



# Newsletter

31st March 2023 | Issue 27



Ministry  
of Defence

Dear Families,

We come to the end of another term. Thank you so much for your continued support of our school, it has been another busy, but extremely enjoyable term. Whilst all members of our school have worked extremely hard, I have to give particular mention to Year 11 and 13, who, ahead of their exams in six weeks time, are rising to the challenge by the day.



As we arrive at the end of this second full term, I have devoted much of the contents to a review of the progress being made in our collective journey of school improvement. Although there is much to prioritise as we move into the new term, I hope that you continue to be encouraged by the progress made and the experience of your child here at St John's School.

Please be reminded that the school will open for all students on Tuesday 18th April at 0800 hrs and we look forward to welcoming them back after the Easter Holidays. Upon our return, we can expect the weather to warm up quickly and students are again reminded of the importance of bringing their own bottle to refill at breaktimes.



Don't forget to  
bring your own  
bottle to refill

Now that the Easter holidays are upon us, I do hope that you all manage some leave and enjoy as a family the springtime temperatures here in Cyprus, or perhaps elsewhere for those who are travelling. Wishing everyone associated with St John's School a Happy Easter and for families observing Ramadan, Ramadan Mubarak.

**Mr Colin Guyton** Headteacher



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](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsschoolcyprus)



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## Sports Day 2023

Congratulations to Poseidon who won last week's Sports Day 335 points to 320 points.

A fantastic day of sport. Thank you to the organisers of last week's Sports Day and well done to all of the students who competed.







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## End of Term Reflections

Guiding everything we do at St John's School is our commitment to our moral purpose of *eliminating educational disadvantage caused by mobility*. Co-constructed with school stakeholders last summer, we are guided by seven whole school priorities as outlined below.

### Safeguarding Provision

Safeguarding provision is '**exemplary**' and supports other MOD Schools in improving their provision.

### Attendance

Student attendance is **above 95%**, exceeding the national average.

### Educational Offer

The educational offer is consistently '**Good**' ensuring St John's School ranks in the **Top 5%** of schools nationally for student progress.

### Community Pride

The community is **proud** of St John's School, celebrating the strengths and successes of a school which exceeds their child's previous school experience.

### ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

**Eliminating educational disadvantage caused by mobility**

### Student Mobility

St John's School is a centre of best practice; eliminating educational disadvantage caused by mobility. **Student progress exceeds 0.38**

### Staff Wellbeing

Staff at St John's School valued; motivated by a shared moral purpose there is a collective sense of purpose and achievement. **Employee turnover is less than 5%**

### Student Satisfaction

Students are **highly satisfied** at St John's School, possessing an attitude towards their learning that exceeds that of all other students nationally.

As we have now arrived at the end of the second full term, I again feel it appropriate to offer you my reflections upon the progress we have made and how we will continue our delivery of each priority as we move into Term 3.

Supporting me in reflection are the views and opinions of a wide variety of stakeholders, including students, staff, parents, colleagues from across the Department of Children's Services (DCS) and informal conversations had with members of our School Governing Committee. We also have a growing amount of in-year data that helps to benchmark where we are in our journey of whole school improvement.



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## Safeguarding Provision

Safeguarding provision is '**exemplary**' and supports other MOD Schools in improving their provision.

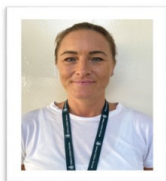
The key priority for St John's School has and will always be to ensure our safeguarding provision continues to be exemplary. Mrs Kate Parkinson continues to act into the role of our Designated Safeguarding Lead, offering a wealth of experience as a non-teaching Pastoral Head of Year and a frequent and reassuring point of contact for many students and parents alike.



### Safeguarding Team



If you have any concerns regarding your safety or anyone else's safety please report it to:



**Kate Parkinson**  
Safeguarding Lead  
Designated Safeguarding Lead



**Steve Dixon**  
Assistant Headteacher  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



**Colin Guyton**  
Acting Headteacher



**Katie Gardiner**  
Head of Key Stage 3  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



**Hayley Stonier**  
Head of Key Stage 4  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



**Kelly Bonar**  
Head of Key Stage 5  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



**Andrew Holden**  
SENDCO  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

EXCELLENCE • LEARNING • LEADERSHIP  
**ST JOHN'S  
SCHOOL**

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



If you have a concern that affects your wellbeing and/or the wellbeing of others report it with confidence.  
Anonymous reports can be made.

