



# Newsletter

15th September 2023 | Issue 42



Ministry  
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Dear Families,

I am delighted and encouraged by the excellent start students in all years have made to this new academic year. Staff have been full of praise and the students, although report feeling tired, have been positive in their remarks too!



The routine of the new school year is already firmly embedded and I have been impressed by the quality of teaching and learning that I have already had the opportunity to observe. What happens in the classroom has been a firm focus of each and every year group assembly I have led this week. Students have been challenged to reflect upon their learning behaviours in lesson that demonstrate our new core values of **Integrity, Commitment and Respect**. These behaviours will, along with the views of our staff, inform our 'Pedagogy Wheel,' bringing together a collective community understanding of our educational offer and what can be expected of staff and students in the classroom and beyond. I am hopeful that I can unveil this with you during my next newsletter.

As well as my assemblies, our Student Leadership Team also presented to students this week their vision and structure for whole school student leadership. There are a number of roles advertised and I encourage you to read on to see if there is a role which may be of interest to your child or children.

## Upcoming School Events

### This Week

Wednesday 20th September	Years 7 Progress and Cognitive Ability Testing (All Week)
Thursday 21st September	Marines Careers Event : All Years Head Teacher's Surgery : 0900—1000 hrs @ Akrotiri Hive
Friday 15th September	Grease Auditions 1400—1500hrs

### Next Week

All Week	
Monday 25th September	School Photos— European Day of Languages
Thursday 28th September	SJS Coffee Morning 0800—1000 hrs Bookings required via <a href="mailto:SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org">SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org</a>



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## **Student Leadership Opportunities**

On Tuesday our Student Leadership Team led our whole school assembly launching their new whole school student leadership structure as outlined on the following page.

The structure provides a wide range of leadership opportunities as outlined below:



### **Student Mentorship and Mentors—KS5**

The Student Leadership Team are looking to recruit 6 Student Mentors from across Year 12 and 13 who will provide pastoral support for younger students and those moving into St John's School during the academic year.

### **Academic Ambassadors—KS5**

The Student Leadership Team are looking to recruit 6 Student Mentors from across Year 12 and 13 who will provide academic mentoring for students in the lower school to support and enhance their academic progress and overcome any difficulties they may face in a subject or as they prepare for any upcoming assessments.

### **Leaders of Learning—All Years**

The Student Leadership Team are looking to recruit 10 student Leaders of Learning from across all years who will support teacher professional development by contributing to staff training and allowing staff to reflect upon strategies used in the classroom to improve our educational offer and promote student progress.

### **Sports Captains—All Years**

The Student Leadership Team are looking to recruit 6 Sports Captains who will facilitate the running of enrichment activities, inter school competitions and Sports Day.

### **Community Ambassadors—All Years**

The Student Leadership Team are looking to recruit 6 Community Ambassadors who will act as the face of the school, showcasing the school to visitors and assisting in the design and implementation of school events.



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## Student Leadership Opportunities



Apply to become a **Community Ambassador** using this QR Code

Apply to become a **Leader of Learning** using this QR Code



Apply to become a **Sports Captain** using this QR Code

## Student Council Representative

A more traditional Student Council will run alongside the bespoke student leadership roles outlined above. Two students will be elected from each tutor group and will meet half termly with the Student Leadership Team to examine issues and ideas that impact the student body in an effort to seek ways to overcome them and implement student led whole school change.



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## Relationships and Sex Education

As you may already be aware, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), along with Health Education, is now a compulsory part of the National Curriculum as from September 2020. At St John's School this compulsory part of the curriculum is taught through our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) lessons. These lessons commit to educating the whole child and we aim to provide knowledge and understanding of safe and healthy relationships based on respect. Lessons are planned to encourage the development of positive relationships throughout life and endeavour to raise pupils' self-esteem, providing them with the tools to thrive in the wider world.

We work alongside the School Nurse, Health Workers and a range of professionals to ensure medical specialism and delivery of topics occurs. We use the PSHE Association and government statutory requirements to ensure that our students receive professional guidance that has been judged both appropriate and essential for their age group. As part of the new curriculum, you have the right to withdraw your child from the RSE element of PSHE and should you wish to do so, you are invited to meet with myself and our Headteacher, Mr Guyton, to explore any concerns you may have. Our RSE policy is also available to view on our school website and can be found [here](#).



