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Dear Families,

This week started on a real high, with our Fijian community coming together to share with us their celebrations of Fiji Day. It is was an outstanding demonstration of *Community Pride*, which forms one of our seven whole school improvement priorities. After two weeks of rehearsal and preparations the day begun with an extended assembly, where we were treated to Fijian dance, song, geography and history. A real education, which was to

be followed up at breaktime with a wide variety of Fijian cuisine kindly prepared by our Fijian families, and enjoyed by all. Thank you to everyone who contributed to a very successful day.

This week also involved students from St John's competing against their peers in a series of inter school sporting events, that included football matches against Foley's on Tuesday and a Swimming Gala on Wednesday. Each event brought strong competition for students of St John's School, evidenced by some close score lines on the field and photo finishes in the pool. Thank you to all of the students who keenly competed and represented our school and St John's Community—we are proud!

Elsewhere this week, my leadership team had the opportunity to meet with colleagues from King Richard School (KRS) in Dhekelia Garrison. Historically the schools worked very closely, however with Covid -19 this partnership has dwindled. Over the coming year we are keen to rekindle this close working partnership and will do so primarily through our shared approaches to improving the quality of education, robust quality assurance and the improvement of leadership capacity across our two MOD Secondary Schools. The first step in reinvigorating this partnership will be a peer review of St John's School, by the leadership team from KRS. This review will take place on Wednesday 30th November 2022.

Mr Colin Guyton Acting Headteacher









Fiji Day Celebrations



















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This week at St John's School in pictures

Arts Award students planning their projects.







Black History Month



Ministry <u>of Defe</u>nce

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Upcoming Sports Fixtures

Date :	Football teams: Age / Girls / Boys	School Name, Home / Away
TUES 18 [™] Oct 2-5pm	U18's and U14's Boys	Logos (away)
TUES 1 st Nov 2-3pm	U16 & U12 Boys and ALL Girls Training session	School Training at HV
WED 2 nd Nov 3-4.30pm	U16 B, U12's B , (11 v11) U14 & U18 G (7v7)	Foleys (H)
TUES 8 th Nov 3-4.30pm	U18's & U 14's Boys & Girls	KRS (H)
MON 14th Nov Periods 2-5	Yr7 Leadership day (all Year 7)	HV – Periods 2-5 With PE staff
TUES 15 th Nov 3-5pm	U18 B (11 v 11) U18 G (8 v 8)	Heritage (H)
TUES 22 nd Nov 2-8pm	U18's & U 14's Boys & Girls (including McDonalds stop)	KRS (away)
THURS 24 th Nov 10:30 – 11:30	Years 7-9 X country running event @ HV	SJS, KRS & Foleys (H)





Ministry of Defence

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Meet Mrs Kate Parkinson

Safeguarding Assistant

Hello my name is Kate Parkinson and it is an absolute pleasure to have joined the Pastoral Team as Safeguarding Assistant here at St John's School.

We arrived here in Cyprus as part of the Battalion move in early July and are loving every minute of it. We have been here before, back in 2015, so we are familiar with the Cyprus life and were excited to return.

I have been a Military wife for over 13 years, and have a good understanding of the struggles and complexities that this life can bring.

I have worked in both Primary and Secondary schools and started my school career as a receptionist in a Primary School in Catterick. Whilst

at this school I moved into the role of Attendance Safeguarding Support Officer. When we left Catterick and moved to Chester I continued my role as an Attendance Officer but in a secondary School. After a few months, I found myself supporting the Pastoral Team more often and subsequently moved into the role of Head of Year 9. I stayed with my year group through Year 9 and 10 before sadly having to leave them due to our move out here. After working in both Primary and Secondary education I can honestly say that Secondary education is where my heart lies. When we were told we were moving here I knew I wanted to work in St John's and continue to support young people. I learn from the students just as much as they learn from me! Every day is different and the students always provide 'laugh out loud' moments that other jobs cannot always provide.

I have not always worked in education and started my working life as a hairdresser in London. I trained with Vidal Sassoon when I left school and my claim to fame is working with David Beckham's sister Joanne. Although I qualified in the trade, it was not something I wanted to continue but did come in handy during Covid. My two children Dexter and Alfie were able to remain well kept throughout and even my dog Fletcher benefitted from my cutting skills.

I look forward to meeting a lot of you during my time here and as a non-teaching member of staff, I am always on hand to help both students and parents where possible.