Since September the key concerns that have arisen, have included:

- Attendance (13%)
- Behaviour (17%)
- Emotional Health (17%)
- Progress (10%)
- Friendship (12%)



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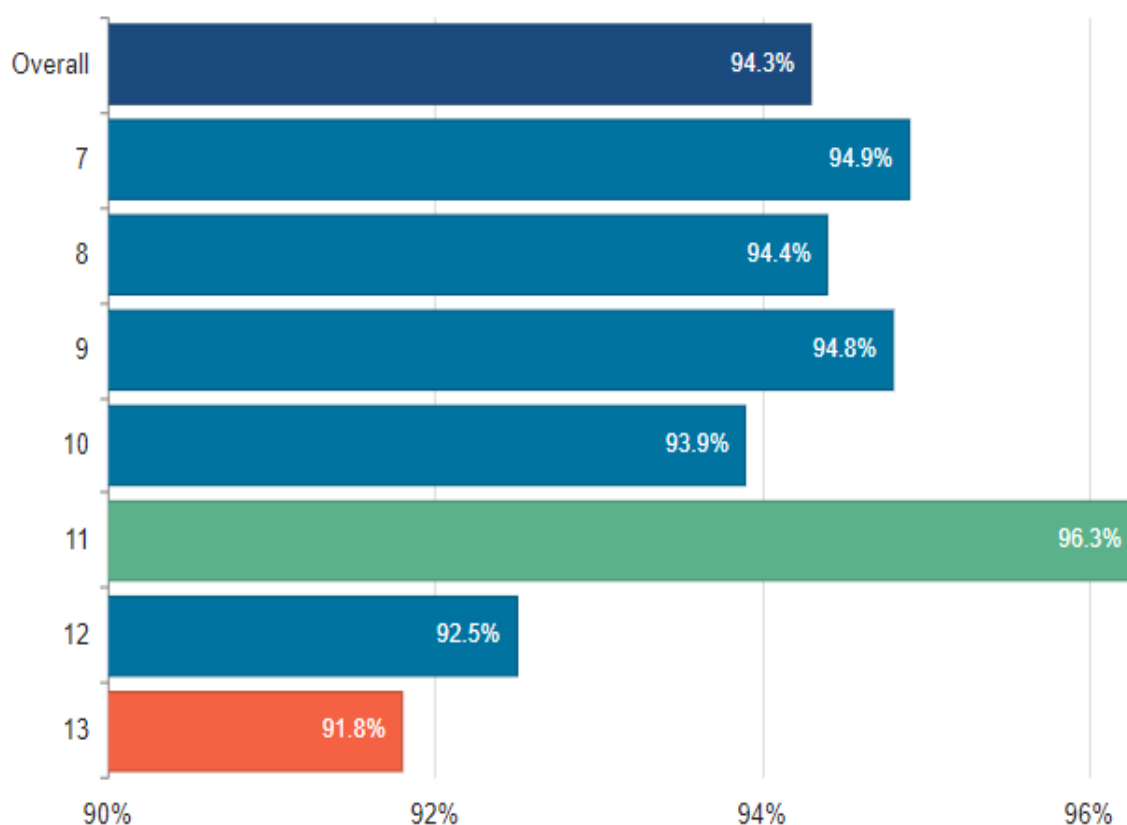
## Attendance

Student attendance is **above 95%**, exceeding the national average.

Overall percentage attendance stands at 94.3%, which although slightly below our school improvement target, is much improved on last year, up by 5%. Our whole school attendance is significantly higher (+3.4%) than the national average for state-funded secondary schools. These figures show real promise that we can realise our target of 95% and exceed the national average. Our interventions to support excellent attendance will continue into the new term for students who are significantly below 95%. Thank you to everyone involved in promoting excellent school attendance, only achieved through effective partnerships between home and school.

### Overall School Attendance

#### September 5th—April 29th





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## Educational Offer

The educational offer is consistently **'Good'**, ensuring St John's School ranks in the **Top 5%** of schools nationally for student progress.

We continue to develop a culture of sharing best practice when it comes to developing our educational offer. Staff, irrespective of role, are taking the opportunity to visit one another's classroom, offering feedback and transferring examples of best practice into their own teaching. Our non-negotiables launched at the beginning of this academic year are firmly embedded and assessment for learning strategies are common place in all lessons. Aided by a new complement of teachers in Maths, our provision continues to improve and our students are appreciative.

Since Christmas we recruited and launched our team of Lead Teachers who are being trained to coach and aid colleague reflection upon their teaching practice. I am delighted that our Lead Teacher initiative is being replicated across MOD Schools worldwide and it is acknowledgement that St John's



School is becoming a centre of best practice with much to share with schools elsewhere.

