



Ministry
of Defence

Newsletter

9th September 2022 | Issue 2

Dear Families,

We have had a fantastic first week at St John's School, in which all of our students have settled quickly. With the return of the 1 Lincs it has been lovely seeing old friendships re-kindled, whilst new friendships are being forged.

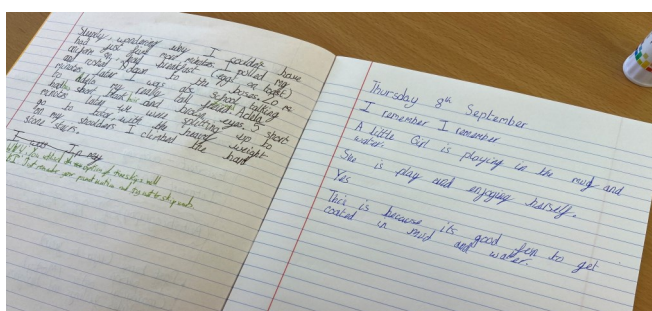


Throughout the week, students in all years have participated in a wide variety of team building activities, be it in lesson or with their tutor group. On Tuesday our Sixth Form had the good fortune of visiting MTW, where they participated in a wide variety of activities designed to help them to get to know one another. Returning to school on Wednesday, our Sixth Formers arrived with maturity and renewed purpose. Dressed as young professionals, they are role models to all, making an outstanding start, both in lessons and as they study independently.

Elsewhere, the new year enthusiasm has been captured through purposeful, well planned lessons, each one with a clear structure and consistent approach. Each lesson sees students greeted at the door, issued with a task to be completed upon arrival and facilitating their recall of prior learning. Improving whole school consistency in teaching and learning is the foundation form which we will realise our ambition of providing an educational offer that is consistently good, ensuring St John's School ranks in the Top 5% of schools nationally for student progress.

Mr Colin Guyton

Acting Headteacher



Newsletter

9th September 2022 | Issue 2

New Staff Appointments

I am delighted to inform you that this week we have been able to promote three members of our teaching staff into temporary school leadership positions.

Mrs Katie Gardiner will lead Key Stage 3 and Mrs Hayley Stonier will lead Key Stage 4. Although your child's tutor will be your first point of contact, both Katie and Hayley will maintain an overview of their respective Key Stages and be able to support you in resolving any issues or concerns you may have.

Katie and Hayley will also be supported by Ms Nichola Robertshaw, an experienced school data analyst, who takes on the role of Student Progress Leader. In her role Nichola will track and intervene around student progress to ensure St John's School realises its target of ranking in the Top 5% of schools nationally with a progress score of 0.38.

Head of Key Stage 3



Mrs Katie Gardiner

Katie.Gardiner@MODSchools.org

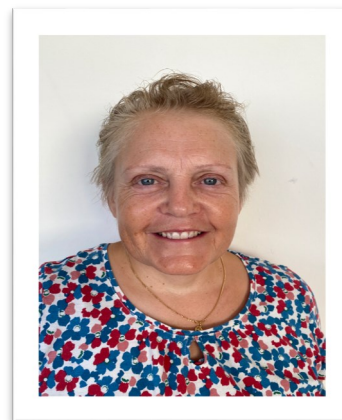
Head of Key Stage 4



Mrs Hayley Stonier

Hayley.Stonier@MODSchools.org

Student Progress Lead



Ms Nichola Robertshaw

Nichola.Robertshaw@MODSchools.org

Newsletter

9th September 2022 | Issue 2

St John's School Safeguarding Team



Steve Dixon

Assistant Headteacher



Alex Kerr

Deputy Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding



Colin Guyton

Acting Headteacher

In addition or
instead of raising a
concern in person
Scan the QR Code to
report a concern



Katie Gardiner

Head of Key Stage 3



Hayley Stonier

Head of Key Stage 4



Kelly Bonar

Head of Key Stage 5



Kate Parkinson

Safeguarding Assistant



Andrew Holden

SENDCO

Newsletter

9th September 2022 | Issue 2

School Photos

Cliff Harris Photography will be taking school photographs on Friday 16th September at St John's School. Once the photographs have been taken, Cliff Harris Photography will send proof cards to the school, which we will send home with your child. These will have a picture, a unique number and password. Parents will be able to view/order the photos directly online. If you are due to move within the next few months, please ensure you use an appropriate delivery address i.e. UK when placing your order. **Please do not send money or orders to school.** If you DO NOT wish your child to have a photograph taken, please let us know by emailing SJS.Enquiries@MODSchools.org, no later than **Monday 12th September 2022.**

Individual Portraits

All children will have their photograph taken individually.