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Parent Forum

Yesterday (13th October), I had the pleasure of meeting with a small group of parents who helped me form our Parent Forum. This Forum began a year ago and meets every six weeks in the penultimate week of each half term. The Forum provides parents the opportunity to meet and discuss issues concerning their child's experience here at St John's School.

This year's Parent Forum series began with an evaluation of our whole school improvement priorities and the early progress being made towards them. We looked at the following strands in detail:



Community Pride

Parents articulated a community feeling of renewed optimism that surrounds the school and its strategic direction of travel. However, this optimism is tempered slightly by the need to be patient to see how this early promise manifests itself into concrete actions and whole school improvement that positively impacts upon each child's school experience. Parents did cite significant improvements in how the school now communicates at a macro level, both in the form of weekly newsletters and through our social media presence. It was however, agreed that effective and frequent communication is still limited at a classroom teacher level and this is something requiring further improvement.

Educational Offer

Significant discussion was had around the quality of teaching and learning in school. It was agreed that the signifiers of good teaching are present and well articulated by students. It was also agreed by all that there is urgent work needed around meeting student needs, particularly those of the more able. Skilful use of student data is needed to differentiate effectively in lessons and ensure necessary stretch and challenge is provided. This is something that the school is aware of and is responding to through professional development opportunities.

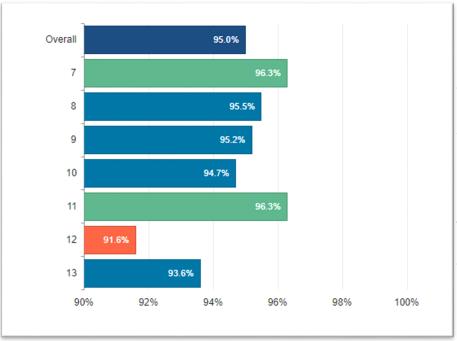
Assessment and reporting was discussed and it was agreed that historically there has been significant grade inflation, which was evident in this year's GCSE and A-Level exam results where the school had predicted students would do better than they actually did. Although reflective of the National Exam picture, we have changed our approach to assessment this year, to ensure that students undertake robust assessments that require recall of content taught in previous years. Assessments are subsequently moderated in partnership with King Richard School, Dhekelia, to ensure an accurate understanding of where students are working at. This will lead to a deflation in student grades in next week's reports, but it will provide an accurate insight into student progress based on standardised testing that can accurately inform appropriate interventions.

Next Meeting: Thursday 8th December at 1500hrs at Akrotiri Primary School



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Attendance



Our whole school attendance currently stands at 95% and is at risk of falling below our target of 95%, which is the expectation set by the UK Government.

As previously shared, there is a direct link between good school attendance (greater than 95%) and academic outcomes.

There has been recent confusion between authorised and unauthorised school absence. Authorised absence, is absence approved by the Headteacher, however, despite its authorisation it is still an absence from school and there-

fore subtracts from a child's overall school attendance. As a school, we have a legal obligation to intervene where a student's overall school attendance is less than 95%, even if there are known and genuine reasons. I am aware that this can cause frustration, however it is very well intended to ensure students have the very best opportunity to succeed from their time here at St John's School



100% attendance – the very best chance of success. Well done if you currently have 100% attendance!



95%+ attendance – your attendance is good; well done and keep it up! Can you manage 100% attendance for a whole term?



93%+ attendance – try to improve on this, week by week. Intervention and support in school will be taking place.



Less than 93% - you should work hard to **immediately** improve your attendance. If you have any concerns, speak to your tutor. We will support you in any way we can.

Should there ever be a time where your child is unable to attend school, please email <u>SJS.Attendance@modschools.org</u>

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UK Youth Parliament

Will Turner will represent WSBA this year, at next month's UK Youth Parliament in London. Will had to apply for the opportunity and win a student election with votes cast by his peers. Over the coming month Will will participate in a wide variety of training sessions, helping him to brush up on his debating skills, his confidence to speak publicly and his understanding of what happens at a UK Youth Parliament in an effort to initiate positive change at a local level. In November Will will travel to London to participate in this year's UK Youth Parliament with the chance to speak in the House of Commons. Well done Will and good luck!

Coventry University School Visit

On Wednesday 19th October representatives from Coventry University will be visiting St John's School to meet with different groups of students. An initial group will be students in our Sixth Form, who will be supported to complete their UCAS Applications, prepare for interviews and explore what preparations are needed to embark upon life at University.

