

# Newsletter

16th September 2022 | Issue 3

Dear Families,

As we edge further into this new term it has been reassuring to see how our students have quickly settled. Routines are becoming embedded and lessons proceed with purpose.



On Thursday it was a real pleasure for our staff to meet with so many parents of students at St John's School. Mindful of this period of national mourning this inaugural event was more muted than planned, however it still provided an excellent opportunity to meet one another and begin to establish effective home-school partnerships that are crucial in ensuring educational success for our young people.

The sentiment shared on Thursday, both by students and parents, is one that is overwhelmingly positive. It was encouraging that both parents and students can identify some of the early signifiers of school improvement and feel that there has already been a measured impact. Appreciative of your early praise and optimism, we promise to deliver on so much more, as we journey to providing an educational offer that is consistently good and ensures that St John's School features in the Top 5% of schools nationally for student progress.



**Mr Colin Guyton**

Acting Headteacher





Ministry  
of Defence

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## National Bank Holiday—19th September 2022



As confirmed on Wednesday by CBF, St John's School will, along with other Ministry of Defence Schools and Settings, be closed to all staff and students. This will allow us all to pay our respects to Her Majesty on the occasion of her State Funeral, which is due to take place on Monday.

On this sad day I wish you and your families a peaceful and reflective day.

We look forward to welcoming students and staff back to school on Tuesday 20th September.

## Book of Condolence

The students and staff of St John's sent their deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family via the online Book of Condolence set up in the wake of the passing of Her Majesty.

You are able to leave your own message via:  
<https://www.royal.uk/send-message-condolence>



The students and staff of St John's School, Cyprus (an MOD School) send their deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family, following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

An example to us all, we will honour Her Majesty's legacy through our hard work, selflessness and commitment to service.

From: St John's School, Cyprus



BOOK OF CONDOLENCE



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## Sharing our School Improvement Plan

Our staff have rallied behind a renewed moral purpose, *which is to eliminate educational disadvantage caused by mobility*. It is this moral purpose that is to guide everything we do here at St John's School. To this end, we aspire to providing an educational offer that is consistently 'Good' and ensure that St John's School ranks in the Top 5% of schools nationally for student progress.

**Safeguarding Provision**  
Safeguarding provision is '**exemplary**' and supports other MOD Schools in improving their provision.

**Attendance**  
Student attendance is **above 95%**, exceeding the national average.

**Educational Offer**  
The educational offer is consistently '**Good**' ensuring St John's School ranks in the **Top 5%** of schools nationally for student progress.

**Community Pride**  
The community is **proud** of St John's School, celebrating the strengths and successes of a school which exceeds their child's previous school experience.

**ST JOHN'S SCHOOL**

**Eliminating educational disadvantage caused by mobility**

**Student Mobility**  
St John's School is a centre of best practice; eliminating educational disadvantage caused by mobility. **Student progress exceeds 0.38**

**Staff Wellbeing**  
Staff at St John's School valued; motivated by a shared moral purpose there is a collective sense of purpose and achievement. **Employee turnover is less than 5%**

**Student Satisfaction**  
Students are **highly satisfied** at St John's School, possessing an attitude towards their learning that exceeds that of all other students nationally.

## Facebook Live

### Thursday 22nd September 2022 between 1500hrs — 1545hrs

To allow me the opportunity to share and explore each school improvement priority in greater depth, I look forward to cordially inviting you to join my Facebook Live presentation of our School Improvement Priorities. The presentation will also trial the possible role Facebook Live may have at reaching our parents without the need for you to physically attend school. For parents who are unable to attend live, a recording may be found on our Facebook Page shortly after the live event.

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## Extra Curricular Activities

Our programme of extra curricular activities has kicked off at a canter, we had a record 51 students sign up and attend the first session for this years Duke of Edinburgh Award. Unfortunately this uptake means that this club is already full.

Below is a detailed overview of the programme for Term 1. Students do not need to book, they simply need to turn up and attend with regularity.

The late bus leaves at 1510 hrs allowing students who arrive and leave by bus to participate in our extra curricular offer.

An update programme will be published for Term 2, which follows after Christmas.



## Extra Curricular Clubs and Revision – Term 1 SJS

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 <sup>nd</sup> Break	Homework Club – E5 Access the google classroom with LSA support	Pride Club E10 All Welcome  Homework Club – E5 Access the google classroom with LSA support	Homework Club – E5 Access the google classroom with LSA support	Scratch Coding club E15  Homework Club – E5 Access the google classroom with LSA support	Homework Club – E5 Access the google classroom with LSA support
After School 2pm – 3pm	KS4 / 5 Art workshop – Use the Art resources to forward your GCSE / A Level Art studies  Arts award – Drama room (starts 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept) If you would like to work towards a Bronze, Silver or Gold Arts award in any area of art, music or drama attend on Mondays	Y11 and A Level Chemistry Clinic (Y11,12 and 13)  SJS ROCK CHOIR (all year groups)  Languages Club (launched on 26 <sup>th</sup> September)  Football Club – All students welcome  Gymnastics Club – All welcome	D of E Bronze for Y9/10 and silver to Y11 (if they have completed bronze). Y12/13 Silver  GCSE MUSIC TOP UP (Y10/11, but open to any Y9 who want to come and make music)  KS3 Chess Club – new players welcome (Starts Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> )  Netball Club – All students welcome	Year 11 –Biology Revision 30 mins Business Revision 30 mins.  Music – Anything goes session. Come and jam with a Guitar, drums, ukulele, whatever you like playing. Open to all	Music Tech club – Record and mix sound using garage band

