



Newsletter

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**They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.**



**At the going down of the sun and in the morning
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**

Laurence Binyon, Ode of Remembrance



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Dear Families,

It was a pleasure to welcome on Monday teaching staff from all MOD schools and settings to St John's for our cross Island INSET Day. It allowed opportunity to explore the curriculum from 0-18 years, share ideas, advice and best practice.



On Tuesday our students returned and it was great to welcome them back and learn about their half term holidays, whether near or far. On Wednesday we celebrated students in Year 7 who, in their recent school report, were judged to be displaying an outstanding effort across all of their subjects. It was lovely to enjoy a slice of cake with them all and talk about what has been an excellent first half term for them all.

Looking ahead to next week, our pastoral team will lead a series of drop down sessions for each year group with a focus on stamping out inappropriate language in school. Some students have reported that they hear, or are victim of, inappropriate comments that target appearance, race, sexual orientation and/or are highly sexualised. I will write to parents separately at the conclusion of these drop down sessions. Each session will see each year group withdrawn from their timetabled lessons to explore the types of comments being made, why they are inappropriate and how we can challenge comments that do not reflect our values of Integrity, Commitment and Respect.

Upcoming School Events

This Week

Monday 13th November

Safeguarding whole school review

Thursday 16th November

UCAS deadline for applications

SJS Coffee Morning 0800—1000 hrs

Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org

Friday 17th November

Sports Day @ Happy Valley

Children in Need

Next Week

Wednesday 22nd November

Nasal Flu Vaccinations Year 7—11

Duke of Edinburgh - Expedition Preparation

Thursday 23rd November

Head Teacher's Surgery : 0900—1000 hrs @ Akrotiri Hive

Friday 24th November

Duke of Edinburgh - Expedition Training and overnight residential



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New Staff Appointments

Head of Science

At the beginning of this academic year, Mr Glencross took the decision to step down from the position of Head of Science. On behalf of everyone at St John's School, past and present, I am extremely grateful for Mr Glencross' leadership of the Science Department over the past 10 years. I am also delighted that Mr Glencross will remain at St John's School as a Teacher of Science. Leading our Science Team will be Ms Nichola Robertshaw, who, as an extremely experienced former Head of Science, will further develop the faculty, its curriculum and continue to support our staff and students in securing excellent outcomes for our young scientists.

Associate Assistant Headteachers

Continuing from last year I am pleased that Ms Robertshaw and Mr Marsden will continue in the voluntary roles of Associate Assistant Headteacher. They will work with myself, Mr Dixon and Mrs Parkinson as part of the School's Leadership Team, who will also be supported by Mrs Bonar as we continue to prioritise an improving Sixth Form provision.

Our School Leadership Team will also be supported by a wider leadership group, who will meet twice a term. This leadership group will assist in the delivery of a wider set of school improvement priorities.

I am extremely grateful to all of the colleagues who expressed an interest in one of these roles and I am also grateful to those who performed these roles throughout the last academic year.

Upcoming assessment dates for Mathematics

Year 9: Tuesday 14th November period 1

Year 10: Thursday 30th November period 1

School Photographs

It is still not too late to place an order for your child's school photograph. To do so please visit the website below with the unique number provided on your child's photograph proofs

<https://tempest-orders.co.uk/>





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Sports Day 2023

On Friday 17th November we will be hosting our annual Sports Day. Taking advantage of the new athletics track at Happy Valley, parents and pass holders are invited to attend and support our students as they compete on behalf of their respective house—Apollo or Poseidon.

Led by our Sports Captains, the morning will involve students competing in a carousel of activities in their year groups, as timetabled below:

Time	Activity	Year Groups
0815—0915	Field Events	9 & 10
0915—1015	Field Events	8 & 11
1035—1135	Field Events	7, 12 & 13
1200—1400	Track Events	All Years

From midday all students will descend to Happy Valley for an afternoon of track events that will end with the results ceremony at 1345 hrs. Throughout the day parents and pass holders are encouraged to attend, where you may view Friday's events. Parents and pass holders are encouraged to bring their own chairs and umbrellas.

Students should come to school in sports clothes. Students should also bring lunch and/or money to purchase food from a burger van that will support the event. Students should also bring a bottle for water, as well as sun cream and a hat.



