



Newsletter

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Dear Families,

On Thursday I had the opportunity to present to stakeholders via Facebook Live our School Improvement Priorities that will guide the year to come. Thank you to those that joined.



During the early part of this week, I was delighted to welcome Mr Richard Sproson the Headteacher of King Richard School in Dhekelia. A very experienced colleague, Richard undertook a peer review of our school evaluation and planning documentation. These important documents underpin our approach and expand in greater detail the school improvement priorities that I discussed on Thursday with stakeholders. Grateful for his keen eye and challenging questions, we are now in a position to finalise these documents for presentation to our School Governing Committee and colleagues in the Department for Children's Services (DCS) both here in Cyprus and in Upavon in Wiltshire for their final approval.

As part of Richard's visit, I was proud to join Richard in visiting lessons taking place in English, Maths and Science. As expected our students were impeccable and Richard comment positively upon their high levels of engagement supported by each lessons purposeful nature. Richard also commented positively upon the early signifiers of school improvement, citing a transformation in the expectations of our Sixth Form students and our whole school approach to teaching and learning. To receive this external validation of the improvements being made at St John's School was a proud moment that I am pleased to be able to share with you. It also provides me with an excellent opportunity to thank both staff and students for their support and commitment in ensuring we progress rapidly towards 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.

In the coming weeks we will host further visits to help externally validate the progress being made at St John's School in our mission to eliminate educational disadvantage caused by mobility. This will include the first of six visits by colleagues from DCS who make up a school improvement advisory team. They are due to visit on Tuesday 18th October and I will update you on their visit during the course of that week.

Mr Colin Guyton Acting Headteacher



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Snack Shack

Our tuck shop provision has proved extremely popular since we returned to school this academic year. Students no longer need to pre-order their food and this has been very well received. We have sold on average 90 sandwiches and 25 jacket potatoes daily. We have also trialled a broadened menu that has included chilli and spaghetti bolognese. Next week students will be invited to shape the menu of the snack shop as we look ahead to the next half term, something they can do via an online survey that will be emailed to them on Monday.

As we review the Snack Shacks provision, we have increasingly been running our offer at a financial loss. Our prices have gone unadjusted for over two years and we are unable to draw upon public funds to offset and subsidise the inflationary pressures that are affecting us all. It is with reluctance that we must raise the prices of the items being sold from Monday 30th October 2022. The new pricing is laid out in the table below:

Menu Item	New Price from
Carton of juice	€0.50
Sandwich (various fillings)	€2.50
Jacket Potato (beans and cheese)	€2.50
Daily Special	€2.50

As you would expect the food served in our Snack Shack is prepared with adherence to UK food hygiene and preparation standards by qualified staff. Our ingredients are fresh and home made complying to our healthy schools status. We hope that both you and your child/children believe that despite the need to increase our prices that our offer represents good value. As always your feedback is welcome and can be shared directly to our Snack Shack manager Mrs Nichola McKenna by emailing:

Nichola.McKenna@MODSchools.org



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Progress Tests—Key Headlines

Early analysis of the Progress Tests have helped to identify key areas of focus, which are common for most students at St John's School.

English

In English our students will benefit from a focus upon:

- Spelling
- Retrieval
- Reading Comprehension

Maths

In maths our students will benefit from a focus upon:

- Ratio, proportion and the rates of change
- Probability
- Geometry and measures

Science

In science our students will benefit from a focus upon:

- Application of knowledge and understanding
- Chemistry
- Working with a scientific approach

Next Steps

Using the data we have gathered we will plan to:

- Ensure our teaching groups are reflective of our commitment to mixed ability teaching in order to eliminate educational disadvantage caused by mobility
- Adapt our subject curricula to ensure gaps in learning are closed
- Implement bespoke group and/or individual interventions
- Plan whole school initiatives that address these focus areas such as spelling and the need to read for comprehension

Progress Tests— Information Session Schedule

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.

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



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EPraise Parent Communication Website and App

To centralise and improve our communication, whilst facilitating you as a parent to see how well your child is getting on at school we are going to use EPraise. We have had access to EPraise for sometime and our students will be familiar with it as a reward system. However, we have invested in a wider range of functionality and we invite parents to register for an online account.



