than sitting on the floor. Classrooms have been repainted and roofs fixed, which has been a great opportunity for local craftsmen in the community, who were employed by the school to make these improvements. Although these



changes seem very minor, they have had an incredible impact on the students' and teachers' lives as it has created a stable learning environment that children want to attend. The contribution has allowed for even more children to attend, helping the numbers rise from 200 to 1600

students who all have an equal opportunity to develop their education. I hope that the generosity of the community here in Cyprus will continue to help improve the opportunities of students in Dabaso.

By Rosie Favis







## **Cancer Awareness Day**

If there is anything you should know about St John's then it's that we're no strangers to a good bake sale. Whether it's for personal reasons such as year 11 prom or for a charity close to our hearts, we never fail to raise a considerable amount of money for the cause.

Myself, Bethany Gondelle and Ella Holley took it upon ourselves to hold a bake sale, this time in support of Stand Up To Cancer, the movement created by Cancer Research UK. To go alongside this, we held a civvies day where

students were encouraged to wear red, black and orange (the colours of Stand Up to Cancer) or even fancy dress. To raise awareness for this cause, throughout the week we gave two assemblies to the school in which we spoke about the charity, how the disease affects families and lives and how our school could help.



From there we received enough cakes for two bake sales at both breaks and along with the nonschool uniform day money we raised a total of €563.70, so we would like to extend our gratitude to everybody that contributed to this amazing cause.

Because of the success of the bake sale we have decided to continue our money raising ideas throughout the year, so please keep an eye out for any announcements about ways you can get involved!

By Katharine Skinner



## TRIP

# **Tourism in Paphos**

With its strategic location on the western tip of Cyprus and as the European Capital of Culture in 2017, the coastal town of Paphos is a worthy rival to the lively beach resorts of Limassol in the south. It is a hugely popular destination with a large amount of tourism each year.

We, as year nines, were lucky enough to go to Paphos as part of our geography course. We went to investigate the ways in which tourism affects Paphos, such as the consequences on the environment, to assess the management and to see if it was sustainable. Once there, we were divided into different groups and were told to collect as much data as we could to answer our chosen hypothesis.

What I really enjoyed about the trip was creating the questionnaire and asking the tourists to see how they responded. As a result I've found that the majority of the tourists were English and some were veterans of the British forces. I learnt that a lot more tourists came to Paphos on buses, instead of hired cars than I expected, which fortunately means less air pollution is created. Therefore, from this data I could conclude that tourism in Paphos is sustainable, and so it will be able to continue with minimal negative impact on the environment.

By Ratu Ratubuli









### EVENT

# Dyspraxia Awareness Week

The 9<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017 marked the annual Dyspraxia Awareness Week. Our heads of houses took the opportunity to discuss this condition with some of our students who have Dyspraxia before sharing their findings with the rest of the school at a whole-school assembly. This great work supports the school's drive to raise awareness of a range of challenges that some of our school community face. This awareness will enable us to better understand and better support those who need that little bit extra to help them with their learning. It is also another brilliant example of how our students continue to demonstrate our shared values; this time through respecting others, making thoughtful decisions and doing what is right. Well done to Iona, Nathan, Jemma and Khadija, and a special thank you to Kayley!



By Mr Holden

### What is dyspraxia?

Although dyspraxia is quite common, it is something that most people have never heard of before. It affects motor skills like movement, speech and coordination some of which may be very mild but can also be severe. It doesn't affect intelligence but children with dyspraxia often have difficulties with learning in schools. Signs of dyspraxia can simply be struggling to grip and use a pencil or having trouble interacting with others. These can lead to having a serious affect on communication, emotional skills, academic learning and certain life skills but although dyspraxia isn't curable, through different therapies it can be made easier for children.

Dyspraxia isn't a condition that has to hold you back, there are many famous celebrities who

have dyspraxia and have still been able to have amazing and inspiring careers. These include Daniel Radcliffe, Cara Delevingne, Richard Branson and Albert Einstein. They can prove that no matter how different you are, or whatever challenges you face, you can overcome them.