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Mock Examinations

As we look ahead to the next half term the mock examination period will soon be upon us for students in Years 11 and 13. The Mock Exams will start on Monday 4th December 2023. The purpose of the Mock Examinations is to provide students, parents and the school with an accurate insight into what each student knows and what exam content or skills need to be sharpened ahead of the final exams in the summer of 2024. In the unlikely event that there maybe disruption to the Summer Exam Series the mock exam grades may play a greater significance in their importance.


To support students in their preparations and revision that they are undertaking at home the school will:

- Facilitate Walking Talking Mocks during the week of the 20th November for GCSE English, Maths and Science. These Walking Talking Mocks will provide students with a teacher led experience of what it is like to take a full exam and the thought processes of the teacher.
- Expose students to different revision techniques that will assist in their revision approach.

For students in Year 11 there will be a further round of mock examinations in March 2024 for English and Mathematics.

Students will receive their bespoke individual mock exam timetable after the half term, however students should already have their revision underway.

Year 13 Mock Exam Timetable (December 2023)

 EXAMINATIONS TIMETABLE GCE/BTEC MOCK EXAMS 2023-2024				
DATE	SUBJECT	START TIME	DURATION	LOCATION
Monday 04 December 2023	Chemistry (Paper 1)	08:30 am	1 hour 15 mins	Conference room
	English Literature (Paper 1)	08:30 am	2 hours 15 mins	Conference room
	Geography (Paper 1)	08:30 am	1 hour 30 mins	Conference room
	Mathematics (Paper 1)	11:35 am	2 hours	Conference room
Tuesday 05 December 2023	Psychology (Paper 1)	08:30 am	2 hours	Conference room
	Biology (Paper 1)	11:35 am	2 hours	Conference room
Wednesday 06 December 2023	Chemistry (Paper 2)	08:30 am	1 hour 15 mins	Conference room
	English Literature (Paper 2)	08:30 am	1 hour 15 mins	Conference room
	Geography (Paper 2)	08:30 am	2 hours 30 mins	Conference room
	Mathematics (Paper 2)	11:35 am	2 hours	Conference room
Thursday 07 December 2023	Psychology (Paper 2)	08:30 am	2 hours	Conference room
	Biology (Paper 2)	11:35 am	2 hours	Conference room
Friday 08 December 2023	Chemistry (Paper 3)	08:30 am	1 hour 15 mins	Conference room
	English Literature (Paper 3)	08:30 am	2 hours 15 mins	Conference room
	Mathematics (Paper 3)	11:35 am	2 hours	Conference room
Monday 11 December 2023	Psychology (Paper 3)	08:30 am	45 mins	Conference room
	Travel and Tourism BTEC	11:35 am	1 hour 30 mins	Conference room
Tuesday 12 December 2023	Health and Social Care BTEC (Y12/Y13)	08:30 am	1 hour 30 mins	Conference room
	Sports BTEC (Y12/13)	11:35 am	1 hour 45 mins	Conference room
Wednesday 13 December 2023	Art and Design	08:30 am	All Day	Art Department


A larger copy and supporting letter has been sent to parents of students taking these exams.



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Year 11 Mock Exam Timetable (December 2023)

