



Newsletter

18th November 2022 | Issue 11

Dear Families,

The week began with a visit to St John's School by 15 school and setting leaders in Cyprus for a Headteachers' Conference. It was a privilege to meet with them in order to share with them our school mission and underpinning priorities. This opportunity was followed up with a chance for students to show our visitors around our school, popping in and out of lessons in an effort to share best practice. Later in the week, I was able to meet up with these school leaders and others as part of the DCS Annual Headteachers' Conference, which took place in Limassol. The conference was a fantastic opportunity to share with other schools and settings examples of best practice being undertaken at St John's School. Notably I spoke at length around the work we have done as a school in improving our safeguarding provision, as we continue to be championed as a school of best practice.



Elsewhere this week, Year 7 participated in a team building day organised by our PE Department. Taking place at Happy Valley, students participated in a wide variety of tasks that required them to work together in teams of varying sizes. I was pleased to be able to visit the students at Happy valley on Monday and it was great to see them all so engaged and working so well together.

On Wednesday we hosted our Year 9 Parents' Afternoon. As with previous Parents' Afternoons, it was great to see such high attendance. Listening to your feedback, I am confident that the offer of two Parents' Afternoons for all years is the right model and a significant improvement on what has gone before.

As the week draws to a close, students have attended school in their own clothes. Responding to parent feedback from last year, we have significantly reduced the number of non-school uniform days and plan to have three over the course of this academic year. Today's non-school uniform day serves two purposes - our support for Children in Need, but specifically to raise awareness amongst our students and the wider community around the need to stand up to bullying (more information to follow).

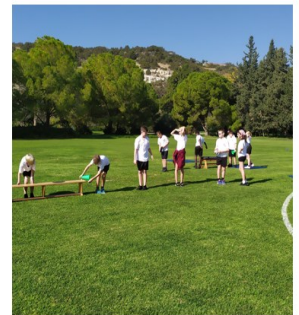
Mr Colin Guyton Acting Headteacher



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This week at St John's School in pictures



YEAR 7 TEAMWORK



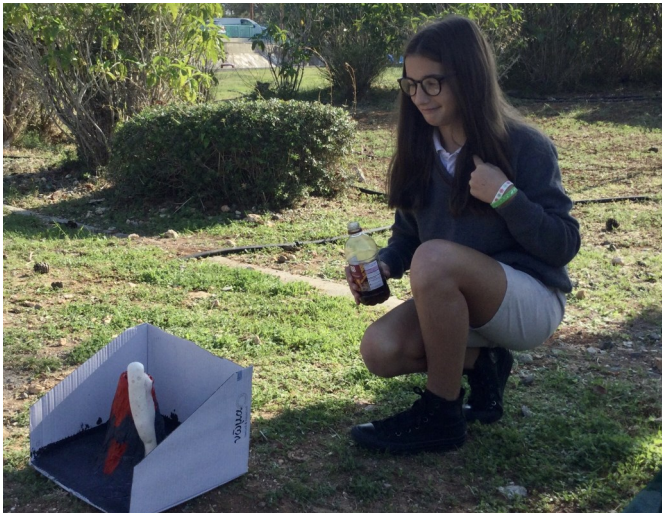
PIC • COLLAGE



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This week at St John's School in pictures



Year 9 Geographers erupted their homemade volcanoes by mixing bicarbonate of soda with vinegar!



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This week at St John's School in pictures



Lunchtime Lecture

This week was the first of our Lunchtime Lectures. Students heard from a member of the RAF, who linked Physical Geography to the work undertaken by our Airforce.

As it was lunchtime, students indulged in trying some of the paste food used on long distance flights.



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This week at St John's School in pictures



British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS) visited St John's School on Wednesday to capture our skilful students displaying their football skills for an upcoming media piece to be aired on BFBS during this year's World Cup.





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Homework Update

Homework is now being set on Epraise and this week over 60 pieces of homework have been set across the school. This includes lots of different activities from researching artefacts from the prehistoric period in History to the reading set for all key stage three students in English.