By Rosie Favis





### MEET...

# Meet Mr Armstrong...

Five things about me - The official story of Mr A

**Manchester:** I was born, grew up in and was largely defined by Manchester during the 70s, 80s and early 90s. A lifelong lover of the Blue side, I don't hate the Red side; when the chips are down they are still my town. Market Street, Gorton, Hyde. James, Stone Roses, Smiths. New Order, Happy Mondays, Hacienda. Shipman, Hindley, the IRA. They all formed the backdrop of growing up in the most vibrant city in England. My parents still live there; I visit frequently and I call the place home. The city has transformed itself in my lifetime from the rather dirty and derelict place of 80s Britain through to the shining

Manchattenisation of recent years, but the people are the same. The recent terrible attack on the arena demonstrated much that makes me proud to call myself a Manc.

**Education and Work:** I started secondary school in 1981 and by the mid 90s I had managed to get 8 'O' levels, 3 'A' levels, a degree from Sunderland, a post graduate certificate in Education from Manchester and a Masters from Birmingham. Along the way I had a number of good, bad and ugly jobs. I've been a milkman (three stiches in my finger after falling on a milk bottle), a Littlewoods pools collector (stuck in a tower block lift for four hours one Thursday night), a bank clerk (at the



branch that was robbed by a lollipop man a week before I started), a social security clerk (only interview 'clients' in pairs), a builder's labourer (seriously hard work), a self-employed fence painter (much less hard work but almost no pay) and a barman (serving hand-pulled Boddingtons to the builders I used to work with). A particular highlight was the three months I spent making hanging blinds in a factory in Hyde during Italia 1990. The shift I was on finished just as the afternoon's games kicked off so I was lucky enough to be able to watch England make it to the semi-finals of the world cup....only to lose on penalties....heady



days!

**Travel:** I've always known the world was a massive place – at least since I borrowed a world map from a National Geographic magazine at the dentists once. I had this map on my wall for ages as a kid and used to wonder what all the names and places looked like. I was introduced to travel by the Geography teacher at my school who took 15 of us on a Youth Hostelling trip. By the time I was 18 I'd stayed at every youth hostel in the Peak district, the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales. The travel bug had bitten and become a lifelong affliction. The first time I managed to get abroad was in 1989. I left a note by the phone informing my mum and dad

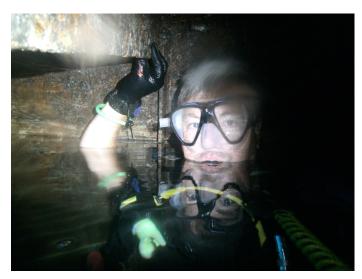
that I intended to hitchhike to Paris, that they mustn't worry and that I'd be back in a couple of weeks. Needless to say they did worry. I made it to Paris but having no money, no map and no ability to speak French I didn't stay long. Since then I've travelled much of the world and seen some special places. I'd recommend becoming an adventurer to anyone. My heroes include Benedict Allen, Paul Theroux and Gavin Young. **Hobbies:** Having played football in the same school team as one lad who signed for Manchester United and another who signed for Aston Villa, I soon realised I was hopeless at football so took up karate instead. I was better at that, got my black belt and won the 1986 North West regional open championship before losing in the second round of the Nationals later that year. Karate was important to me and I was



the University club instructor for a couple of years before hanging up my belt in favour of scuba diving. I actually discovered scuba diving as part of an experiment my brother carried out on me when I was 12. He made a biscuit tin into a makeshift diving helmet with a foot pump attached to feed air into it, secured it on my head and pushed me into Hyde canal. Once his friends had dragged me out and he'd come to the conclusion that the experiment was not a success but at least I was still alive, all he said was 'don't tell Mum' which I didn't....but she may read this, so sorry Phil. I managed to get taught to dive properly in 2002 in Thailand. Since then I've trained as a diving instructor and this weekend completed

my 700<sup>th</sup> dive. I'm also an avid reader. I'll read anything and everything but particularly enjoy detective and travel books. I also read a poem a day, largely because I think poetry is ace and because I feel bad for my English teacher who tried to teach it to me as a stubborn 15 year old! My other main hobby is an odd one. Struggling with something to do to liven up our Friday nights 20 years ago my wife booked us in for a course of horse riding lessons and it sort of stuck; I still ride every week.

**Teaching:** So this is the big one...why did I become a teacher? I really don't know. It just seemed like a good thing to do and I don't regret a minute of it. I love teaching and find that after 25 years I am still not bored (unlike 25 minutes in the bank). I've taught Psychology in 5 different secondary schools and been a deputy head for almost 15 years. There have been so many highlights in my career; the thing they all have in common is introducing young people to something new, be it knowledge or experience. The world is a big and wonderful place and if I can influence a student to engage with it and explore it with open eyes then I have done my job. I've been at St John's for almost 10 years now and it is, without a doubt, the best school I have ever worked in.