Looking ahead to next term, we have contracted an Educational Consultant to visit our school in June. As a trained and current OFSTED Inspector, the consultant will undertake a review of our school and our journey of improvement. Providing some external validation that, in turn, will be shared with all stakeholders, it is hoped that it will sharpen our whole school focus ahead of a requested OFSTED Inspection for March 2024.





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## Student Mobility

St John's School is a centre of best practice; eliminating educational disadvantage caused by mobility.

### **Student progress exceeds 0.38**

Students in Year 11 and 13 have just four school weeks left prior to the start of their final exams. The focus and commitment has been faultless. Last week we received the exam results of our BTEC Students who took exams in subjects like Sport, Health and Social Care and Travel and Tourism. Their exam results were outstanding, exceeding those of last year's cohort and evidencing a whole school trajectory of improvement in educational outcomes. We had a total of fifty grades returned as follows:

- 40% of our students secured a Pass
- 50% of our students secured a Merit
- 10% of our students secured a Distinction

The progress score calculates to be 0.61, exceeding our target of 0.38. Such an outcome is encouraging ahead of the upcoming final exam series.



As well as encouragement at Key Stage 5, our Year 11 students continue to evidence improvement in English and Maths with a 14% improvement in the number of students achieving a Grade 4 or above between December and March. We are currently on track to achieve a pass rate in English and Maths of 78%, a 10% improvement on last year. There is also reason to be optimistic for more and it is hoped that this figure may increase to 90% come the final exams in June.

Looking ahead to next term, once the final public exams finish, Year 10 and 12 will sit their end of year exams. These exams will be followed by the end of year Progress Tests for students in Year 7, 8 and 9.



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## Student Satisfaction

Students are **highly satisfied** at St John's School, possessing an attitude towards their learning that exceeds that of all other students nationally

As shared in October, our students possess an attitude towards their learning that exceeds that of all others nationally. This assessment was arrived at through the Pupil Attitude to Self and School Survey which took place in the first half term and makes comparison with students in England and Wales. We will be repeating this external assessment during the first week of the new term, allowing comparison and a further indication of what we must do to improve our student experience whilst they are in our care.

Mr Marsden has picked up the baton in leading our student focus groups. Student groups are compiled depending upon demographic in an effort to cross reference common themes as well as themes particular to a student group. The student groups have included those made up of students from Akrotiri, Episkopi, 1 Lincs, Civil Servants and ability to name a few.

As we move into the new term, Mr Marsden is to develop a strategy outlining our approach to student leadership. Historically it has been a bit ad hoc and lacked longevity, with an underpinning strategy this approach will be replaced with one that is coherent and offers ample opportunity for all to obtain the varying skills and qualities of a leader.

*"St John's is much better than my previous school, everyone is so friendly"*

*"St John's is getting better because we now have more subject specialist teachers"*

*"most people around camp think that St John's is a good school"*

*"We feel safe at school, we know the teachers will help if we need it and people can also go to the pastoral hub"*







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## Staff Wellbeing

Staff at St John's School are valued; motivated by a shared moral purpose, there is a collective sense of purpose and achievement. **Employee turnover is less than 5%**

I continue to be extremely grateful for the support of our staff who, irrespective of role, have had to contend with a change of school leadership, a new way of working and the redefining of our whole school strategic direction. Many colleagues comment on the different feel that exists across the school and I feel fully supported by each and every one of my colleagues as together we deliver for the young people in our care.

We are all acutely aware of the important role we play within the wider BFC community and the importance of providing an excellent educational offer not only for the students within our care, but also as a key aspect of the 'Cyprus Offer' in order to attract and retain the very best talent in support of United Kingdom's military interests.

I am delighted that after the Easter break, we will finally near being fully staffed, as we welcome Jane Byers (Biology), Chelsey Sofianos (Psychology) and Liz Dunmore (Design Technology). We are not expecting any further resignations and, upon the arrival of our Computer Science teacher in August, we will be fully staffed, allowing us to embark upon the next stage of our school improvement journey.

## Community Pride

The community is **proud** of St John's School, celebrating the strengths and successes of a school which exceeds their child's previous school experience.