The school is carefully starting to track how many students complete the homework and after three missed pieces students will be expected to join our 'Homework Club' after school on Friday so they can be provided with any extra help and support as necessary to ensure they don't miss out on the extra learning homework provides.

We kindly request that parents play a part in ensuring all our students complete homework by checking the Epraise app regularly so that you can talk to your child about the work set. Please give them the time and space to complete the work to the best of their ability.

The screenshot shows the Epraise app interface. At the top is a blue navigation bar with the 'epraise by firefly' logo and menu items: Home, Me, Groups, Community, Rewards, Overviews, Downloads, and Admin. On the right of the bar are icons for search, notifications (with a red '1'), and a profile icon. Below the bar, the page title is 'Engineering - 10B/Eg1'. To the right of the title are tabs: All classes, Grid, Seating plan, Graph, Datasheet, Marksheets, Classnotes, and a settings gear icon. The main content area shows a homework assignment titled 'Engineering - Risk Assessment'. The text of the assignment reads: 'In your google sheet presentation add a table for risk assessments and include all the operations using a machine. This includes the milling machine, Pillar drill, Centre Lathe and Power hack saw. Remember to name the process, list the hazards, Give the level of risk (1-4) Give the probability 1-4 and the risk multiple. Then state the control measures. There is more information in the google classroom to help.' Below the text are three buttons: 'Homework' (highlighted in blue), 'Due in Today (18/11/2022)', and 'Set 15/11/2022'. To the right of the assignment text are icons for a calendar, a grid, a person, a pencil, and a red 'X'. On the right side of the screen is a sidebar with a 'New note' button at the top. Below it are filters: 'By due date' (with a sub-filter 'Recent' and 'November (1)'), 'By type' (with a sub-filter 'All types' and 'Homework (1)'), and a 'Settings' gear icon at the bottom.

A number of students reported having difficulties accessing the Google classroom at home and we have unblocked some student devices on the google dashboard. Please can you check at home and see if this has been rectified now.

If your child still cannot access the Google classroom at home on their device or computer please can you email alex.kerr@modschoools.org and we will explore what the issue is and if we can resolve it.

The screenshot shows the Google Classroom interface in a web browser. The address bar shows 'https://classroom.google.com'. The page title is 'Google Classroom'. Below the title are tabs for 'To do', 'To review', and 'Calendar'. The main content area displays a grid of class cards. The first row contains three cards: 'Year 11 Revision' (green background), 'Y10 Music Mrs Edwar...' (purple background), and 'GCSE drama 2021-23' (red background). The second row contains three cards: 'COMPUTNG YEAR 7' (orange background), 'COMPUTING YEAR 9' (purple background), and 'COMPUTING YEAR 8' (blue background). Each card has a title, a description, and buttons for 'Decline' and 'Accept'.



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Extra Curricular activities timetable—updated

Extra-Curricular Clubs and Revision – Term 1 SJS

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1st Break	Nurture hub – wellbeing drop in	Nurture hub – wellbeing drop in	Nurture hub – wellbeing drop in	Nurture hub – wellbeing drop in	Nurture hub – wellbeing drop in
2nd Break	Homework Club – E5 Games Club – Nurture hub Access the google classroom with LSA support	Pride Club E10 - All Welcome Games Club – Nurture hub 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	SJS Christmas CHOIR (all year groups) Languages Club – Mr Gleed Football Club – All students welcome	D of E Bronze for Y9/10 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 st) Netball Club – All students welcome Arts award – Drama room (starts 26th Sept) - All years	Music – Anything goes Christmassy session. Come and jam with a Guitar, drums, ukulele, whatever you like playing. Open to all. Reading and creative writing club – open to KS3 students in N11 (opposite the library)	Music Tech club – Record and mix sound using garage band

Y11 intervention and revision timetable—updated

Y11 Revision / Intervention – Term 1 SJS

'Eliminating educational disadvantage caused by mobility'

