



Newsletter

27th January 2023 | Issue 19



Ministry
of Defence

Dear Families,

We had an unusual guest into school at the beginning of this week who was working with our Year 11 Engineers as they looked into which materials were most suitable for the design and production of a range of dog products. It made for an enjoyable market research opportunity with the end user providing valuable feedback!



On Tuesday, we also had our School Improvement Advisor, Damon Donaldson, visit. Damon's visit provided opportunity to standardise our approach to quality assuring lessons, provide feedback to staff and reflect upon the school improvement priorities and the progress being made towards them. Damon joined us late into the evening as we met with our new Associate Assistant Headteachers to discuss and plan their future contribution to the development of the school.

Tuesday also provided opportunity to meet with a focus group of students from across Key Stage 3. I had met the same group of students in October and Tuesday provided an opportunity to gauge any change in their thoughts and views towards the school and our direction of travel. Reflecting upon each of the school improvement priorities, the students remain positive and encouraged by their educational provision at St John's School. Students report feeling safe, they could articulate improvements in whole school attendance, student behaviour, positive relationships with staff and a consistency between lessons and in homework set. A number of students cited that there had been some recent disruption due to staff changes and unforeseen staff absence, but were reassured and looked forward to the arrival of our substantive teachers, who as I mentioned last week will (all but one) be here by Easter.

An aspect of school life students spoke extremely positively about was our extra curricular PE provision. For a small PE department we certainly do pack a huge number of opportunities into a typical week. This week was no exception with our students competing away in a basketball tournament and at home in a football competition. Despite the demands of training, travel and competing, time was still found to prepare for the upcoming Duke of Edinburgh expedition later this term.

Mr Colin Guyton Acting Headteacher



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Newsletter

27th January 2023 | Issue 19



Ministry
of Defence

This week at St John's School in pictures



DUKE OF EDINBURGH



LEARNING





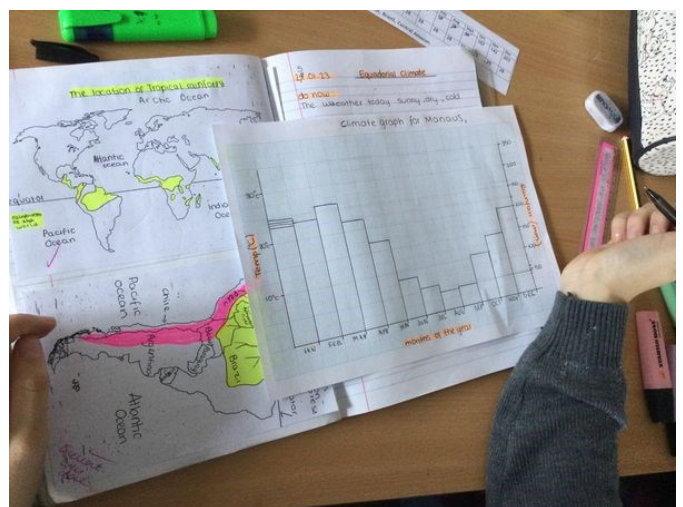
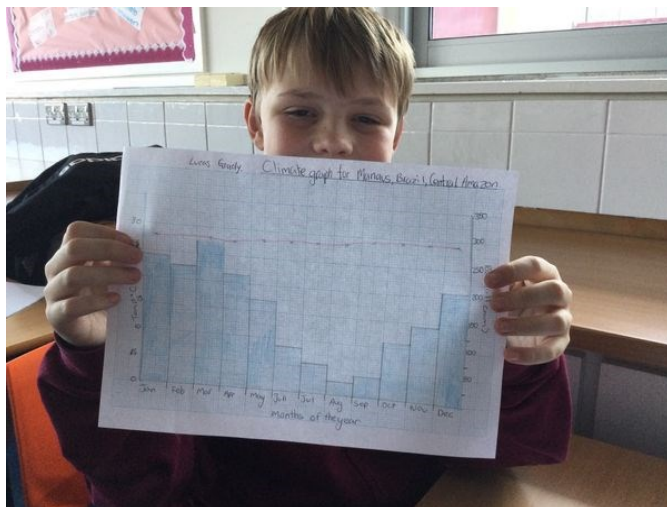
Newsletter

27th January 2023 | Issue 19



Ministry
of Defence

This week at St John's School in pictures





Newsletter

27th January 2023 | Issue 19



Ministry
of Defence

Associate Assistant Headteachers and Lead Teachers

I am delighted that we have been able to create a variety of new temporary roles. Each role is a voluntary position and aims to provide colleagues with the opportunity to gain whole school leadership experience, whilst improving leadership capacity and facilitate succession planning. In total, nine colleagues expressed an interest in obtaining whole school leadership experience, with all colleagues having the opportunity to cycle through both roles over the coming year.