Class Groups

All classes will have a group photograph taken.



Extra Curricular

A full programme will be published next week, however students can participate next week in:

Football at Happy Valley on Tuesday 13th Sept. between 1400-1500hrs (All Years)

Duke of Edinburgh in the School Gym on Wednesday 14th Sept. 1400-1500hrs (Year 9-13)

PRIDE Club on Tuesday at 1235—1300hrs



www.facebook.com/stjohnsschoolcyprus

Let's be friends!

Be sure to add us as a friend on Facebook to keep up to date with what is happening at St John's School



Ministry
of Defence

Newsletter

9th September 2022 | Issue 2

Progress Tests

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will sit Progress Tests in English, Maths and Science this coming week. Progress Tests will be used at the beginning and end of this academic year. They are designed to measure attainment and allow comparison at an individual, cohort and school level with national averages.

Each test assesses a student's knowledge, understanding and application in the core subjects, helping to indicate possible gaps in learning in order to inform interventions. Detailed reports are obtained from these tests, which will be made available to parents. Each report analyses key dimensions of learning for each subject and provides staff with question-by-question breakdown to help identify those students who require greater challenge and those who may need extra support.

Students will sit Progress Tests at both the beginning and end of the academic year, next sitting them in June 2023. The purpose of doing so is to externally validate teacher assessment and track progress at an individual and cohort level. Individual reports will show you as the parent whether your child has made good progress, whilst providing specific suggestions for addressing areas for development. Cohort reports will provide me, my senior and middle leaders with a higher level view to inform class-wide activity, as well as staff training and development needs.

For more information, please visit

www.gl-assessment.co.uk/assessments/products/progress-tests-series-for-secondary



GL Assessment



Newsletter

9th September 2022 | Issue 2

E-Praise Parent Communication App

St John's School has purchased a platform that provides parents with the opportunity to download an Application from the App store that will facilitate improved communication. We will be trialling the App in the coming weeks in the hope we will be able to launch it successfully with parents at the beginning of October 2022.

The App will allow parents to:

- See your child's school profile
- View your child's timetable
- Track your child's attendance
- Monitor your child's homework
- Sign up your child to after school enrichment activities
- Book appointments for upcoming Parent Afternoons
- Download your child's reports and other document including newsletters and school letters

The launch of the App will happen simultaneously with our whole school approach to homework.

Student Setting

In support of our shared moral purpose to eliminate educational disadvantage caused by mobility, students in Key Stage 3 find themselves in mixed ability classes. In each year there are three classes composed of students from a wide range of academic abilities and experiences. The coding of each class is for the sole purpose of timetabling and is not linked to an academic set of any kind. The only exception to this at Key Stage 3 is in Science.

A wealth of academic research exists around the advantages and disadvantages of setting in schools. The topic of setting often sparks strong debate and can polarise opinion. It is however the stance of St John's School not to set students. Research points to the fact that setting students reinforces educational disadvantage, reinforcing gaps in learning, adversely impacting upon a child's self esteem and contributing to lower expectations of certain student groups.

In an effort to eliminate educational disadvantage our staff are being supported to improve our educational offer by meeting student needs through Assessment for Learning, which subsequently informs the use of differentiated learning activities to either support or challenge students to make progress.