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Tutor Time	English - Whole year group 'Revision topic of the week' presentation in science lecture theatre	Assembly	Targeted Maths / Science/English interventions for selected students on different topics – Maths Department	Quiz and social tutor time – getting to know the tutor and mentoring	Assembly
After School 2pm – 3pm Week 1	Staff meeting / training – no interventions	Triple Chemistry (compulsory) AG Set 2 Maths J O'B	Geography Revision Y11 Islam Revision RE Y11	Biology Revision 30 mins (or full hour for non-Business students) Business Revision 30 mins TC Y11 English Guided independent study. Help, resources and support on how to prepare for the English GCSE exams	Y11 Geography
After School 2pm – 3pm Week 2		Y11 Combined Chemistry (compulsory for those under their target grade) AG Y11 Set 1 Maths KF	GCSE MUSIC TOP UP (Y10/11, but open to any Y9 who want to come and make music) Geography Revision Y11 Islam Revision RE Y11	Y11 Triple Biology / Physics NR	Y11 Geography



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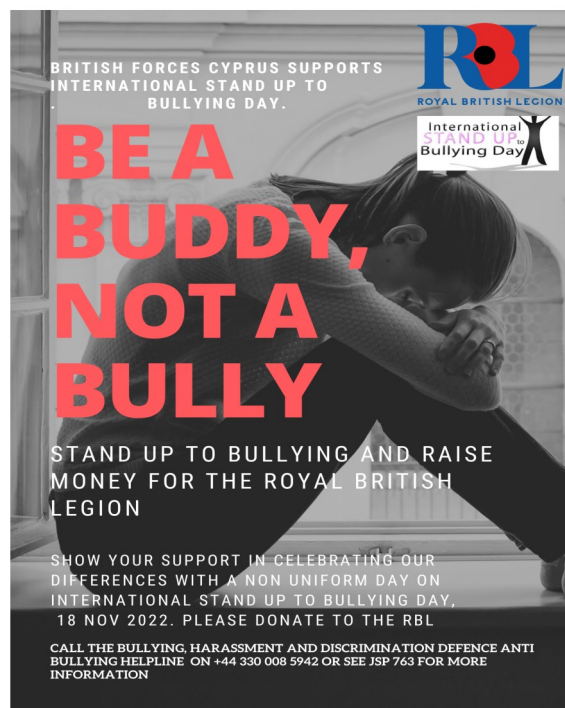


Ministry
of Defence

Stand up to Bullying

On Friday students attended school in their own clothes supporting our first non-uniform day of this academic year. This initiative was in support of International Stand Up to Bullying Day and a wider BFC initiative. Throughout the course of the week, students participated in different activities to place a spot light on what bullying is and what to do should they be a victim of bullying or a bystander to it.

Should you or your child be, or become affected by something you have seen or experienced, in person or online, our school stands ready to help. Students can report anonymously using the school QR Code, in person to a teacher or to one of our Safeguarding Ambassadors. Alternatively, here are some useful contacts for organisations that maybe able to assist.



Advice and Guidance



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





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Assessment and Reporting

As part of our continual drive to eliminate educational disadvantage caused by mobility, we have carefully reviewed our assessment and reporting procedures so that all students and parents receive feedback that helps prepare them for examinations and gain great results. We aim to ensure that any under-performance is identified and tackled swiftly with the appropriate interventions. We want our students to feel like their academic progress is being monitored every step of the way, thereby giving them the confidence to excel academically.