### EVENT

# **6th Form Christmas**

As I organised the Christmas meal for this year, it was heart-warming to see a huge turnout of staff and students who all equally enjoyed the night. It was nice to see that my hard work had paid off as everybody had a wonderful evening and partook in the festive Quiz and ambience that was set. Overall the night was really enjoyable as it was lovely to see everyone mingling and celebrating the successes the year so far!

By Khadija Begum





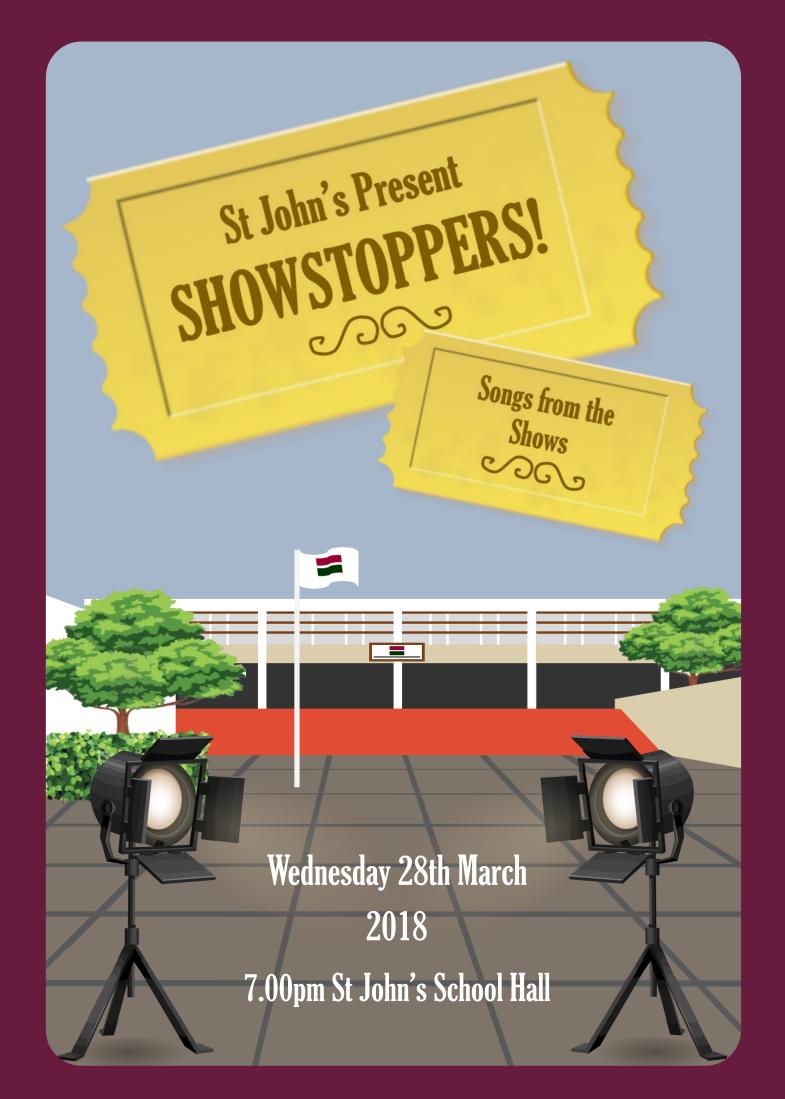




On the last day of school, the 6th had a bonding day where we had a German inspired breakfast 'Kaffee and Kuchen' and played games. Each tutor was tasked to come up with 15 minutes entertainment, and they didn't disappoint! With the Christmas market placed snugly in between, it shaped up to be a memorable and enjoyable day!



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### TRIP

# **Higher Education Fair**

The Higher Education fair in Nicosia gives students an overview of what it is like to study at a range of UK universities by allowing them the opportunity to speak to representatives and look through prospectuses from each University about course specifics or the University itself. Based at the Hilton in Nicosia, it welcomes students from schools across Cyprus to come and investigate what they would like their next step to be.

The trip was opened up to all of Year 12 and 11, and even a few Year 10s, who embraced the opportunity and investigated the courses suitable to them and what the requirements were in terms of grades and extra-curricular activities. With a total of 52 universities attending, the options were diverse. All the way from Bournemouth to Birmingham, there were so many universities from all across the UK it was even a bit daunting.