Newsletter

9th September 2022 | Issue 2

Meet Mr Steve Dixon, **Assistant Headteacher**

Hello, my name is Steve Dixon and I am honoured to be Assistant Head Teacher at St John's, responsible for Teaching and Learning

I was born and raised in Lancashire up to the age of 19 when I left to attend Birmingham University to study for a BA Hons degree in Drama. Following this I worked for a Theatre-in-Education company on a tour across the UK. It was this that gave me an interest in education and I decided that I wanted to train as a secondary drama teacher. I started my teaching career at a very large secondary school in Birmingham and following five very happy years there, I went on to be Head of Arts at a school in Dudley Authority. I then went on to a school on the outskirts of Dudley to be Assistant Head followed by Deputy Head. Before coming out to Cyprus I was the Head Teacher for five years. This included some slightly turbulent times leading the school through the Covid pandemic and then seeing through a successful Ofsted inspection in June of this year. I am grateful for the wealth of experiences I have had throughout my teaching career and I look forward to bringing some new ideas and supporting St John's as it moves forward.

For me, great schools are all about nurturing a challenging but supportive environment where children are provided with the very best educational opportunities and encouraged to develop self-confidence, self-discipline and self-reliance. I am looking forward to working with the staff at St John's to ensure we provide the very best teaching that our children deserve.

My first passion outside of teaching is Theatre and Drama. I have staged many school productions in the past including 'Grease', 'Fame', 'Chicago' and 'Blood Brothers'. Nothing quite beats the buzz of live theatre and I will still be making trips to the West End when I return to the UK for visits.

I am a very keen gardener and I am looking forward to being able to include some more exotic plants in my garden that we can't grow in the UK.

I also enjoy travelling. Perhaps the most memorable experiences were working on a summer camp in the Catskill mountains in the USA and then travelling on Greyhound buses visiting all corners of the States. Camp America was an experience I would recommend to everyone.

I am very excited by my new position at St John's and I look forward to getting to know the students, staff and parents.





Ministry
of Defence

Newsletter

9th September 2022 | Issue 2

St John's School—Footballing Talent

Oli Robinson

Oli has recently signed a professional contract with Apollon Limassol FC.

Oli said of his recent signing

"I have always loved football and have played for many clubs over the years. I wanted to continue to play when we moved to Cyprus. I got into the Apollon team academy through a friend who was able to get me a week's trial. After that, they asked for me to stay and from then I've gone through the academy process. This year I was offered a professional contract at Apollon Limassol. This is by far the biggest achievement I have had in my life so far."

All of us at SJS wish Oli well and look forward to cheering him on from the stands



Lauren Mercer

Lauren signed a professional contract this week with Wom-ens's FC Geroskipou in Paphos.

Lauren said of her signing

"Football is my passion and something I want to continue playing for as long as I can. Signing for Paphos Ladies was a tough decision though, as I had a very good season last year playing for Apollon Academy. However, I am certain that choosing Paphos Ladies will help me grow and develop as a player. It will expose me to more challenging games and situations, along with helping me to learn new football skills for the future."

Good luck Lauren, we look forward to seeing you in action soon.

Newsletter

9th September 2022 | Issue 2

SJS Coffee Mornings

On Friday 16th September 0830—1000hrs, parents of students at St John's School are cordially invited to join our coffee morning, should you wish to book a place, please email

SJS.Enquiries@MODSchools.org.

Limited to 15 people, I look forward to touring you around the school, visiting lessons and answering any questions or concerns you may have.

Meet the teachers - Thursday 15th September 1430 - 1600hrs

You are cordially invited to meet our teachers at an informal event that will take place in the courtyard place on:

Thursday 15th September 2022 between 1430 and 1600hrs

It is hoped that this event will enable you, along with your child to meet their teachers, as well as other parents (new and old). A selection of complimentary drinks and light snacks will be available.

Upcoming School Events

Next Week

Monday 12th September	Progress testing begins for Key Stage 3
Thursday 15th September	Welcome to SJS—Meet the Teachers 1430—1600hrs with wine and cheese
Friday 16th September	Whole School Photos
	SJS Coffee Morning 0800—1000
	Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org

Next Week

Monday 19th September	Cognitive Ability Testing for students without prior attainment data
Friday 23rd September	Headteachers Surgery 0900—1000
	No booking required