



# Newsletter

7th October 2022 | Issue 6

Dear Families,

The week began with celebrations linked to the unification of Germany. Students studying German marked this occasion by dressing in traditional German attire, enjoyed German foods and learnt about the country's unification.

As the week neared its end, all students in Key Stage 3 participated in the RAF STEM days. STEM subjects include Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Facilitated by the Royal Air Force Youth and STEM Team, students competed against one another to design and build a robot prototype that would move hydroponic systems into remote regions of the world where water is scarce. Once built, students coded the movement of their individual robots allowing the robots to compete against one another.



Today as I write, our Year 10 Art students have embarked upon a trip to the Hambis Art workshop in Limassol. It is great to see opportunities like these being presented to students after the past two years of disruption. I am sure the opportunity will provide an enriching experience that is certain to support their academic progress and wider enjoyment of Art. Thank you to Mr Bougeard for making such an opportunity possible.

During the course of this week I was also able to welcome our School Improvement Advisor, Mr Damon Donaldson into school. The focus of Mr Donaldson's visit was two-fold. The first to undertake a monitoring visit regarding our Safeguarding Provision as we ensure our provision remains of an exemplary standard. The second, was to join me in meeting various groups of students to explore how they have settled into life at St John's and/or their perceptions around the educational offer being provided, its strengths and areas for further improvement. The students' insight was, as always, invaluable and I have detailed on page three their feedback in full.

Responding to feedback from students, parents and our approach to quality assurance, we are aware that the pitch of the lessons is currently too low and must be raised to ensure there is greater challenge for our more able students. The focus of our staff is now transitioning to how the employed assessment for learning activities promote effective differentiation and challenge in lessons. To measure the impact of this work I will continue to canvas the views of students and parents, which along with our quality assurance practices, will inform our commitment to continual improvement around our educational offer.

In addition to the activities outlined above, I was also delighted to welcome our new teacher of Maths, Mrs Katy Stevenson. Katy is a permanent, specialist teacher of Maths who will take on a full timetable from Monday.

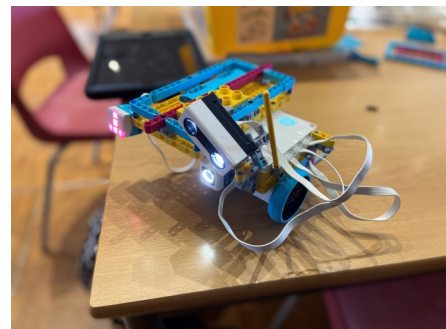
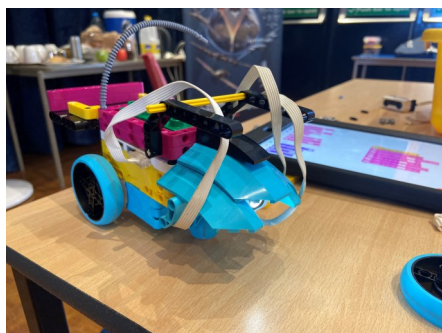
**Mr Colin Guyton** Acting Headteacher



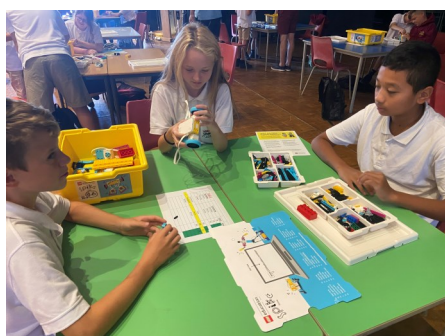
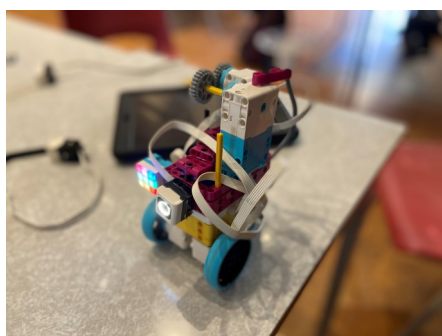
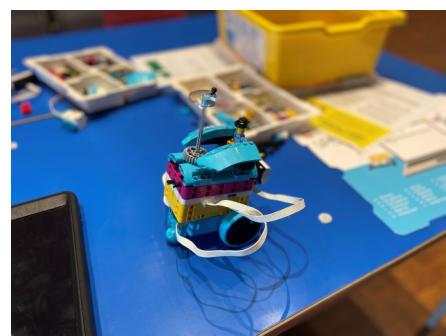
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## This week at St John's School in pictures