Despite Mr Francis' underwhelming attempt to start a competition between the students, based upon who could collect the most prospectuses, I can personally say the fair was an extremely helpful experience that I am glad I was given the opportunity to attend.





By Katharine Skinner





### MEET...

# Meet Mr Gleed...

### What made you want to become a languages teacher?

My mum wanted me to be a lawyer originally but when I was at University, I spent a year abroad as a foreign languages assistant which I really enjoyed. So when I got back to East London, I decided that I wanted to go into some primary schools teaching year 1's and year 2's which is where I decided that teaching was what I wanted to do.

What did you study at University and Alevel to get to this point?



At A-level it was French, German and

English Literature and then at University I studied French, German and European studies which is basically literature from France and Germany.

#### How long have you been in Cyprus?

I think it's been nearly 5 or 6 weeks so far.

### And how have you found it?

So far it's been absolutely amazing, the people are great and the weather is great. I didn't think I could be cold in Cyprus but I did have to get out the oil radiators which was funny and very old-fashioned.

#### Where were you before here?

Before moving to Cyprus I lived in Gutersloh in Germany for about 15 years, so that's been a lot of my teaching career spent in Germany.

And finally, do you have one memory that really stands out for you as a teacher?

I had a great tutor group at my old school, Kings, and every year we used to do a trip to France to go to Euro-Disney but because nearly my whole tutor group went it became almost like a tutor group trip. Yeah I remember those trips the most I think.

By Katharine Skinner



# **Digital Leaders**

Some of the Digital Leaders visited BFBS this term to promote online safety and the Digital Leaders work across the island.

DJ Mark Humphries hosted the session. He was keen to learn why our students had decided to become Digital Leaders and the work they were planning on doing in the local community over the next few weeks. He was impressed with Khadija for stepping up her role to Lead Digital Leader this year and inspiring other students to join the group and continue the good work that they started last academic year.

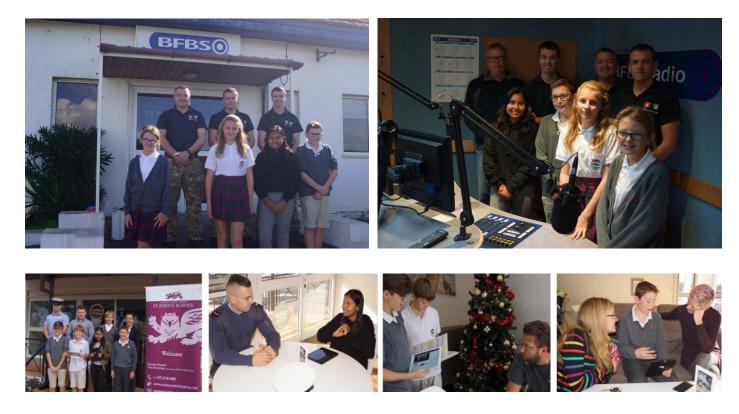
All the Digital Leaders were out and about with the BSOI guys, both at Akrotiri and Episkopi, to

educate our local adult community with online safety and the importance of this in the Military environment.

If you want any help in locking down your Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat or Twitter accounts please ask one of the Digital Leaders to help. They have also created a number of useful 'tip' booklets to help parents with consoles, phones, etc. These will be available at up and coming school events and during Safer Internet Week in February.



By Mrs Wolanski



# **Operation Christmas Child**

Duke of Edinburgh Award students handed over 23 shoe boxes packed with goodies plus bags of extra toys, hygiene items and more stationery to fill up other boxes. The generosity shown by staff, students and parents was amazing. A big thank you to everyone for their generosity but especially to the Year 10 students, Seren, Ella, Tia and Alanya. A job well done.

By Angela Dakin





EVENT





## EVENT

# Café Noel 2017















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# EVENT

# Café Noel 2017



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# **GCE Geography NEA Visit**

### **Amazing Visit with Fantastic Results**

GCE Geography has 20% of its marks allocated to a Non-Examined Assessment also known as a fieldwork investigation. To thoroughly prepare our students for the demands of the work we visited the FSC Drapers Field Centre in Betws-y-Coed. Our week consisted of four amazing days visiting a range of sites to consolidate our knowledge of topics, whilst we practised our data collection and presentation skills. We went to Cwm Idwal - a Corrie in Snowdonia National Park, terminal moraine at the beach and the beautiful Llandudno.