 EXAMINATIONS TIMETABLE GCSE MOCK EXAMS 2023-2024				
DATE	SUBJECT	START TIME	DURATION	LOCATION
Friday 01 December 2023	MFL (French/German) Speaking	08:30 am	(Please see subject teacher)	DCS Music Centre
Monday 04 December 2023	Combined Science (Biology - Papers 1 and 2) Triple Science (Biology - Papers 1 and 2) Mathematics (Paper 1)	08:30 am 08:30 am 11:35 am	2 hours 2 hours 30 mins 1 hour 30 mins	Exam room Exam room Exam room
Tuesday 05 December 2023	Combined Science (Chemistry - Papers 1 and 2) Triple Science (Chemistry - Papers 1 and 2) Mathematics (Paper 2)	08:30 am 08:30 am 11:35 am	2 hours 2 hours 30 mins 1 hour 30 mins	Exam room Exam room Exam room
Wednesday 06 December 2023	Combined Science (Physics - Papers 1 and 2) Triple Science (Physics - Papers 1 and 2) Mathematics (Paper 3)	08:30 am 08:30 am 11:35 am	2 hours 2 hours 30 mins 1 hour 30 mins	Exam room Exam room Exam room
Thursday 07 December 2023	English Literature (Paper 1) MFL (French/German) Listening MFL (French/German) Reading	08:30 am 11:35 am 12:35 am	1 hour 45 mins 35 mins (F) / 45 mins (H) 45 mins (F) / 1 hour (H)	Exam room Exam room/Common Room/Conf. Room Exam room/Common Room/Conf. Room
Friday 08 December 2023	English Literature (Paper 2) Physical Education	08:30 am 11:35 am	2 hours 15 mins 1 hour	Exam room Exam room
Monday 11 December 2023	Food Preparation and Nutrition History (Paper 1) Engineering Music Geography (Paper 1)	08:30 am 08:30 am 08:30 am 08:30 am 11:35 am	1 hour 30 mins 55 mins 1 hour 30 mins 1 hour 45 mins 1 hour 30 mins	Exam room Exam room Exam room Music room Exam room
Tuesday 12 December 2023	MFL (French/German) Writing Religious Studies (Paper 1) History (Paper 2)	08:30 am 08:30 am 11:35 am	1 hour 15 (F) / 1 hour 20 mins (H) 2 hours 1 hour 20 mins	Exam room Exam room Exam room
Wednesday 13 December 2023	Art and Design Religious Studies (Paper 2)	08:30 am 08:30 am	All Day 1 hour	Art Department Exam room
Thursday 14 December 2023	Geography (Paper 2)	08:30 am	1 hour 30 mins	Exam room

A larger copy and supporting letter has been sent to parents of students taking these exams.

In September Ofqual released new guidance to schools and colleges on collecting performance evidence. This is to ensure resilience in the qualifications system for GCSEs, AS levels, A-levels, and Project Qualifications, in the unlikely event that government determines that exams are not able to go ahead.

The guidance asks that schools and colleges make sure that students sit mock exams in exam conditions before their formal exams, and that their papers are kept as evidence. One set of mocks for this purpose should be enough alternative evidence of student performance to enable alternative methods of awarding grades, such as Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs), if needed.

The mock exams taking place this December will be the required evidence. This highlights the importance of ensuring they are approached as if they were the final exams.



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St John's School Writers

Following from the poetry from our workshops with Never Such Innocence, before the half-term break, this week we are sharing a selection of poetry from Key Stage 3 on the theme of Remembrance.

Remembrance Day

As I stand with an army at my side,
As I anxiously wait for weapons to collide,
As I stare at the rain awaiting to fall,
As I prepare to risk it all,
I know that soon poppies will grow.

As I wave at my mother through the door,
As I wait and wait ever more,
As I know that dad could never come home,
As I realise that I am all alone,
I know that soon poppies will grow.

As I wonder can you hear me,
As I try to scream and shout,
As another wounded soldier comes through the door,
As I wait for the weapons to fall to the floor,
I know that soon poppies will grow.

As I sit and remember,
As I recall the events of the 11th of November,
I watch the poppies grow.

Florence C (Y7)



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Poppy Fields (Remembrance)

Right where I stood,
soldiers once fought,
all so misunderstood.
now, just a thought.

The massacre was terrible,
lives lost,
lost horribly,
nothing to boast.

The fields were scattered,
full of machine-gunned bodies
blood was spattered,
all now nobodies.

We need to remember,
the people we lost,
because it is necessary,
to show respect.

Families at home,
waiting, waiting,
for the knock, the flap,
of the dreaded letter.

These letters were horrible,
containing sorrowful news,
the most terrible,
the news of the dead.

This Is why we remember,
the families who lost,
everything they love,
because of what is right.

They lost because of selfish acts,
made by psychotic leaders,
sacrificed everything,
for an attempt, all in vain.

Remember because,
it shows we care,
that's the least
to comfort Despair.

Can you hear me?
because if you can,
you are still reading
which shows respect.

We do this because,
we are not like them,
we care,
we remember.

Luke H-S (Y7)



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Remembrance

Remembrance is...love, we can't forget

It makes me feel...desolate

I want to remember...the peace and silence

When was the last time you remembered?

So just take a minute, and appreciate

not one, not two, but all of them.

Why...Why must we suffer?

The most important thing is peace

It's not about the journey

but the destination.

Can't we all just get along

But thus we can't

there will always be conflict upon us

Why...are they heroes or men of torture?

I want to take some time to thank

those close to me and those who are not.

So this is my poem

on how to remember

in the early day of November.

Harry H (Y9)