### RAF STEM Day—Robot design and development







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Ministry  
of Defence

## This week at St John's School in pictures



Working hard in PSHE



Unification of Germany  
Celebrations





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## This week at St John's School in pictures

Look what we've been  
cooking!





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## Student Feedback

I had the opportunity to meet small groups of students over the course of the week. I was keen to gauge how the new academic year has begun from the point of view of the students. Undertaking such an activity is an important component of our approach to quality assurance.

I was encouraged that students who attended St John's School during the last academic year have observed a noticeable difference in our approach to teaching and learning. Students commended an improved structure to lessons, where they enjoyed the consistent use of a 'do it now activity', which take place upon lesson entry. Students observed that these have been useful in promoting recall of prior learning. Students describe new clarity around the lesson objectives and understand



what they must do to succeed in each lesson. Students reported that behaviour in lessons and around the school was very good, with students who have recently joined St John's saying that it is really good compared to their previous school.



Students, particularly the more able, felt that mixed ability classes have had a positive impact upon student behaviour, ensuring lessons are more purposeful. However, students noted that in some classes there was room for more challenge and it is clear that students enjoyed lessons most when they are suitably stretched and challenged. Students expressed a preference towards the opportunity to teach their peers and when teachers set different work to meet their individual needs.

Lesson variety is key, whilst students felt that quizzes and tests are also helpful so that they can see if they are making progress and what they must do to improve.

Our more able students were very excited by the possibility of an Aspire Programme that would enrich the curriculum through a broader suite of activities aimed at accelerating progress further. The development of this programme and the response to student feedback will inform our next steps.



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## Meet Mrs Katy Stevenson

### Teacher of Mathematics

As the newest member of the Mathematics Department here at St John's School, I would like to introduce myself and let you know a little bit about me. My name is Katy Stevenson and I join the department having recently left a school in Liverpool.

I am originally from the Wirral but have previously lived and worked in Edinburgh, Douglas, Wimbish, Dhekelia, Gutersloh and Wallasey.

Being a mum of two amazing children, I appreciate how important it is that your child is happy and achieving their best at school. I strive to ensure every child feels valued and cared for within the classroom setting.

I am passionate about the teaching of Mathematics, and utilise my teaching experience and strong subject knowledge to ensure that all students make progress. There are clear and high expectations within my learning environment in terms of behaviour, effort and progress. Within the classroom setting I create a positive learning environment in which every student is encouraged to adopt a growth mind set, to actively engage with their learning and achieve their potential.

As part of previous school enrichment programmes, I have lead a number of courses on Photography and Mindfulness and Meditation. I have also supported school productions and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

On a personal level, I will be found most weekends on the side lines supporting my daughter playing football, crafting or gaming with my son! I am an enthusiastic individual with a hard working positive attitude. I very much look forward to meeting everyone over the coming weeks.







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## Year 7 Parent's Afternoon Thursday 20th October 1430—1700

We look forward to welcoming parents of our Year 7 students into school for their first parent afternoon of this academic year. The afternoon will give you an opportunity, along with your child, to meet their teachers in a series of 1:1 meetings. During each meeting you will be able to find out how they have settled across each area of the curriculum.

Appointments must be made in advance of the Parent Afternoon. Appoints can only be made through our new Parent Portal, EPraise. The appointment book will open on Monday 10th October at midday.

Please ensure you have registered to use EPraise, either via the website or App in advance of Monday 10th October. Instructions on how to do so can be found in the pages that follow.