The equipment and apps we learnt how to use added not only to the students' skills but my own too. ArcGIS can do so much for a geographer and is now available in schools for free, so I will be transferring my own learning to enhance the experience of all the students at SJS.

Then it was over to our students to build upon their knowledge and experience to design and execute their own study from method to write up. They are now part way through and it is obvious that the skills and knowledge they developed at the FSC site are going to enable them to access the top grades. I cannot wait to visit again next year.



By Mrs Dixon



EVENT

### TRIP

## **Hambis Print Museum**

The Hambis Print Trip to Platanistia has now become a regular annual event on the year 10 curriculum. It is a great opportunity for both staff and students to go out into the local community and work alongside a professional print maker. The trip is split into two parts of theoretical and practical and the students gain a fantastic insight into the history of print making, while getting the opportunity to produce their own piece.



The Hambis print museum was founded in

November 2007 by the Cypriot printmaker Hambis. Its main goal is the promotion and development of the art of printmaking, both in Cyprus and internationally.





First of all we went around the museum and looked at different types of printed art. We saw wooden, lino printed art, metal etching, acid etching, traditional Japanese printing and more. Harris's wife showed us around the museum and explained what the different types of printing are. After we had looked around the museum we went and designed and printed our own lino pieces, I created a piece that included a few different shapes slightly linked in with an undersea theme. I decided to add on a shell to link in with my final natural forms exam. My main focus while making the lino cut was on the shapes and texture. Overall I wasn't too happy with how it turned out as I feel like it could have been better if it was neater and I believe that the finer details needed to stand out more. However it was a very good experience and I enjoyed learning how to print a lot, I am considering using lino printing in one of my areas in my natural forms piece.

By Izzie Montier



This term we had the chance to go to the old town of Limassol and see the artwork and some of the local artists in the area. I had the opportunity to interview a sculptor named Panicos, which in my eyes was the best part of the trip. He was particularly interesting because he had previously built metal chandeliers. Thirteen years ago and with no formal training from any art school or college, he established a studio and started producing his own work.





Initially he produced paintings but realised his work wasn't selling, so he turned towards metal sculpture. Using his previous skills from building chandeliers, he started making metal sculptures,

usually of the human form or the head. I really liked his approach to his work, as he never completes any drawings or research before starting a piece, unless this has been requested for a commission. I was really inspired by his ethos of always completing a piece of work, even if it is not working out. He explained that working as a sculptor, he has to resolve problems on a daily basis, which is many ways is similar to my work.

By Tom Glencross





## **Hambis Print Museum**

Albert Einstein once said 'Creativity is contagious pass it on' and it was with this quote in mind, that I took our 6<sup>th</sup> form A level Art students down to Limassol old town, to immerse themselves in a cultural experience.

One of the highlights of the trip for me was visiting various practitioners and seeing our students, asking carefully considered questions and receiving insightful and informative responses. All our students showed a genuine interest in everyone they met and gained an enormous amount from spending time with artists, who are making a successful career in their own specialist fields.

We also spent some time just wandering around Limassol old town admiring the excellent mural/



street art, which decorates every second building in the area. This part of town hosts the annual 'Street Life Festival' which occurs over a weekend around May time. During this period International Graffiti artists come from across Europe come to show off their skills and it is well worth a visit if you have not been to see the work.

#### By Mr Bougeard







### EVENT

# **Cross Country**

There was excellence in abundance at the recent annual Cross Country Championships at Happy Valley. It was a great celebration of running with SJS winning all the medals in the KS3 competition and the overall competition versus KRS. A fantastic performance by all who competed, well done. Thank you to all year 7 students who were either marshals for the race or supporting the primary schools in their KS2 Sports event, you were a credit to the school. Finally a big thank you to Mr Fazackerley from Episkopi Primary school for organising a fantastic event.

By Mrs Dakin









# Apprentice Style Learning: A-level Business



Our Year 13 Business group have been set the task of planning and organising a local community event as part of our synoptic coursework unit. We will be performing an Apprentice style task by competing in teams to achieve the highest sales levels! We have decided to offer a Valentine's service for the romantics in the local community. We know that so many loved ones are missed on so many occasions, so why not show them your love when you are together! Our events team have been working with local suppliers to make sure that we have a product range to suit your loved one and your wallet!



The service will be offered in St John's School and the local Episkopi area. Let us do all the work for you this year and surprise your loved one with a wonderful romantic package from your local area. At the same time you will be supporting the dedicated military charity - Fisher's House at the QE in Birmingham - <u>all</u> profits will be donated to this charity which supports our personnel in their time of need.