I hope that you continue to personally benefit from our efforts to improve communication and efforts around community engagement. I continue to be encouraged by the support you afford my staff and I and the faith you entrust in our agenda for whole school improvement. I am extremely proud to meet so many of you and showcase our school be it, as part of a tour, through the Headteacher's Surgery, Parent Forum, a Parent Afternoon and/or one of the many school events we have held. As we have moved through this term and into the next I will continue to seek opportunities that help to bring the school closer to Akrotiri. The fortnightly Headteacher Surgery based at the Akrotiri Hive is just one example and it is expected that we will be sharing an increasing number of our sporting extra curricular activities with Akrotiri, starting with Rugby next term. It is hoped that by doing so parents based in Akrotiri can share in watching their child train and compete.





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## Year 11 Core Revision Classes

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Tutor Time 1400—1500hrs After School	Week 1	English	Assembly	Maths	Assembly	Science
	Week 2	Staffing Meeting	Maths	Geography Food Tech	Science	English
	Week 3	Staffing Meeting	Maths	Music Geography Food Tech	Science MFL	English

## Easter Revision Classes

With three school weeks prior to the start of this years public exam series, Mrs Stevenson is kindly offering students the opportunity to attend the following revision classes during this Easter holiday:

### A-Level Maths

Date: Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Time: 1000 – 1330 hrs

Location: S10 at St Johns School

### A-Level Psychology—Session 1

Date: Tuesday 4th April 2023

Time: 1000—1400hrs

Location: W13 at St John's School

### A-Level and GCSE Art

Date: Saturday 22nd April 2023

Time: 0800—1300hrs

Location: Art Room at St John's School

### GCSE Maths

Date: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Time: 1000 – 1400 hrs

### A-Level Psychology—Session 2

Date: Wednesday 12th April 2023

Time: 1000—1400hrs



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## Mathematics Updates Summer Term

### Year 7

Year 7 will be accessing an exciting new curriculum in Mathematics lessons from after Easter which focuses on depth of understanding of Mathematics.

This curriculum is widely used with great success in UK schools and we are very excited for our year seven students to have the opportunity to learn with Maths Mastery.

### Year 8

Miss Fox will take over the teaching of 8Ma1 who have, until now, been taught by Mrs McKenna. Miss Fox is very much looking forward to working with Year 8 again.

### Year 9

Year 9 completed their assessments and, as a team, we are very happy with their effort. They have been told about set changes in lessons and these will begin from after Easter. Students will start the GCSE content and work towards GCSE Statistics as well.

### Year 10

Year 10 have recently completed an assessment and we are now working towards closing gaps in knowledge that have been highlighted from that test. Year 10 have around 43 school weeks until their external examinations.

### Year 11

Year 11 mock exams were extremely positive and, as a year group, the results for the summer are looking promising.

Year 11 have 4 school weeks until their first Mathematics exam. Students need to ensure they are revising little and often using the 6 week revision plan. If they need a spare copy - they are on Google classroom.

### Year 12

Year 12 will have a full set of AS papers as their mock exams so they need to be starting to revise the content from earlier in the year.

### Year 13

Year 13 have now completed the vast majority of their A level course and need to start looking at the past papers given to them by teachers. The group are working extremely hard and we are excited to see how they do in the summer exams .





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**SLIP** on a t shirt

**SLOP** on some suncream

**SLAP** on a hat

**SLIDE** on some sunglasses

**SHADE** wherever possible

**ssafa** the Armed Forces charity

**5 S's of sun safety**

## Upcoming PE Enrichment Opportunities



### Rugby Training Sessions in Akrotiri,

Thursday 20th April

Thursday 27th April

Thursday 04th May



### Dhekelia Dash

Saturday 22nd April





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## Headteacher's Surgery— Akrotiri Hive

On Friday 24th March 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.

## Contacting the school

Parents are reminded that contact can be made through:

- [SJS.Enquiries@modschoools.org](mailto:SJS.Enquiries@modschoools.org)
- [SJS.Attendance@modschoools.org](mailto:SJS.Attendance@modschoools.org)
- 00357 2596 3888 (0730—1500hrs)



## Upcoming School Events

### This Week

All week

Pupil Attitude to School and Self Survey

Monday 17th April

School closed to students—INSET Day

Friday 21st April

Headteacher's Surgery, Akrotiri Hive : 0900—1000 hrs

GCSE Music Practical Performance

### Next Week

All week

Whole School Health and Safety Audit

Tuesday 24th April

Art A-Level Practical Examination Day 1

Wednesday 25th April

Art A-Level Practical Examination Day 2

Junior Maths Challenge (Key Stage 3)

Thursday 26th April

Art A-Level Practical Examination Day 3

Friday 21st April

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition

SJS Coffee Morning 0800—1000 hrs

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