Associate Assistant Headteacher

Those initially taking on the role of Associate Assistant Headteacher include:

- Mrs T Chilman
- Mrs J Edwards
- Mr F Marsden
- Ms N Robertshaw

Each have been assigned a specific role within the leadership team, however it is expected that they will obtain experience in all aspects of whole school leadership by working closely with myself and Mr Dixon.

Lead Teachers

Those initially taking on the role of Lead Teacher include:

- Mrs K Bonar
- Mr J Glead
- Mrs A Pallas
- Ms S Papaioannou
- Mrs H Stonier

A role common within schools in England and Wales, Lead Teachers work with individual teachers to facilitate in the reflection of a colleagues teaching practice. This may include activities such as visiting the lessons of teachers across a variety of subjects to identify best practice. It could also include undertaking joint lesson planning, the subject observation of that planned lesson and paired reflection. The expectation is that all staff have an entitlement to work with a Lead Teacher, who will act as a coach to help provide bespoke professional development.

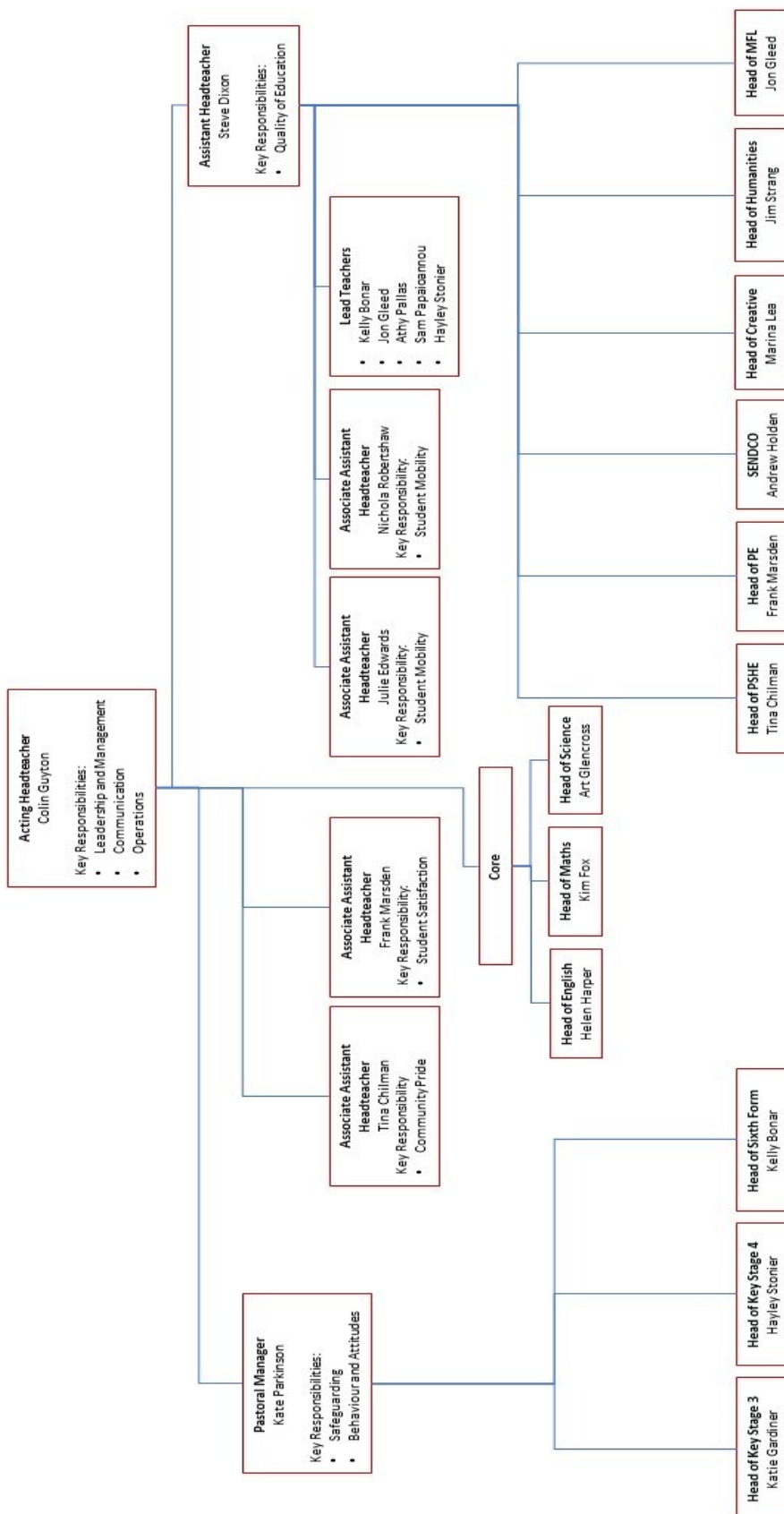


Newsletter

27th January 2023 | Issue 19



Ministry
of Defence



Eliminating educational disadvantage caused by mobility

2022/23
St John's School - Organisational Chart
Educational Leadership



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ST JOHN'S
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Newsletter

27th January 2023 | Issue 19



Ministry
of Defence

Match Report

St John's School Vs. Foley's School

24th January 2023

The supportive cheers of the teachers and the team really made a great atmosphere for the players. As the games went on, both the junior and senior teams stayed positive and played well. Although they may not have won this game, they look forward to their future games as this was a real learning experience against some elite players. Konstantinos, Foleys team, said the best player on their senior team was Antonis and had inspiration from his dad, he also stated that SJS played very well and he enjoyed playing against us. Logan Fletcher said the best player of the SJS senior team was Finley Conlaund. Overall, both teams played brilliantly and look forward to competing again.