This service will take place during the weeks commencing 5th/12th February 2018. Ordering will commence in January - don't miss out on this unique opportunity to surprise your loved one this Valentines!





Package 1 Real rose, small heart Price - €7.00



**DON'T MISS ORDER DAY** WEDNESDAY **24 JANUARY 2018** 

Package 2 Real rose, small heart, small teddy Price - €10.00

Package 3

Small plant pot, small teddy, small bottle of premium wine,

chocolates, small heart

Price – €12.00

Package 4

balloon Price - €30.00



### In aid of:



**Fisher House** is a support facility for military families in their time of need. It is a 'home away from home'

can stay whilst soldiers are recovering from injuries or accidents. It is based at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham and run by QEHB Charity.

where military patients and their families

Large plant pot, real rose, bottle of Prosecco, chocolates, Yankee candle and holder, small teddy, small heart, helium





**Sponsored by:** 

PICK-UP DAY **Friday 9 February DELIVERY DAY** Wednesday 14 February 2018

# INSPIRE

# St John's Alumni

I am currently in my first year of studying English at the University of Exeter, which is very different from my 'A' Level studies in Cyprus. The staff at St John's provided me with the support and guidance which allowed me to adapt to University life, especially when it comes to meeting deadlines! I would especially like to thank the English department for all their support which prepared me for University level studies. Whilst I certainly miss the small class sizes in St John's, it is exciting to meet so many new people and experience such a different way of living and studying. I look forward to visiting St John's during the holidays and seeing how things have changed!



UNIVERSITY OF

ETER

### Anna Wilmot

I have recently moved back to the UK after completing my GCSEs and 'A' levels at St John's. I'm now living at RAF Waddington in Lincoln where I am currently going through the process of joining the RAF as either a Drone Pilot or an Air Traffic Control Officer. One thing I learnt about leaving education as a whole is that University isn't a necessity.

If you knew me at St John's you'd know that I would always debate with Mrs Dixon about university. I didn't really want to go, simply because it wasn't for me and I just wanted to leave, get a job, and start my career in the RAF. This is completely fine, if you don't need to go you don't have to - there are plenty of experiences to have that aren't Uni related; I'm sure I've done things with the RAF by now that Uni students won't have. Just make sure you have a plan and a backup plan. Not everybody is suited for university so don't feel like you're the odd one out, there are loads of apprenticeships,



placements and other options available, if you do a bit of researching you will find somewhere that is just as beneficial to your career.

If you decide to take this path and not go to university, note that it is not a fast process; but use it, take your time, there is no rush. I've sat at my table for hours every day making sure I know as much as I can about my job in the RAF, the history and keeping up to date on current affairs. It's your career you're heading towards and the worst thing to do is dive in and not get what you aimed for.

#### Jack Ford



After I finished my studies at St Johns, I moved onto university where I am currently studying Games Design BA (Hons). For the past couple of months I have been getting into studying hard and completing my assignments on time and to a professional standard.

One thing that I have taken away from St John's is my ability to work with others, as a lot of the courses and subjects that I was involved in there had us all working in groups to develop our communication skills with



others, which has helped a lot in my assignments over the past couple of months.

One thing that has surprised me from moving from a school environment to a more academic environment is that it's not hard to find others that have the same interests as you and that you can easily get along with, so if you're a social recluse like me then you'll easily find others like yourself.

#### George Beswick

Being at LJMU has been a blast throughout my first semester. The work we do and the environment we are taught in is completely different to school. It's so much fun and intriguing to learn about a topic that you're more interested in as it's something that you want to do in the future. Learning about the construction of a building and finding out how they're put together has been my main module this semester and, as boring as it sounds, has been really good!

The social side of uni is amazing too! You meet so many new people from different backgrounds and places and everyone gets along so well. My friendship group has about 20 of us and we all go on socials and nights out which is really good. I've also joined the volleyball team, so going on



sport socials is fun where you do things such as nights out, meals and meet ups.

Uni has been a blast and I can't wait for all the year 12s to visit LJMU at the beginning of 2018!

### **Darcie Walbrook**

## INSPIRE

# St John's Alumni

For the past year the idea of going off to university has been the scariest thing to ever cross my mind. From moving to different countries to breaking bones, I've done a ton of things that many would consider to be scarier than starting uni. But to me, university is the scariest thing I've done so far; but 408 hours into this crazy new world I'm living, I can now tell you that it's become less scary and more my new normal.

