



# Newsletter

21st April 2023 | Issue 28



Ministry  
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Dear Families,

Welcome back, I hope that you all had an enjoyable Spring Break, whether spent here in Cyprus or further afield.



We welcome three new members of staff to our school community this term. Mrs Byers, Teacher of Science, specialising in Biology, Miss Dunmore, Teacher of Design and Technology and Miss Sofianos, Teacher of Humanities, specialising in Psychology. Having completed their first week they will assume responsibility for the teaching of their classes this coming Monday. Where possible, for our Year 11 and 13 exam classes they will be taught by both our new colleagues and their previous teacher to ensure continuity ahead of their final exams.

The new term began with a whole school staff INSET. This gave opportunity to discuss a proposed new assessment and reporting approach that we are looking to launch in September 2023. This new approach will replace the pathway system that we currently report upon. Further details will follow through future newsletters and parents and concerned stakeholders have the opportunity to attend this term's Parent Forum to be held at St John's School on Thursday 18th May at 1500 hrs, further details to follow as we near the date.

Our students returned to school on Tuesday and have made an excellent start to the new term. As you would both expect and hope, lessons have started with real purpose. In addition to the excellent start to the new term I was further buoyed by the views of our students who have been at St John's School for three or more years. These students reported to Mr Marsden on Wednesday that they have observed significant school improvement over the past year, with the structure of lessons being much better. Particular mention was given to improvements in English, Maths and Geography, where students in Key Stage 3 are enjoying the challenge of answering GCSE exam questions.

**Mr Colin Guyton** Headteacher



[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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## This week at St John's School



Rugby coaching



Aki



PIC•COLLAGE





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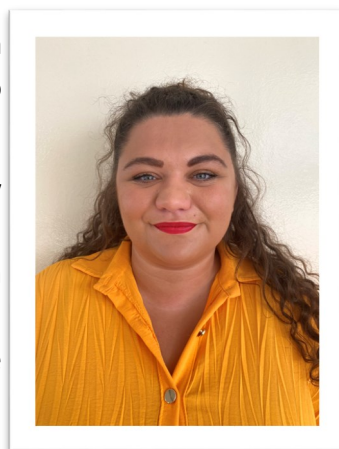
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## Meet Miss Chelsey Sofianos

### Teacher of Humanities, specialising in Psychology

Hello, my name is Chelsey Sofianos and I am excited to join St John's School as a Teacher of Psychology. I am so pleased to finally be here and everyone has been so welcoming already. I can't wait to get properly stuck in!

I'm from Southend on Sea in Essex and I'm the first of my family to go to university and the first to ever leave Southend – needless to say it was an emotional goodbye. My goal when I trained as a teacher was always to move to a Mediterranean country to teach. My family come from a Greek background and I've lived abroad in a sunny Mediterranean climate before, so when the opportunity arose to move to Cyprus I jumped at the chance. Little did I know that the school and the atmosphere here would be equally as wonderful as the country.



As soon as I started learning Psychology during my own A-Levels I knew it was the field for me. I love trying to work out the roots of people's behaviours and try to disentangle whether behaviours are rooted in Nature, Nurture or an interaction of the two. I have a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Forensic Psychology. Forensics (or Criminology) is both a professional and personal interest of mine. I love learning about true crime through podcasts, documentaries and academic research.

I have worked in all kinds of education as well as teaching A-Level Psychology in mainstream schools, including teaching inside a prison environment and working with children in the care system. For this, I've had to use a non-judgemental and friendly disposition to build positive relationships with students. My diverse job history has allowed me to fully understand the barriers to learning and to feel determined to reduce those barriers. Where possible, I enjoy creating engaging lessons and using interactive learning activities so that students remember the lesson, however, as an A-Level subject, I also place a strong emphasis on exam practice – something my students will soon find out.

I am a firm believer that education is about the student as a whole. Whilst the primary focus of education is to objectively increase attainment and progress, mental health, self-esteem and extracurricular enrichment are all equally as important, and each student is as significant and as valued as each other.

On a personal level, I love to travel, read thriller fiction books and create art, particularly painting and drawing. Cyprus is a beautiful country and I am looking forward to learning more about it, and about the students at St John's. I feel so lucky to be here and to work with you all.



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## Leavers—Year 7 to 12

As we start our final term of this academic year, we are actively planning our transition into the new academic year of 2023/24.