Once registered, to make your appointments, please visit the Community Tab after midday on Monday 10th October and select Parents' Evening. You can then follow the prompts to make appointments for your child's teachers.

### Having difficulties?

Should you encounter difficulties please email Mr Barber who will gladly support you in logging in for the first time and/or making an appointment. Mr Barber's email is [Dave.Barber@modschoools.org](mailto:Dave.Barber@modschoools.org)



[www.facebook.com/stjohnsschoolcyprus](https://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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## TEDX Conference, Limassol

**TED<sup>x</sup> Limassol**  
x = independently organized TED event

On Saturday 19th November students in our Sixth Form are being invited to attend this years TEDX Conference, which is being hosted at Parkland, Luxury Resort and Spa in Limassol. Registration for the event begins at 0900 and the event closes at 1800hrs.

TED Talks are hosted throughout the year and around the world with speakers giving talks on current issues. This year, the theme is 'Living on the Edge'. The conference responds to the fact that "now more than ever, societies are living on the edge. What lies beyond the edge is both exciting and daunting. Breakthrough innovation and technology, economic, societal and political new world structures, opportunity, possibility. If we can avoid the pitfalls, we are on the threshold of exhilarating change."

Our Sixth Form students are an integral part of the next generation, who will be able to embrace and take advantage of the opportunities that come from living on the edge. It is hoped that many will be able to attend, allowing a reduced collective ticket price and an insight into the future, one they can talk about when applying for Post 18 opportunities, including UCAS.

For further information please visit <https://tedxlim.com/> and/or email Mrs Danielle Knight at [Danielle.Knight@modschoools.org](mailto:Danielle.Knight@modschoools.org)

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## Sixth Form Careers

Our Sixth Form Careers Wall has been launched. Students can collect information to support them applying and interviewing for jobs. The wall will compliment what is provided in the Careers and UCAS study sessions.

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## Community Work Experience Opportunities

Should anyone within WSBA be in a position to offer work experience opportunities we have a number of students keen to volunteer. Should you be in a position to offer one of our students to volunteer with you, your department or organisation, we would love to hear from you. Please could we ask you to email Mrs Danielle Knight at [Danielle.Knight@modschoools.org](mailto:Danielle.Knight@modschoools.org)





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## Autumn Exams

This autumn students in Year 12 and 13 who did not achieve a Grade 4 or above in GCSE English and Mathematics are required to re-sit these exams. The students needing to take exams in either subject have already been entered and should have received notification. The timetable for these upcoming exams is outlined below.

Exams Timetable						
Autumn 2022						
Date	Start	Exam Level	Time Allowed	Board	Option Code	Component
31/10/2022	11:00	GCSE	105 mins	AQA	8700/1	8700/1: English Language Paper 1
01/11/2022	11:00	GCSE	90 mins	Edexcel GCSE	1MA1F/1F	1MA1F (1MA1 1F): Mathematics Option F (Non Calculator (f))
02/11/2022	11:00	GCSE	105 mins	AQA	8700/2	8700/2: English Language Paper 2
03/11/2022	11:00	GCSE	90 mins	Edexcel GCSE	1MA1F/2F	1MA1F (1MA1 2F): Mathematics Option F (Calculator (f))
07/11/2022	11:00	GCSE	90 mins	Edexcel GCSE	1MA1F/3F	1MA1F (1MA1 3F): Mathematics Option F (Calculator (f))

Aided by the unexpected arrival of Mrs Katy Stevenson, we have the benefit of short term increased capacity in Maths. We are, therefore, offering to students re-sitting their GCSE Maths the chance to withdraw from their usual timetabled lessons on the dates below to receive intensive revision tuition to help boost their chances of achieving a Grade 4 or higher this November.