To ensure we provide information to parents that is accurate and useful, the issue of reports and parent/teacher meetings are now as follows (this is a change to the published information in July 2022):

- **Tuesday 29th November: Year 10 & 12 Parent / Teacher meeting**
- **Friday 13th January Reports issued to Years 11 & 13**
- **Thursday 19th January: Year 11 & 13 Parent / Teacher meeting**
- **Friday 10th February Reports issued to Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12**
- **Thursday 23rd February: Year 9 Parent / Teacher meeting and GCSE Options meeting**
- **Tuesday 28th March: Reports issued for Year 11 & 13**
- **Wednesday 29th March: Year 11 & 13 Parent / Teacher meeting**
- **Thursday 25th May: Year 8 Parent / Teacher meeting**
- **Friday 26th May: Reports issued to Year 7, 8 & 9**
- **Thursday 8th June: Year 7 Parent / Teacher meeting**
- **Tuesday 18th July: Year 10 & 12 Parent / Teacher meeting**
- **Wednesday 19th July: Reports for Years 10 & 12**

You will note that there are two parent / teacher meetings this year as opposed to the one last year. This will hopefully mean that we can deal with any issues that may arise during the academic year more swiftly and provide more opportunities for you to talk to all of your child's subject teachers.

You will also receive two progress reports each year which will tell you how well your child is doing in each subject, mapped against their target grades.

Very soon, after Christmas, we will also be inviting parents and carers in to school to hear more about what your child is studying in English, Maths and Science and how you might support them at home to ensure they gain the best possible results.



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Year 10 and 12 Parents' Afternoon

Tuesday 29th November 1430 - 1700 hrs

We look forward to welcoming parents of our Year 10 and 12 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 21st November at midday.

Please ensure you have registered to use EPraise, either via the website or App, in advance of Monday 21st November Instructions on how to do so can be found in previous editions of the Headteacher's Newsletter.

Once registered, to make your appointments, please visit the Community Tab after midday on Monday 21st November 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

UK STUDIES 2023

Scholarships – Fees – Employment

Meet the universities of:

Glasgow
York
Sussex
Swansea
Essex
Strathclyde

and more..

Master's

Bachelor's

Employment
Opportunities

Sunday 20th November 2022

15:00-19:30

Ajax Hotel, Limassol

☎ 25 38 80 11



Parents of 6th form age students, or even KS4 students, should consider attending this exhibition in Limassol this weekend.

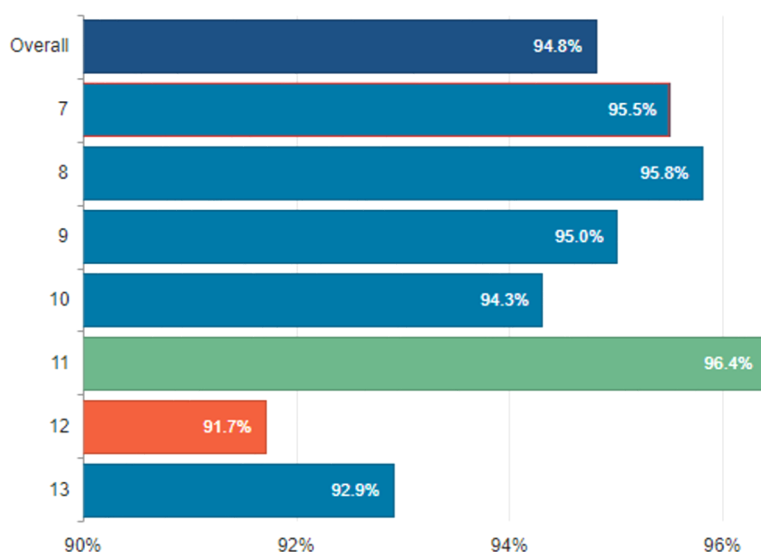
It is a great opportunity to start thinking about the future and it will really help with both aspirations and UCAS applications.



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Attendance



Our whole school attendance currently stands at 94.8% and, although this is slightly below our target of 95%, which is the expectation set by the UK Government, I remain optimistic that together we can meet and exceed this target. Thank you for your continued support around school attendance.

As previously shared, there is a direct link between good school attendance (greater

than 95%) and academic outcomes. At present, our whole school attendance compared to the same time period from the last academic year, shows an improvement of 2.8%, which is a fantastic measure of improvement and something we can all share in.