As we know, being part of the military community means we see a lot of movement in the summer and unfortunately have to say goodbye to a lot of our families. If you know you will be leaving us before the new academic year, please can you complete the form attached and send it back to the school office as soon as possible. This will help us ensure that your child has a smooth transition to their new school and all the information required is prepared and ready to send across to them. This also includes children in Year 11. If you are unsure of exact dates, or currently do not have a school confirmed, please still complete the form as these details can be added at a later time.

If you have any queries regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Parkinson on 00357 2596 3888 or alternatively you can email at [Kate.Parkinson@modschoools.org](mailto:Kate.Parkinson@modschoools.org).

## Year 6 Transition

A letter with details regarding how St John's School will support students moving up from Year 6 into Year 7 will be shared with parents through Akrotiri Primary School and Episkopi Primary School next week. There will be a number of events to support the transition process, which will also include two Secondary Year 7 Taster Days on Thursday 6th and Friday 7th July 2023. These days will be extended to include all Year 6 students irrespective of whether they will or will not be attending St John's School in September 2023.

## Good luck to Mrs Dakin

Mrs Dakin is flying to London this weekend in an attempt to complete this year's London Marathon. Mrs Dakin is running to raise money for a charity called CRY, which aims to prevent young sudden cardiac deaths through awareness, screening and research, whilst also supporting affected families, further information can be found on their [website](#)

All of us here at St John's School wish Mrs Dakin the best of luck in her effort to complete this year's Marathon. Should you wish to sponsor her, you

may through this link [Angela Dakin is fundraising for Cardiac Risk in the Young \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/Angela-Dakin-is-fundraising-for-Cardiac-Risk-in-the-Young)





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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 27th April

Thursday 04th May



### Dhekelia Dash

Saturday 22nd April





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## 2023 Examination Series

This year's exam series will soon be upon us and begins in two weeks time with the first public exams taking place on Thursday 4th May 2023. As I have previously commented upon, we are both delighted and encouraged by the approach Year 11, 12 and 13 have taken towards their exam preparations. Below you can find an outline of the core revision classes for GCSE, which couple the additional suite of support being provided during the school day for all years. I am extremely grateful to both staff and students who gave up their time over the Easter holidays to host and attend the different revision days run over the holiday period.

Students involved in taking exams this summer have already been issued their own bespoke timetable.

## 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



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## Internet Safety and Cyber Security Event

Internet safety is something which we all worry about with all children and young people. As a school we invite you to attend the internet safety and cyber security event on Thursday 27 April 1000-1130.

We aim to support you in keeping yourself and your children safe online as well as discussing what services are available in BFC to support young people who have been targeted by online bullying and abuse.

At the event we will have presentations from Cyprus Joint Police Unit, the Cyber Security Team, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and British Forces Social Work Service as well as some time to ask individual services any questions you may have around general or more specific issues.

Brunch will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Any questions please contact Miss Fox at [kimberley.fox@modschoools.org](mailto:kimberley.fox@modschoools.org)

## Internet Safety and Cyber Security Brunch

Come and join CJPU and J6 Cyber Security

Learn how to keep yourself and your children safe  
online from the experts in cyber security

Thursday 27th April 2023

1000-1130

Brunch Included

St John's School Episkopi Garrison





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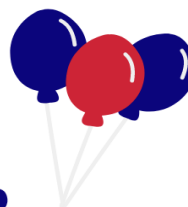


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## CORONATION FETE



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**FRI 5 MAY 23**



**1500 - 1900, Happy Valley**  
Live music, food & family entertainment  
More details coming soon!

**OPEN TO ALL PASS HOLDERS**





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## SJS Coffee Mornings

On Friday 28th April 0830—1000 hrs, parents of students at St John's School are cordially invited to join our coffee morning. Should you wish to book a place, please email [SJS.Enquiries@modschools.org](mailto: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.

## Upcoming School Events

### This Week

#### All week

Whole School Health and Safety Audit

Pupil Attitude to School and Self Survey

Wednesday 26th April

Junior Maths Challenge (Key Stage 3)

Thursday 27th April

Cyber Security and Online Safety Brunch

Friday 28th April

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition

SJS Coffee Morning 0800—1000 hrs

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

### Next Week

Monday 1st May

May Day Bank Holiday—School closed to all

Wednesday 3rd May

Art A-Level Practical Examination Day 1

HPV Dose 2—Year 8

Happy Valley Community Clear Up

Thursday 4th May

Art A-Level Practical Examination Day 2

Art GCSE Practical Examination Day 1

HPV Dose 2—Year 8

Friday 5th May

Art A-Level Practical Examination Day 3

Art GCSE Practical Examination Day 2

SJS Headteacher's Surgery @ Akrotiri Hive : 0900hrs—1000 hrs