Students in Key Stage 4, as well as a select group of students from Key Stage 3, will also attend a presentation by University representatives that will encourage students to consider University as a Post 18 option. Grateful to Coventry University, we look forward to welcoming them to St John's School on Wednesday.

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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Get into Medicine

Are you an aspiring student of medicine? Students in Year 10-12 are eligible to attend a free live virtual event , which explores how to best ensure you can give yourself the best opportunity to succeed in your aspirations.

The sessions run on:

Saturday 29th October : 1200hrs—1700hrs Sunday 30th September : 1200hrs—1700hrs

Students can register using this link: <u>https://airtable.com/shr66li3bqG3ZpkPM</u>

Scan the QR code on the poster to register.

Once students have attended, they will be awarded a certificate from the Presidents at Medic Mentor to acknowledge that they are a student who has gone one step further than others.

Please note that all students must be accompanied by a parent/guardian for safeguarding purposes.

The Get into Medicine Conference is a comprehensive guide to the medical application process. Dr Siva and Dr Kennedy will cover:

- -Application Timelines
- -How to Tactically Choose Medical Schools -CV Building
- -Personal Statements
- -Interview Schools
- -Medical Leadership and Awards Programmes
- -Accessing Work Experience
- -UCAT and BMAT Entrance Exams to Medical School
- -Accessing Scholarships







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Key Stage 3 Halloween Disco

Tuesday 1st November 2022 | 1800 hrs - 2000 hrs

KS3 students will be offered the opportunity to attend a school disco on the 1st November 2022 between 1800hrs and 2000hrs. This disco will be a school event for students to relax and have fun with their friends.

The event will involve a disco, games and a tuck shop. Students will also be encouraged to take part in Halloween fancy dress for the night.

Students will need to be dropped at St John's School and picked up. Collection and drop off for the event will be from the overflow car park next to Youth Club. Please can you walk to collect your son/ daughter from the primary school gates.

The Disco will be taking place in the Amphitheatre. Students should bring money to buy from the tuck shop.

In order to confirm attendance students must complete the sign up form on the QR code below prior to the event. This sheet will close on the 31st October 2022



For any queries or further information please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Gardiner by email: <u>Katie.Gardiner@MODSchools.org</u>







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Mindful Mondays

We all lead busy lives and sometimes just need the opportunity to slow down and relax. Mrs Stonier is giving students the opportunity to do just this with Mindful Mondays!

Inquisitive, well pop along this Monday and find out what it is all about.

Do not forget, as members of the Armed Forces, you are also entitled to free membership of Headspace an online resource and app with guided lessons on mindfulness, sleep and simply remembering to breathe.

www.headspace.com



Mr Michael Coates



This week we had the pleasure of escorting Michael Coates, a former St John's School Teacher to visit our school.

Michael joined the school in 1970 and was the youngest member of staff at 25 years of age. He left the school in 1974 to return to the UK for a short time and then began teaching in Germany in 1975. This is the first time he has visited St John's School since leaving 52 years ago. It was a very emotional and proud visit, both the school and the site look very different from the 70's. Michael expressed how clean and peaceful the school is. Michael was pleased to meet kind and lovely members of staff who stopped to have a chat. Michael had lots of experiences to talk about, he recalls there being 1800 students on roll and attending whole school assemblies.



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Nut Free School

As you will likely be aware, a significant number of our staff, students and visitors have a severe allergic reaction to nuts and peanuts. Severe allergic reactions result in anaphylaxis.

Nuts and Peanuts can cause severe allergic reactions in a wide range of ways. A person with an allergy does not have to eat nuts or peanuts to have a severe reaction, this can be caused by surface contact and airborne particles. This allergy effects approximately 1/50 children and adults.



In recent years we have seen a sharp increase in snacks containing peanuts and a rise in the use of peanut butter in sandwiches.

As a school we have a responsibility to keep our students, staff and visitors safe and to reduce risk of harm. As you can imagine in a busy school environment this can be a challenge and following consideration, we feel the only way to protect those students is by removing the allergens from the school.

What this will mean?

- Peanut and nut based products will no longer be sold in the canteen.
- Students, staff and visitors **will not** be able to bring products containing nuts or peanuts into school. Items that are found to break this rule will be confiscated and disposed of safely.

What products will not be allowed in school?

- Peanuts and nuts and products containing peanuts or nuts.
- Peanut butter or peanut based chocolate snacks (Snickers/Reece's pieces etc).
- Items where peanuts or nuts are listed as main ingredients.
- Nut or peanut based oils or products.

What products are allowed?