Coming soon – Mediterranean Model United Nations for the 6<sup>th</sup> form – See Mr Strang if interested

*Eliminating educational disadvantage caused by mobility*



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## Progress Tests

This week students in Key Stage 3 undertook Progress Tests in English, Maths and Science. We have already begun unpicking the information these tests provide, and I look forward to sharing with you the emerging trends and the strategies that will be employed to eliminate educational disadvantage caused by mobility.



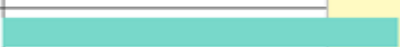
There will be an opportunity for parents of students in Key Stage 3 to attend an information session on the dates below. During each session you will be able to collect three personalised reports, one for English, Maths and Science. Each report makes recommendations that will support your child in accelerating their progress in these three important subject areas.

## Progress Test—Information Session Schedule

Year	Day	Date	Time	Venue
7	Tuesday	27th September	1500—1530hrs	Exam Suite
8	Wednesday	28th September	1500—1530hrs	Exam Suite
9	Thursday	29th September	1500—1530hrs	Exam Suite

## Progress Test—Exemplar Report

### Profile

English Skills		
Reading Comprehension		
PTE (whole test)		

### Description of profile

- profile of scores from *Progress Test in English* indicates an even profile, with similar scores for both English Skills and Reading Comprehension.
- is performing at or above age expectations across the curriculum for English. To support further progress, should be encouraged to read widely across fiction, non-fiction, poetry and plays, and to develop analysis and comparison of features including language, setting, character and plot, and their effects.
- writing skills could be supported through further work on identifying different registers in speech and writing, including Standard English (for example, through comparing written passages and transcripts of people speaking about the same topics). could also extend the scope of her writing by keeping a log of new vocabulary found while reading.

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## Uniform—the finer details

Thank you for your support in ensuring the students are in the correct uniform when they come to school. Having joined the students for the whole school photos this morning, I was impressed by how smart and well presented they all appeared.

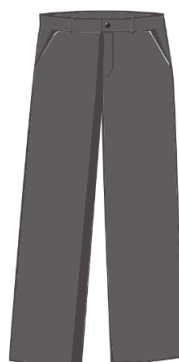
With the students wearing their uniform with pride, I did want to take this opportunity to share guidance around some of the finer details of our uniform policy and remind you that the following items are not allowed for students in Key Stage 3 and 4:

- ◆ Piercings, other than one stud in each ear. We can provide clear retainers if required as clear retainers are permitted.
- ◆ Bracelets, wristbands or any type of necklace, as these can get caught causing injury or loss
- ◆ Coloured or neutral acrylic nails, nail gel, nail polish, artificial nails and/or false eyelashes
- ◆ Excessive makeup
- ◆ Coloured or patterned socks, as they should be black
- ◆ Shoes, trainers, pumps with variation in colour or with a coloured logo. They should be all black.
- ◆ Students should not wear headphones around the school site
- ◆ Mobile phones should not be seen in school unless they are being used (as directed by the teacher) as a learning tool or to report a safeguarding concern using the QR Code.
- ◆ Extreme hair colours that are not considered to be natural, subtle shades.

For further information and additional details around school uniform at St John's School, please visit:

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

[www.stjohnsschoolcyprus.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Uniform-PolicyV7.pdf](http://www.stjohnsschoolcyprus.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Uniform-PolicyV7.pdf)



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## **School Governance Committee (SGC)**

School Governance Committee (SGC) members are interested members of the community, including parents of children at St John's School

We work with the Headteacher and school staff to assist in making key decisions vital to the successful running of the school, contribute to decisions directly affecting the education and wellbeing of pupils, assist in improving standards throughout the school and monitor the school budget.

The SGC meets once a term as a whole committee to review and discuss school business, and represent the views of parents.

### **Main Roles**

#### **Provide a strategic overview**

- focusing on the key issues of raising standards of achievement, establishing high expectations and promoting effective teaching and learning

#### **Act as a Critical Friend**

- providing the Head Teacher and Staff with support and advice using members' knowledge and experience

#### **Ensure Accountability**

- questioning and openly discussing with the Head Teacher the school's performance and other issues, whilst respecting both the professional roles of the Head Teacher and school staff and their responsibilities for the management of the school

## **Are you interested in joining our SGC?**

We currently have a number of vacancies upon our School Governance, should you be interested we welcome a short expression of interest detailing your suitability by email to:

[Penny.Demetriou@modschoools.org](mailto:Penny.Demetriou@modschoools.org)

We have the following vacancies:

- Station HQ Representative
- Parent Representative
- Safeguarding Sub Committee Lead
- Pastoral Sub Committee Lead

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## **Meet Ms Kim Fox** **Head of Mathematics and Computing**

Hello, my name is Kim Fox and I am really excited to have joined St John's School as Faculty Leader of Mathematics, Business and Computing. I am really pleased to be here and Friday marks my one-week anniversary on the island.