[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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## Meet Mr Guy Kingston-Bray

### Teacher of Computer Science

Hi all,

My name is Guy Kingston-Bray - although your children may know me better as Mr KB - and I am really happy to be able to introduce myself as the new teacher of Computer Science at St John's School. I arrived here after 3 years at an international school in Mallorca, and before that I spent 3 years teaching in a large comprehensive school in Devon, UK.



I haven't always been a teacher; prior to this I was in business management roles with educational publishers in both the Middle East and Australia and, before I embarked on my teacher training, I took a degree course in Outdoor Adventure Education. This slightly diverse route into teaching has provided me with valuable experiences of different cultures, people, and educational settings and has helped me to become a better teacher.

My role as an educator is to prepare students for the future, in which success will very likely require them to have technical and digital proficiency and so it's really important to me that the children gain these skills. Regardless of their future paths, technology is already playing a large part in their lives and will go on to have an influence on everything they do. Part of my role is to ensure that your children understand how to use this tech to their advantage, but that they also understand the potential that it has to cause problems if it is not used in a responsible, considerate, and ethical way. The school values, particularly those of integrity and respect, absolutely underpin my approach to teaching many aspects of Computer Science, especially around social media, cyber security and the responsible use of the internet.

Technology will also play a huge part in helping eliminate educational disadvantage caused by mobility; your children will be able to access knowledge and learning wherever they are, but they also need to understand this information - where it comes from, who is providing it, and how robust and accurate it is. They will be able to educate themselves and learn to love learning in interactive and motivational ways. They can keep in touch with friends that they miss, friends that they will see again soon, and interact online with their social networks and friendship groups that play such an important part in their emotional wellbeing. My role in this is to help them thrive, feeling safe and confident in using technology.

On a personal level I have a wonderful tribe of 5 children, all at various stages of their education. Two are at St Johns, two are at the primary school and one is (literally) taking his first steps around the house. When I am not busy with them, I love to rock climb, keep as fit as time allows, and drink lots of espresso.

I am delighted and excited to be at St John's at such a positive time in the progress of the school. The atmosphere in the first few weeks has been lovely; I have met all my classes and am enjoying getting to know the staff and students. I am also looking forward to exploring all that Cyprus has to offer!





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## Tracking Student Progress — CATS, ALIS and Progress Tests in School

At St John's School we want to ensure we are tracking the progress made by pupils very carefully. This means that we are able to offer swift interventions if necessary but also tailor the teaching to the particular needs of individuals and groups of students. To provide us with a starting-point, all students sit CATS and Progress tests. Year 12 sit ALIS tests.

All Year 7 and all students new to the school will be taking the tests on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September and Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Year 12 will take the ALIS test during Period 5 on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September. The tests are nothing to worry about at all and students are not able to revise for them. Students will take the test online and the questions are all read out to them whilst they are wearing earphones.

CATs stands for Cognitive Abilities Tests. They are not compulsory assessments but are used in about half of secondary schools nationally to assess children's abilities to think in particular ways including understanding, memory, reasoning and decision-making. The CATS tests will provide us with information regarding the progress we might expect to see during your child's schooling with us.

The Progress tests enables us to accurately measure how students are performing – student by student, class by class and year by year in English, Mathematics and Science. Students sit the tests at the start of the year and then again at the end so that we can measure progress. The results are shared with parents and the report gives an idea about particular strengths and areas for development in the core subjects.

The ALIS baseline assessment evaluates each student's starting point and provides a standardised, benchmark score in 3 crucial areas which research shows are linked to later academic outcomes: Vocabulary, Mathematics, and Non- verbal ability. Just like the CATS and Progress tests, the ALIS test helps provide target grades for our sixth form students.

I want to stress the fact that the tests are nothing to worry about or to spend time preparing for. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to get in contact with the 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 some time 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.



### 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=stjohnscopyrus&login=parents](http://www.epraise.co.uk/index.php?school=stjohnscopyrus&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 [Dave.Barber@modschools.org](mailto:Dave.Barber@modschools.org)



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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/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 first Parents' Afternoon of this academic year.





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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 Apps 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 first Parents' Afternoon of this academic year.