Date	Topic to be covered
Monday 10th October	Number
Thursday 13th October	Algebra
Friday 14th October	Ratio and Proportion
Monday 17th October	Data and Statistics
Thursday 20th October	Probability
Friday 21st October	Geometry



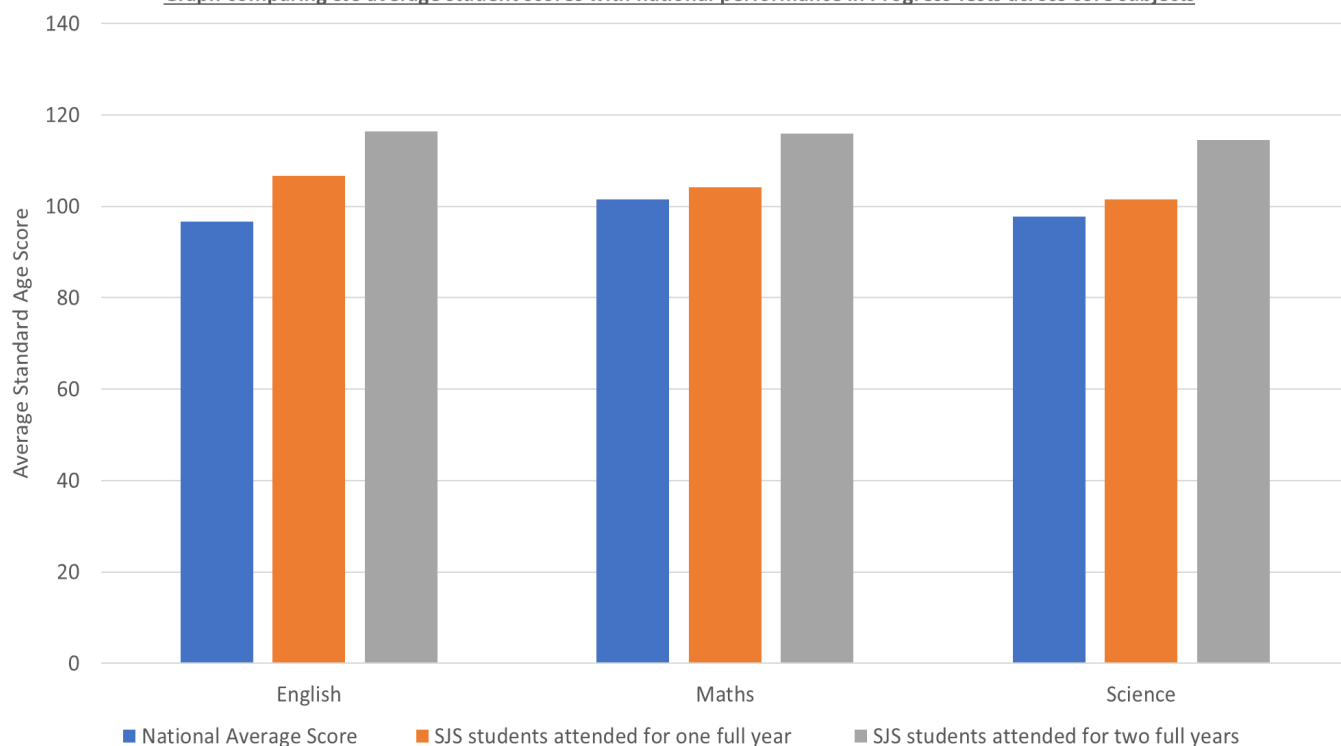
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## Progress Tests—Further Analysis

Students recently completed Nationally Standardised Progress Tests in English, Maths and Science. Analysing the rich amount of data provided, we have been able to make comparisons as to how students who have studied at St John's School for a year or more did against the National Average. Encouragingly, students who have been at St John's School for a year or more achieved scores that exceeded the UK National Average. This pattern was more pronounced the longer a student stays at St John's School.

Graph comparing SJS average student scores with national performance in Progress Tests across core subjects



In realising our whole school priority to ensure St John's School ranks in the Top 5% of schools nationally for student progress, there is still much to do. We are aware that hidden within these comparisons our students score below the national average in their proficiency around spelling, reading comprehension and retrieval, numeracy, including multiplication and algebra, geometry and chemistry and working scientifically. The gaps that exist when comparing our students to the national picture will guide our approach in lessons and through our approach to homework at Key Stage 3, with further information to follow prior to the half term.