Logging In

You will initially need to register by downloading the EPraise App or by visiting their website via:

www.epraise.co.uk/index.php?school=stjohnscyprus&login=parents

1. Select the parent tab on the EPraise log in form
2. Click the register button.
3. Enter the email address previously provided to St John's School and request the login code
4. EPraise will send an email to the registered email account. This email contains a code, which you must then use as the password to login for the first time.

Note:

The password link remains active for 24 hours so you will need to create the password within that time or repeat the steps above to obtain a new email. Sometimes emails can take a few minutes to arrive or are automatically redirected to the junk folder so it is worth checking before re-registering your account.

Trouble Registering?

Should you encounter difficulties it is possible the email address we have for you is out of date. To update your email address or to notify us of difficulties please email Mr Barber who will gladly assist you in logging on. Mr Barber's email is Dave.Barber@MODSchools.org



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EPraise Website Tabs

At the top of the webpage or app, there are a variety of tabs which link to the information details below:

Me > Settings

Here you can change your password, which we recommend to avoid obtaining a registration code each time you log on. Through the settings tab you can also set your notification preferences.



Me > Messages

Messages will eventually allow you to send and receive messages from your child's/children's teacher. At present it is our intention to use this facility to push out notifications to you as a parent. For example letters and the weekly newsletter will come through EPraise Messages.

My Children > Profile

You can view your child/children's profiles under the my Children Tab. Here you can see their school attendance, reward point tally and timetable. Further functionality will be launched in due course.

My Children > Planner

Here you will be able to view all of your child's/children's homework and notes set by their teachers. You will have the option to see any attachments included and can see which are set, due, overdue or completed. This aspect will become fully functional from Monday 30th October.

Community > Get Involved

Here you will see various enrichment activities available to your child/children and where you can sign them up. They even earn points indicated by the activities with praise points in the corner.

Community > Parents' Evening

You will soon be able to see allocated parents' afternoon events displayed here. When a parents' afternoon approaches, you will be able to book appointments to see their teacher. To do this simply select the 'book appointment' button and fill in the details. Further information will follow ahead of the Year 7 afternoon on Thursday 20th October 2022.

Our use of EPraise is in its infancy and we look forward to broadening its functionality in the coming months.



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EPraise App Tabs

Once you are logged into the app you are presented with a menu page and a variety of tabs which link to the information details below:

Profile

The first part of the App you land on is the profile of your child/children at St John's School. Here for each child you can obtain an overview of their reward point tally, a detailed breakdown of where these points have been accrued from and their current school attendance percentage, which can be clicked upon for more detail.



More > App > Settings

Found on the top right hand side of the App. You can find a more detailed menu and the links to the Apps broader functionality. At the bottom of the menu, you can change your password under the header App > Settings.

More > Community

Under the More tab beneath the Community Header, you will also find:

- An overview of the various enrichment activities available to your child/children and where you can sign them up. They even earn points indicated by the activities with praise points in the corner
- A link to Parents' Evenings. When a parents' afternoon approaches, you will be able to book appointments to see their teacher. To do this simply select the 'book appointment' button and fill in the details. Further information will follow ahead of the Year 7 parents afternoon on Thursday 20th October 2022.

Messages

The Messages tab can be found at the top of the App. Messages will eventually allow you to send and receive messages from your child's/children's teacher. At present it is our intention to use this facility to push out notifications to you as a parent. For example letters and the weekly Headteachers Newsletter will come through EPraise Messages.

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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 have made appointments. If you feel there is a member of staff you would like to see, but do not have an appointment, please email Mrs Kate Parkinson at Kate.Parkinson@MODSchools.org who will facilitate making an appointment on your behalf.

Parents of students who attended SJS last year and completed the mock examinations in June will be provided a reproduced copy of the report issued in July 2022. This report will remind you of your child's mock examination grades.

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

SJS Coffee Mornings

On Friday 30th September 0830—1000hrs, I will host another coffee morning for parents. Parents are cordially invited to book a place by emailing 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.



www.facebook.com/stjohnsschoolcyprus

Let's be friends!

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



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School Attendance

Attendance is a significant determining factor to attainment outcomes and GCSE Grades. Students with no absences are 2.2 times more likely to achieve %+ GCSEs 9-4 or equivalent (DFE. 2015).