I grew up in a relatively small village between South Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire; and up until last week I'd never lived anywhere else in England, so it can certainly be said that taking the step to move out here has been extremely exciting for me!

I haven't always been a Mathematics teacher- I worked for Wilko Hardware for a while around having my children. After having my two boys; James and William, who are 17 and 13 respectively, I decided to go to University to study Mathematics with Education, knowing that all I wanted to do in my career was teach Mathematics. I'm passionate about my subject and working with young people to help them to develop a love for it as well.

Over the last nine years of teaching I have had various roles in pastoral and curriculum areas; most recently Lead Practitioner where I was responsible for developing Teaching and Learning across STEM subjects as well as the development of trainee and newly qualified teachers.

My love of Mathematics and developing teaching led me to complete the National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics Mastery Specialist course where I was able to develop my teaching even further and train to support other schools with developing their Mathematics departments. My role with the NCETM was alongside my job in school and it provided me with a wealth of experience of other departments and helping them to improve their systems and practices.

On a personal level, I enjoy playing netball – I am missing playing for my team back in England. I also enjoy riding horses and I am hoping to be able to do both hobbies again once I am settled here.

I am incredibly excited to be here in Cyprus – the school has such a special feel to it. When friends and family have asked how it is going, the first thing I have said is "the students are great!" – and I really believe this to be the case. The students at this school are an amazing group of young people to work with and I feel extremely privileged to be here!







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## Year 10 Maths Exam

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September Year 10 will be sitting a foundation GCSE paper in the examination hall to ascertain their starting points for their GCSE course.

While I understand that this may cause anxiety for some students, I want to reassure them that this is not a summative examination, it is to gain formative information about their starting points at this stage in their course and enable us to tailor the teaching and intervention to best suit their needs.

I wanted to give them some notice to alleviate any stress around this and provide them with opportunity to prepare for the paper. It is a paper 1, which is non calculator.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to email me at

[Kimberley.fox@modschoools.org](mailto:Kimberley.fox@modschoools.org) and I will be happy to discuss this with you.

## CAT4 Testing

Over the course of next week some students will participate in Cognitive Ability Testing often referred to as CAT4 tests. These tests will be for all students in Year 10 to support the school in measuring its progress towards the national accountability measures at GCSE. The tests will also be taken by students in Years 8 and 9 who have recently joined us, but with little or no prior attainment data.

For further information, please visit: [www.gi-assessment.co.uk/assessments/cat4/](http://www.gi-assessment.co.uk/assessments/cat4/)

## Health Care Plans

We are undertaking our annual review of Student Healthcare Plans to ensure we are effectively meeting individual healthcare needs. You will have received a letter this week asking you to provide details of any medical conditions your child may have and that the school should in turn be made aware of. Using this information we will work alongside the school nurse to ensure that a comprehensive Health Care Plan is in place.



[www.facebook.com/stjohnsschoolcyprus](https://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

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## Headteacher's Surgery

On Friday 23rd September 0900—1000hrs, parents and/or members of the BFC community are welcome to drop in without appointment to meet the Headteacher, Colin Guyton to discuss any ideas or issues concerning St John's School.

This approach draws similarities from the MP Local Constituency Surgeries you maybe familiar with in the UK and it is hoped that it will prove a useful opportunity to share ideas that help improve the provision we provide to the young people in our care

## Year 11 and 13 Parents Afternoon

**Monday 26th September 1430 - 1600hrs**

Parents of students in Year 11 and 13 will have already received a letter inviting them to the upcoming parents afternoon, which will be one of two held across this academic year. Students should be making appointments.

Either side of this parents afternoon, a parent meeting will take place for students attending the upcoming Geography Residential trip. Parents are encourage to attend between 1415hrs and 1430hrs or between 1730-1745, where further trip details will be given.

## Upcoming School Events

### Next Week

Monday 19th September	Bank Holiday—HM Queen Elizabeth's State Funeral
Tuesday 20th September	Cognitive Ability Testing for students without prior attainment data
Thursday 22nd September	Facebook Live—School Improvement Priorities 2022-23
Friday 23rd September	Headteachers Surgery 0900—1000 No booking required

### Next Week

Monday 26th September	Year 11 and 13 Parents Afternoon—1430—1700hrs Pupil Attitude to Self and School (PASS) Assessments
Friday 30th September	SJS Coffee Morning 0800—1000 Bookings required via <a href="mailto:SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org">SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org</a>