The idea of living alone has always scared me, far more than anything else I think. It's been the driving force behind my fear for the past year of my life, but now that I'm almost a month into my crazy new journey as a university student I now find it odd that I even thought that way to begin with.

For starters, I'm not alone. From the moment I wake up to the moment I go to bed, I'm surrounded by people who I'm getting to know more and more with every single day that passes. Whether it's my amazing roommates (who from



day one I've loved like family), the awesome people from my course, or my new rugby teammates, I'm always surrounded by people that make my day brighter, more so than I ever imaged before I started university.

Growing up I used to be incredibly anti-social; or should I say awkward? I wasn't exactly the best at socialising with others and I found that my comfort zone was talking with my friends through imageness or Whate Area is the three weeks live.

iMessage or WhatsApp. In the three weeks I've been here university has forced me out of my comfort zone. Living and working with people in a city I have little to no knowledge about has forced me to socialise more and improve on my social skills. Gone are the days when I'd spend all day in my room, barely talking to people unless it was to utter an awkward "hello" as I walked past them. Now I spend most of my time in my kitchen with my roommates, watching movies, doing work, and socialising, which makes the work load feel a whole lot lighter. From cooking for myself to braving a new area of the country, slowly but surely my confidence is rising and I'm finding myself slowly but surely becoming more and more outgoing by the second.



If this has happened in the first three weeks, I can't wait to see what the next three years of my life have in store for me. Three weeks down, three more years to go.

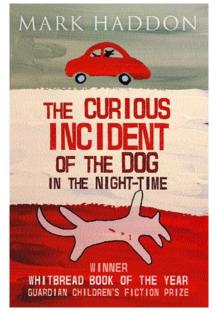
### **Ellie Winston**

## INSPIRE

# **Book: Try Something New...**

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time portrays the story of a boy with Asperger's. When a neighbourhood dog is killed and he is falsely accused of the crime, he takes it upon himself to find the killer. In his investigation to bring justice for the dog he is lead to finding secrets about his parents' divorce.

The book is written in a way that represents his journey to finding his place in the world and dealing with his condition in a way that makes him feel like belongs. Despite the erratic narration from the point of the boy, Christopher, there is an underlying storyline of the challenges that living with a developmental disorder such as this can have on not only the social aspects of life but also the emotional aspects relating to friendships and family. The author, Mark Hadden, manages to write humour into the book despite it being something that Christopher claims he does not understand. He also manages to write in a compelling and convincing way despite not having the disorder himself which is often something not only hard to do but also very risky in case the book becomes inaccurate and insulting.



### By Katharine Skinner

Having seen 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time' in the Apollo theatre, London, in early 2017, it is fair to implicate that it is a marvellous adaptation by Simon Stephens. It translates seemingly effortlessly onto the West End stage, but this is an unfair assertion as the cast and crew have worked tirelessly to convey the

message from Mark Haddon's novel.

While many people believe that the story aims to raise awareness of Asperger or another condition that affects social interaction, the author of the novel himself states that he wrote it about difference, and to highlight and convey a contradiction to the social norm. Marianne Elliott does a brilliant job, as director, at evoking the sympathy for Christopher, from the audience, that acts as an acceptance of difference. Through the incredibly moving performance by Joseph Ayre and the frantic lighting and perfectly



choreographed movement, the audience is left with nothing to do but grasp at everything we are given by the actors. The performance is so enlightening, and we are drawn in too much, that when we leave we cannot forgot the experience; we are immersed in a story that is not our own, but one that is left etched in our hearts to embrace difference rather than to turn away from it.

By Ellie Wycherley

# Film: Try something new...

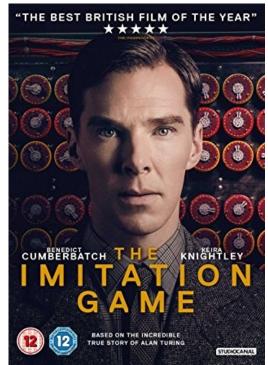
# "Sometimes it is the people who no one imagines anything of, that do the things no one can imagine."

I first watched The Imitation Game when it came out in cinemas in 2014 and when I first heard

the premise of the film I was dubious, how wrong I was. I am passionate about films and when I say this film has it all, I mean that this film has it all. The acting is outstanding, the cinematography and music are perfect and the storyline is gripping.