Last year at St John's School there was a direct correlation between student attendance and GCSE outcomes. Students whose attendance was below 95% achieved 1.26 fewer grades at a Grade 4 or above than their peers.

A key whole school improvement target focuses upon student attendance and we look forward to working in partnership with students and parents to ensure students miss no more than 7 days of school each academic year and maintain a whole school attendance that is above 95% and exceeds the National Average.

Current Whole School Attendance

As of Thursday 22nd September our whole school attendance stands at

96.8%

Attendance by Year Group

Our whole school attendance target is

>95%

<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Percentage Attendance</u>
7	98.0%
8	95.9%
9	97.5%
10	96.8%
11	97.9%
12	95.3%
13	94.9%



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Meet Miss Helen Harper

Head of English and Drama

Hello St John's Community! It is a pleasure and privilege to introduce myself to you as Head of Faculty for English and Drama at St John's School.

This weekend, I will be celebrating four weeks on this beautiful island and I have been staggered by the support I have already received during this time from the school and wider military community.

I have spent most of my life living and working in the county of Somerset – the home of high-quality apples, cheddar cheese and The Wurzels! However, I have experienced first-hand some of the unique challenges that our student community face, being the daughter of a Royal Navy veteran and the sister of a British Army veteran. My mother also worked for the Ministry of Defence and I am proud to now be doing the same. My personal experience is part of what attracted me to this position at St John's and the ethos of the school. I get to combine my passion for teaching and leading my subject whilst working towards our common purpose of eliminating disadvantage caused by student mobility.

Following my BA Hons degree in English Studies at The University of Nottingham, I worked briefly as a Science Technician in a local secondary school. It was this experience that made me realise that I wanted to work with young people in this ever-changing and dynamic environment. I subsequently worked for two years as an English Specialist Teaching Assistant and completed my teacher training and PGCE at schools in Dorset and Bristol. Since then, I have moved through the roles of KS3 Coordinator, Deputy Head of English, Teaching Alliance Coordinator for English and, most recently, Head of English and Associate Assistant Headteacher at a large secondary school in Somerset.

The power of the study of English and Drama cannot be underestimated. The rich skillset and powerful knowledge that is nurtured through these disciplines can unlock a range of opportunities for students in life and seeing confidence and engagement build is one of the most rewarding parts of teaching in this subject area. The English and Drama Faculty at St John's bring a wealth of experience and expertise to teaching and learning which I am delighted to be a part of.

Outside of work, I enjoy music, reading and exploring and I have already sampled some of the historical delights that Cyprus has to offer. You may also find me whizzing around on my roller skates, sea swimming, and drifting across (or falling into) the ocean on my paddleboard.

Thank you for the warm welcome I have received so far and I hope that the start to the school year has been a positive one for you and for the children in your care.





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Military Band Marches St John's School into the Weekend!

It was our absolute pleasure this morning to welcome the Nottinghamshire Band of the Royal Engineers into school during their brief visit to Cyprus.

Students in Years 7 and 8 attended a performance given by a section of the Band where they performed a variety of music ranging from classical to modern day pop repertoire.

Military Bands are a rarity on the island and, when the opportunity arises, it is always great to invite them into school so that our students can experience life as a military musician and have an insight into what this entails, whilst enjoying the experience of listening to live performance.

We are extremely grateful to the Band, and their Bandmaster James Marshall, for giving up their valuable time this morning to come into school to entertain our students.





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Trials / Training :

Thursday 29th Sept, 2-3pm

Tuesday 4th Oct, 2-3pm

You must attend at least one trial to get into the swim squad.

SJS Swim Gala :

Wednesday 12th Oct, 12:45-3pm

SJS Swim Gala Yr 7-10

@SJS SWIMMING POOL (FOR MORE INFO SPEAK TO YOUR PE TEACHER)

Upcoming School Events

This week

Monday 26th September

European Day of Languages

Year 11 and 13 Parents Afternoon

Friday 30th September

SJS Coffee Morning 0830—1000hrs

Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org

Next Week

Monday 3rd October

Black History Month begins

Wednesday 5th October

RAF STEM Day (Key Stage 3)

Thursday 6th October

RAF STEM Day (Key Stage 3)

Friday 7th October

Headteachers Surgery 0900—1000 (No booking required)