We have also identified a pressing need to extend our more able students and will look to launch a SJS Scholars Programme led by Mrs Alison Cambridge in the second half of this term. Students identified as being more able, as defined by an average Standard Age Score (SAS) that exceeds 115 in all three Progress Tests.



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Ministry  
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## Kooth: Mental health and wellbeing support for your child

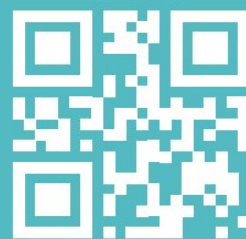
We are aware that many of our pupils can go through various challenges and difficulties with their mental health and wellbeing throughout their time at school. We would like to help ensure your child is aware of how they can access mental health and wellbeing support whenever they need it.

The MOD has commissioned Kooth for children and young people aged between 11-19 years of age. Kooth is a free, safe and anonymous digital mental health and wellbeing service that provides access to mental health and wellbeing support all year round.

**kooth**



## Big changes can be hard at times



Visit **kooth.com/mod**  
to get started





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Ministry  
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## Kooth: Mental health and wellbeing support for your child

Kooth is a BACP accredited service (British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy) and is a trusted support provider of the NHS. So you can trust them.

### The support options include:

- Live chat or messaging with qualified mental health practitioners
- Moderated community support from other children and young people
- Self help tools and activities
- Helpful articles

### It's also worth noting that:

- No GP referral is required to join Kooth. Your child can self refer at anytime
- Your child will be anonymous
- Kooth is free and there are no hidden costs
- Kooth is safely moderated to ensure no bullying takes place.

**kooth**

**Feel like you  
could use some  
emotional support?**

No problem is too small at Kooth. Explore our mental wellbeing community for free, safe and anonymous support.

Scan me to get started or visit [kooth.com/mod](https://kooth.com/mod)

ROYAL NAVY ARMY ROYAL AIR FORCE



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## Parent View

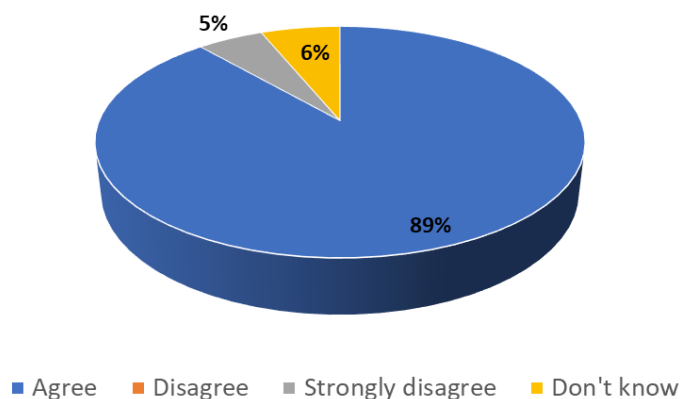
Parents are encouraged to record via 'Ofsted Parent View' their thoughts and opinions of their child's school provision and experience. Often these surveys are completed during an inspection, however you can provide your view at anytime by visiting :

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

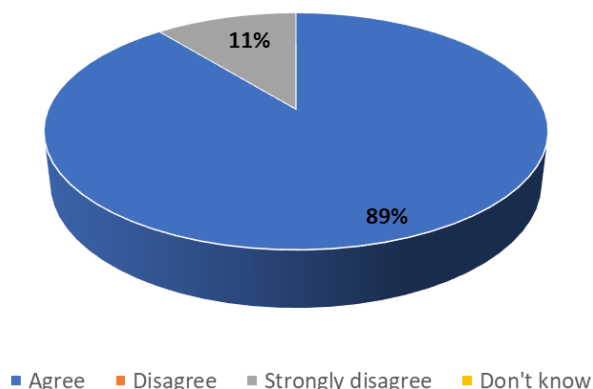


During our recent Parents Afternoon we invited parents to share their view using the Ofsted Parent View questions and I was encouraged by the views of our Year 11 and 13 parents towards our school. I look forward to canvassing further views in due course and feed these views into our continuous evaluation of our whole school performance. Your views are essential in guiding our progress in making you our community proud of St John's School. Last week I shared parental views towards their child's safety at school. This week, I am sharing parental views around expectations and success at school

My child does well at this school



The school has high expectations for my child





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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](http://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](mailto: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.