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 SJS.Attendance@modschoools.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 Afternoons we invited parents to share their view using the Ofsted Parent View questions. I have previously shared graphical summaries that outline your views. Please see below some of your comments provided and, where applicable, our response.

"Brilliant school! My daughter is very happy here"

Thank you for sharing this with us, we are delighted that your daughter feels this way as we aim to ensure students are highly satisfied at St John's School.

"Possibility of a messaging service for parents to engage with teachers out of hours, for example before school"

Thank you for this suggestion, the school EPraise App has this feature and it is one that we will eventually roll out to parents in the new calendar year.

"I would like it if the clubs are better advertised"

We have now migrated an accurate menu of extra curricular activities onto the EPraise App. Here you will be able to see the different clubs that are available and even sign your child up to them.

"My child has settled in well to St John's and is loving learning at this school. She has been made to feel very welcome"

We are delighted to read this and in talking with students who arrived this summer stand encouraged that this is a common sentiment, I am confident that your daughter's love for learning will continue during her time at St John's School.



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Recruitment Update

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, I returned to the UK with Mr Steve Dixon (Assistant Headteacher) and Mr Robin Edwards (School Governor) to interview candidates for various teaching positions at St John's School. I am delighted that we were successful in our endeavours, having appointed three outstanding teachers. Each teacher will bring to St John's School a wide variety of experiences and expertise enabling them to make a fantastic contribution in both the classroom and across the school.



As you will understand, the onboarding process is a lengthy one, allowing us to ensure the safety of our students through rigorous security checks. This process, coupled with added restrictions resulting from teacher resignation dates, lengthen the process further. The Department for Children's Services (DCS) are aware and are committed to expediting the process as they work with Defence Business Services (DBS) to onboard new staff as quickly as possible.

Position	Appointed	Anticipated Start Date
Science	July 2022	April 2023
History	July 2022	April 2023
Psychology	July 2022	April 2023
Computing	November 2022	September 2023
Maths	November 2022	September 2023
Design Technology	November 2022	September 2023



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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1500-1930 THU 1 DEC 22 - EPISKOPI CHRISTMAS FAIR

1500-1545 - PEOPLE START ARRIVING
1500-1930 - ALL STALLS OPEN
1500-1730 - CHARITY CHALLENGE CORNER
1500-1845 - CHRISTMAS GAMES
1550-1555 - SANTA ARRIVES
1610-1630 - MILITARY WIVES CHOIR
1650-1700 - STUDENTS RECOGNITION AND AWARDS
1700 - CHRISTMAS TREE TURN LIGHTS ON
1705-1715 - SBA'S GOT TALENT DANCE SHOW
1720-1730 - SANTA'S STORY
1730-1930 - SANTA'S GROTTO OPENS
1730-1750 AND 1800-1820 - SBA'S GOT TALENT KEYBOARD SHOW
1735-1750 - SSFAFA CAKE COMP
1750-1810 - MILITARY WIVES CHOIR
1820-1850 - KIDS CHRISTMAS DISCO
1900-1920 - RAFFLE DRAW - 20 PRIZES
1920-1925 - BEST DRESSED CHRISTMAS OUTFIT
1930 - CHRISTMAS FAIR CLOSES



SCAN ME
FOR SANTA'S
GROTTO INFO



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SJS Coffee Mornings

On Friday 25th November 0830—1000 hrs, 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.



**If you don't feel like
you can talk to anyone
else, talk to Kooth**

Use our live chat to talk with one of our counsellors today, or ask our online community.

Sign up for free at
kooth.com/mod



Scan here



Upcoming School Events

This Week

Saturday 19th November

Model United Nations Conference, Nicosia

Wednesday 23rd November

School Governing Committee Meeting

Thursday 24th November

Episkopi Races—Interschool Cross Country Competition

Friday 25th November

SJS Coffee Morning

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

Next Week

Tuesday 29th November

Year 10 and 12 Parent Afternoon

Thursday 1st December

International Market Day—A student led enterprising event

Episkopi Christmas Fair

Friday 2nd December

Headteacher Surgery