Written by Haylei (PE Department Journalist)





Newsletter

27th January 2023 | Issue 19



Ministry
of Defence

Year 10 English Grouping Adjustments

Year 10 English students are currently completing their initial study of 'A Christmas Carol' and are sitting an assessment based on their understanding of the text.

Aided by these assessments, we are now in a position where we have attainment data for both qualifications (English Language and English Literature), therefore we will be making some slight adjustments to Year 10 groupings in order to maximise the support available for certain students after February half-term.

These adjustments will be informed using a combination of:

- Assessment data to date (English Language prior to Christmas and English Literature)
- Prior attainment
- English-specific GCSE target data
- Teacher feedback, in relation to behaviour and attitude.

Students will be notified if they are being moved and the parents/carers of any students affected will be notified by email towards the end of the week commencing 6th February.

NHS Work Experience

NHS Allied Healthcare are providing virtual work experience opportunities for students from Year 10. The next opportunity takes place in February with further dates in March, April, May and June.

During the work experience day, students will follow two patients from their initial presentation to recovery. They will gain a unique insight into how patients interact with a variety of healthcare professionals and what it's like to work in an NHS multidisciplinary team.

Register at <https://alliedhealthmentor.org/product/live-virtual-work-experience-programme/>



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

www.facebook.com/stjohnsschoolcyprus



Newsletter

27th January 2023 | Issue 19

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 affects 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.



Newsletter

27th January 2023 | Issue 19

Public Health Update: Scarlet Fever & Invasive Group A Strep

The UK is reporting a higher than usual incidence of Scarlet Fever and Strep Throat infections for this time of year. In a very small minority of cases, a complication called invasive Group A Strep can occur in children.

Whilst this outbreak is focused on the UK (and not Cyprus) – we all need to be **aware** of this as many of us will cycle through the UK during the Christmas Holidays. Scarlet Fever can be easily caught & spread.

What about Scarlet Fever?

Scarlett Fever is caused by the same Strep A bacteria that causes Strep Throat. It's usually mild but can be easily caught and spread. Early treatment can reduce the impact.

Symptoms:

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever
- A fine, sandpapery feeling rash on the body (pinkish or red on fair skin; harder to detect on darker skin).

If you recognise these symptoms, call a Medical Centre and book an appointment.



Public Health
England

What about Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS)?

In a very small minority of cases, a complication called invasive Group A Strep (iGAS) can occur.

If your child is unwell: trust your instinct and reach out for help & advice.

Call the Med Centre or Out of Hours number (111 in the UK), if:

- your child is getting worse
 - your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
 - your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
 - your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38°C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39°C or higher
 - your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable

In extreme cases, Call 112 (999 in the UK), if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

Public Health Update: COVID-19 / Influenza / RSV

There has been an increase in the number of respiratory illnesses reported both in the Republic of Cyprus and our own population.

Let's protect each other, our families and the festive season by:

- Practicing good hand & respiratory hygiene to stop the spread of bugs. (Wash hands for min 20 seconds with soap and warm water; catch coughs & sneezes in a tissue).
- Staying at home (away from work / school / events) if you are feeling unwell.
- Performing an LFD before attending events (recommended).



Newsletter

20th January 2023 | Issue 18

Headteacher's Surgery

On Friday 3rd February 0900—1000 hrs, 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.

Parent Forum

On Thursday 9th February 2023 at 1500 hrs I will be hosting our Parent Forum Meeting. The meeting will take place at St John's School and will allow, amongst other points, a discussion around current assessment practices at Key Stage 3. Parents are cordially invited to attend, either in person or via this [Teams Link](#)

Upcoming School Events

This Week

Wednesday 1st February

LGBTQ+ history month begins

Post 16 Options Event

Friday 3rd January

Headteacher Surgery 0830—1000 hrs

Next Weeks

Tuesday 7th February

Interschool Football Match—KRS Vs. SJS

Wednesday 8th February

Year 9 Student Vaccinations

Thursday 9th February

Year 9 Student Vaccinations

Inter house Basketball Tournament

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition

Parent Forum—1500 hrs at St John's School

Friday 10th February

SJS Coffee Morning 0800—1000 hrs

Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org

Progress Reports Issued—Year 7, 8, 9, 10, 12

Last day of term—School closes at 1400 hrs

Monday 13th—17th February

Half-Term Holiday

Monday 20th February

Staff INSET Day (School Closure Day for all Students)