INSPIRE

Written by Graham Moore and directed by Mortem Tyldum, it is based in World War Two but whereas most war films focus on the fighting on the front lines, this deals with the hard work that was being completed back home in Britain. The government calls together a group of mathematicians to Bletchley Park in an attempt to break the hardest encryption device in the world - Enigma. By doing this, the army will receive all German transmissions and be able to turn the war (that they were losing) around. The protagonist is Alan Turing whose wonderful mind enables him to think outside the box, but the very fact that he stands out and is different creates prejudice and discrimination towards him. His character is portrayed by Benedict Cumberbatch (Sherlock, Dr Strange and The Hobbit) who creates a thought-provoking and emotional performance, keeping the



audience in suspense and totally engrossed throughout the film. The rest of the cast is equally good with supporting roles being performed by Keira Knightly, Matthew Goode, Charles Dance and Mark Strong.

The story is embedded with mystery at every turn with doubt and uncertainty rising as you watch and you can't help but wonder the ultimate question - Did they do it? You'll have to watch to find out...

By Rosie Favis

Perhaps one of the best kept secrets of the war, the story of Enigma and Bletchley Park was kept hidden for decades which is why we don't celebrate Alan Turing as a war hero as much as we should. His tragic story is so prevalent in our modern society as it deals with why we should all accept our differences and who we are. Not only did he contribute to the Allies winning the war, but he has also had an even bigger impact on our lives. Turing created the foundations that all modern computer technology is modelled on; without him, we might not have the computers and smartphones we use everyday. You can still visit the site of Bletchley Park today to learn more about the code-breakers of World War Two, I've been twice and it is incredibly inspiring!

# **Important School Information**

Uniform Item	Cost	
Polo Shirt	€7.00	
Skirt	€7.50	
Shorts	€10.00	
Boys Trousers (must be grey not black)	€10.00	
Girls Trousers (must be grey not black)	€10.00	
Jumper	€13.00	
Cardigan	€13.00	
Blazer	€25.00	
Fleece	€9.00	
Hoodie	€15.00	
New House PE shirt	€10.00	
New Black plain PE shorts	€5.00	
Black plain football socks	€5.00	
White ankle socks	€4.00	
Shin Pads	€5.00	

#### **Absence Reporting**

If your child will not be attending school for any reason, please inform the school as soon as possible by calling (2596) 3888 after 0730 hours.

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

www.stjohnsschoolcyprus.com

#### **Leavers Reporting**

As soon as you know your leaving date, please inform the school as soon as possible by calling (2596) 3888 after 0730 hours.

A copy of the 'Departure' form, is available to download from the school website:

www.stjohnsschoolcyprus.com

#### Editor: Rosie Favis Editorial Team: Ellie Wycherley, Ushan Dissanayaka and Katharine Skinner

Date	Event	Details
8 January	School reopens	First day of Spring Term
10 January	Visit	DoE Qualifying walk for Bronze and Silver Award
15-19 January	Visit	ICT visit to the UK
19 January	Visit	Year 7 Humanities Field Trip
24 January	Meeting	Year 11 Parents Meeting and 6th Form Options Fair
24 January	Meeting	SGC Meeting
26-27 January	Visit	DoE Practice Expedition
7 February	Meeting	Year 10 Parents Meeting
9 February		Civvies Day
9 February	Half-term	School Closes for Half-Term
19 February		School Reopens
21 February	Visit	Year 9 Humanities Field Trip
26 February		STEM Day with the RAF
28 February	Meeting	Year 12 and 13 Parents Meeting
1 March	Visit	GCSE and A-level Biology Field Trip
2 - 4 March	Visit	DoE Qualifying Expedition
10 - 17 March	Visit	Year 12 Higher Education Visit to UK
14 March	Meeting	Year 9 Parents Meeting and GCSE Options Fair
16 - 23 March	Visit	French Exchange Students Visit
28 March	Meeting	Year 7 Parents Meeting
28 March	Performance	"Showstoppers" - Music from the Shows Performance
29 March		Non-school Uniform Day
29 March	School closes	School Closes for Easter Holiday
16 April		Staff training Day
17 April	School reopens	First Day of Summer Term





St John's Secondary School Episkopi, Cyprus BFPO 53



Telephone: 00357 2596 3888 Fax: 00357 2596 3708 E-Mail: enquiries@stjohnsschoolcyprus.com Website: www.stjohnschoolcyprus.com