- Items that "may contain nuts" and "may contain traces of nuts" or "made in factories that use nuts" These present a low risk and are not direct ingredients in the products.
- All other non-nut based snacks and food stuff.



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Year 10 Mathematics

Following our first assessment and data capture which will be sent home to parents shortly, I wanted to explain the new class structure for Year 10.

We are fortunate to now have an extra Mathematics specialist in Mrs Stevenson and have, therefore, been able to create three smaller classes instead of two very large classes. This will undoubtedly support better progress for our students.

This has also enabled us to increase the number of students who are aiming to sit the higher tier GCSE Examination which will enable students to be awarded grades 4-9 at the end of Year 11. As always, we have the highest expectations of our students' capabilities and I know that aiming for the higher paper will be a positive step for all of them. It also allows us to move students between sets more easily which will enable us to offer more targeted in class interventions to ensure they are meeting their target grades.

To clarify the setting rationale; Set 10.1 and 10.2 are both following the higher specification and are, in essence, parallel sets when it comes to content, pace and level of challenge. I know that some students were concerned about moving from 10.1 to 10.2 but I would like to offer reassurance that both classes are being taught the same content and will sit the same examination.

If you have any further questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact me at:

kimberley.fox@modschools.org

Miss Fox - Head of Faculty - Mathematics, Business and ICT

Student Leadership Opportunities

Students have been invited to apply for the following leadership opportunities:

- Tutor Representative
- Student Council Member
- Sports Captain.

Is your child interested? Please encourage them to apply by speaking with their tutor or Head of Key Stage 3, Mrs Gardiner: Katie.Gardiner@modschools.org





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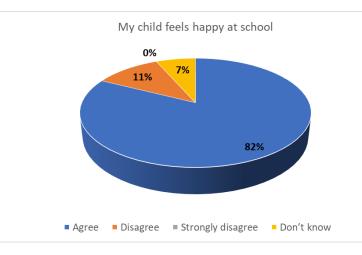


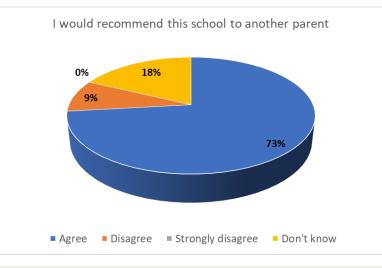
Parent View

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 and 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





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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.



Home Schools Parents Log in Email		
Password		
Leave password empty to reset		
Log in		
Over one million points are donated every month in epraise		
Need help logging in? See our login guide		
© 2022 epraise.co.uk		

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 <u>Dave.Barber@modschools.org</u>

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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's/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 App's 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 News-letter 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 may be able to volunteer part of their afternoon to help remove litter discard on the roads around the village. The event is organised with the support of the SBA Police and should you be willing and able to support you can find details of the organisers in the poster below.

Coeur de Lions Lions Club of Limassol and SBA Police presevil		
Akrotiri PROGRESSIV	Village ECleanup!	
Saturday, 15 October 2022 and Saturday, 29 October, 2022 3:00 – 5:00 PM		
ALL COVID-19 RESTRICTION MEAS Refreshments provided generously by Akr		
INTED GROUP	Coeur de Lion Lions Club of Limassol	
FOR INFORMATION: TEXT +99 183654 (TIMI) OR +99 418407 (SGT ANDREAS)		

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Headteacher's Surgery

On Friday 21st October 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 7 Parents' Afternoon

Thursday 20th October 1430–1700 hrs

Have you made your appointments? Appointments must be made in advance of the Parent Afternoon. Appoints can only be made through our new Parent Portal, EPraise.

Upcoming School Events

<u>This Week</u>		
Tuesday 18th October	Inter School Football Competition	
Wednesday 19th October	Inter School Football Competition	
	University of Coventry Presentation to students in KS4 and 5	
Thursday 20th October	Year 7 Parent's Afternoon	
Friday 14th October	SJS Coffee Morning 0800—1000 hrs	
	Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschools.org	
	Progress Reports Issued for all years	
	Last day of this half term	
Next Week		
Monday 31st October	First day of the new half term—all students return to school	
	Year 11 Residential Geography Trip to Juniper Hall (UK) All Week	
Tuesday 1st November	Halloween Disco (Key Stage 3)	
Friday 4th November	SJS Coffee Morning 0800—1000 hrs	
	Bookings required via <u>SJS.enquiries@modschools.org</u>	
	Progress Reports Issued for all years	
	Last day of this half term	