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



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## Community Volunteer Opportunity

In the coming weeks a community group of volunteers are organising a clean up of Akrotiri Village. They are keen to include families of students from St John's School who maybe able to volunteer part of their afternoon to help remove litter discarded on the roads around the village. The event is organised with the support of SBA Police and should you be willing and able to support you can find details of the organisers in the poster below.

The poster features a background image of discarded tires and plastic waste. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner. At the top, it states the organizers: 'Coeur de Lions Lions Club of Limassol and SBA Police present'. The main title 'Akrotiri Village PROGRESSIVE Cleanup!' is prominently displayed in the center. Below this, the dates 'Saturday, 15 October 2022 and Saturday, 29 October, 2022' and the time '3:00 - 5:00 PM' are listed. A section titled 'ALL COVID-19 RESTRICTION MEASURES WILL BE ENFORCED' includes a note about refreshments provided by Akrotiri Perfect Pizza. A map on the left shows the starting point at the RAF Akrotiri main gate, with an orange arrow pointing to the location. Logos for the SBA Police, Coeur de Lion Lions Club of Limassol, and Lions International are shown on the right. At the bottom, logos for Lordos United Group, Save Your Hood, and the Cyprus Red Cross are displayed, along with a statement that all supplies and tools are provided by donation. A yellow banner at the very bottom contains contact information for further details.

Coeur de Lions Lions Club of Limassol  
and SBA Police  
*present*

**Akrotiri Village  
PROGRESSIVE Cleanup!**

Saturday, 15 October 2022  
and  
Saturday, 29 October, 2022  
**3:00 - 5:00 PM**

**ALL COVID-19 RESTRICTION MEASURES WILL BE ENFORCED**  
Refreshments provided generously by Akrotiri Perfect Pizza following event

Starting point  
RAF Akrotiri  
main gate

Lordos  
UNITED GROUP

SAVE YOUR  
HOOD

SA  
KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

Coeur de Lion  
Lions Club of Limassol

LIONS  
INTERNATIONAL

All supplies and tools provided by donation, thanks in part to our sponsors

**FOR INFORMATION: TEXT +99 183654 (TIMI) OR +99 418407 (SGT ANDREAS)**





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## SJS Coffee Mornings

On Friday 14th October 0830—1000 hrs, I will host another coffee morning for parents. Parents are cordially invited to book a place by emailing [SJS.Enquiries@modschoools.org](mailto:SJS.Enquiries@modschoools.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.

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## Parent Forum

On Thursday 13th October 2022 at 1500 hrs I will be hosting this year's first Parent Forum. Running once each half-term, parents are cordially invited to attend. Each forum will look to explore new initiatives, policy and/or issues affecting St John's School.

This term's Parent Forum will take place at St John's School in the Teaching and Learning Room.

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## Upcoming School Events

### This Week

**Monday 10th October**

**Fiji Day Celebrations**

**Tuesday 11th October**

**World Mental Health Day**

**Wednesday 12th October**

**Inter School Swimming Gala**

**Friday 14th October**

**SJS Coffee Morning 0800—1000 hrs**

**Bookings required via [SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org](mailto:SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org)**

### Next Week

**Tuesday 18th October**

**Inter School Football Competition**

**Wednesday 19th October**

**Inter School Football Competition**

**Thursday 20th October**

**Year 7 Parents' Afternoon**

**Friday 21st October**

**SJS Coffee Morning 0800—1000 hrs**

**Bookings required via [SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org](mailto:SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org)**

**Progress Reports Issued for all years**

**Last day of this half term**