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Dear Families,



I was extremely proud of our students who attended and, in many cases, participated in Sunday's Act of Remembrance held at Happy Valley. A sizeable student contingent participated in their respective roles, as Cadets and Scouts, whilst two of our Student Leaders laid a wreath on behalf of the St John's School community.



The week began with a Safeguarding Review that explored the continued progress we have made in this important area and school priority. As a school that actively supports others, it was reassuring to have our systems deemed as being effective and that children feel safe at school.

Aside from Monday's Safeguarding Review I attended the annual Department for Children Services (DCS) Leadership Conference. The Conference provided an opportunity to meet with colleagues from across all MOD Schools and showcase some of the excellent initiatives launched at St John's School, which are being shared and, in some cases, adopted by schools elsewhere. Two key note involvements included presentations upon our whole school values and our use of student progress data to support targeted intervention and improved outcomes.

The week concluded with our Sports Day. Now calendared for November, the event deconflicts with the exam season, allowing all students to participate in a wonderful school and wider community event.

Upcoming School Events

This 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

Next Week

Monday 27th November

Year 9 Parent Afternoon @ 1430—1700hrs

Wednesday 29th November

School Improvement Quality Assurance Visit

Thursday 30th November

SJS Coffee Morning 0800—1000 hrs

Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschools.org

Friday 1st December

Mock Examinations begin for Year 11 and 13



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Sports Day 2023





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Sports Day 2023





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Upcoming sporting fixtures

Date	Competition Age / Girls / Boys	School Name Home / Away
Monday 20 November 1230–1430 hrs	Netball Competition Year 7-13	Vs King Richard School Home at St John's School
Wednesday 22 November 1400-1700 hrs	Duke of Edinburgh Walk (Y9 & 10) Please collect from 1710hrs Episkopi Pass Office. The bus will return to Akrotiri.	Paramali
Friday 24 November 1000 – 1230 hrs	Cross Country running event @ Happy Valley Years 7-9 (Race starts at 1100hrs)	Vs King Richard School & Foley's School Home at Happy Valley
Friday 24 November 1400 hrs - Saturday 25 November 1300 hrs	D of E Training Weekend	Happy Valley
Wednesday 29 November 1300-1630 hrs	U18 Boys (11 v 11) U18 Girls (8 v 8) small pitch	Vs English School Kyrenia, King Richard School & Foley's School Home at Happy Valley
Thursday 30 November 1000-1300 hrs	Year 7-10 Swim Gala MOD Schools v Foleys	Vs Foley's School Away at Foley's School
Tuesday 5 December 1300-1630 hrs	U14 Boys (11 v 11) U14 Girls (8 v 8) small pitch	Vs English School Kyrenia, King Richard School & Foley's School Home at Happy Valley
Thursday 14 December 1300-1500 hrs	KS2 & Year 7 Netball Tournament	Vs King Richard School & Primary Schools Home at St John's School
Monday 18 December 1245–1900 hrs	Football v KRS U18s, U14s Boy & Girls	Vs King Richard School Away at King Richard School



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Year 9 Reading at Episkopi Primary School



Over the course of last week, our Year 9 students had the opportunity to visit pupils next door at Episkopi Primary School, where they spent time in the shade reading with students and sharing in the joy of reading.

The opportunity provided an excellent opportunity to celebrate the strengths and successes of our school and help promote a sense of community pride in our school.



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External Review of St John's School

During the week of the 16th October we invited an experienced educational consultant, Ofsted Inspector and former Headteacher, who has worked extensively with secondary schools in England, into our school. The purpose of this visit was to externally evaluate the quality of education, test the accuracy of my leadership team's self-evaluation and ensure that our school improvement priorities and approach to their delivery are valid.

The full report can be found on our website.

As you will be able to read, I am grateful to colleagues who *"feel energised by the new leadership in school"* and can recognise the improvements that have been brought about over the last 12 months. I am also encouraged that our students *"are proud of their school and complimentary of the relationships they have with their teachers"*. I am pleased that *"Leaders, in particular the Headteacher and newly appointed Deputy Headteacher have an accurate picture of their school and detailed plans for rapid, yet sustained improvement"*. The consultant recognised, like I do that despite *"strong practice in school...currently provision is inconsistent and not all pupils receive the same high quality learning experiences across the curriculum"*. In order to address inconsistency the report proposes the following aspects for further consideration:

- How can leaders develop teachers' confidence to plan and implement reading/literacy strategies into their daily planning.
- How can teachers learn from the excellent examples of class discussion to develop confidence across the teaching team to facilitate regular oracy in lessons?
- In lessons (examination classes both KS4 & 5) where pupils are given autonomy over how to record their lesson - How effectively have pupils been taught about how to make notes that are useful and informative for revision?
- How well are pupils taught about revision techniques and how to use the revision guide as an invaluable tool for revision?
- Review the curriculum intent for identified subjects to ensure that there is clarity and understanding of how identified disciplinary and substantive knowledge is being developed over time.
- Where pupils undertake the same practical activity, how can additional requirements be placed on the activity to provide another dimension of planning/thinking for the pupil.
- Do seating arrangements in some classrooms limit collaborative learning activities? How carefully do staff consider seating plans and how often are they adjusted as a result of AFL?
- How often are pupils spoken to about their learning in lessons? Do pupil voice activities currently feed into the QA processes within school? When speaking to pupils in lessons they were more comfortable explaining what they were doing as opposed to explaining what and why they were learning the specific content in the lesson.



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Year 9 Parents' Afternoon

Monday 27th November 1430—1700hrs



We look forward to welcoming parents of our Year 9 students into school for their first parent afternoon of this academic year. The afternoon will give you an opportunity, along with your child, to meet their teachers in a series of 1:1 meetings. During each meeting you will be able to find out how your child is progressing across each area of the curriculum.

Appointments must be made in advance of the Parent Afternoon. Appointments can only be made through our new Parent Portal, EPraise. The appointment book will open on Monday 20th November at midday.

Please ensure you have registered to use EPraise, either via the website or App, in advance of Monday 20th November. Instructions on how to do so can be found in early editions of the weekly newsletter.

Once registered, to make your appointments, please visit the Community Tab after midday on Monday 20th November and select Parents' Evening. You can then follow the prompts to make appointments for your child's teachers.

Having difficulties?

Should you encounter difficulties please email Mr Barber who will gladly support you in logging in for the first time and/or making an appointment. Mr Barber's email is Dave.Barber@modschools.org



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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Armed Forces
charity



flu: 5 reasons to have the vaccine

1. Protect yourself

The vaccine will help protect you against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect your family and friends

Having the vaccine will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid lost opportunities

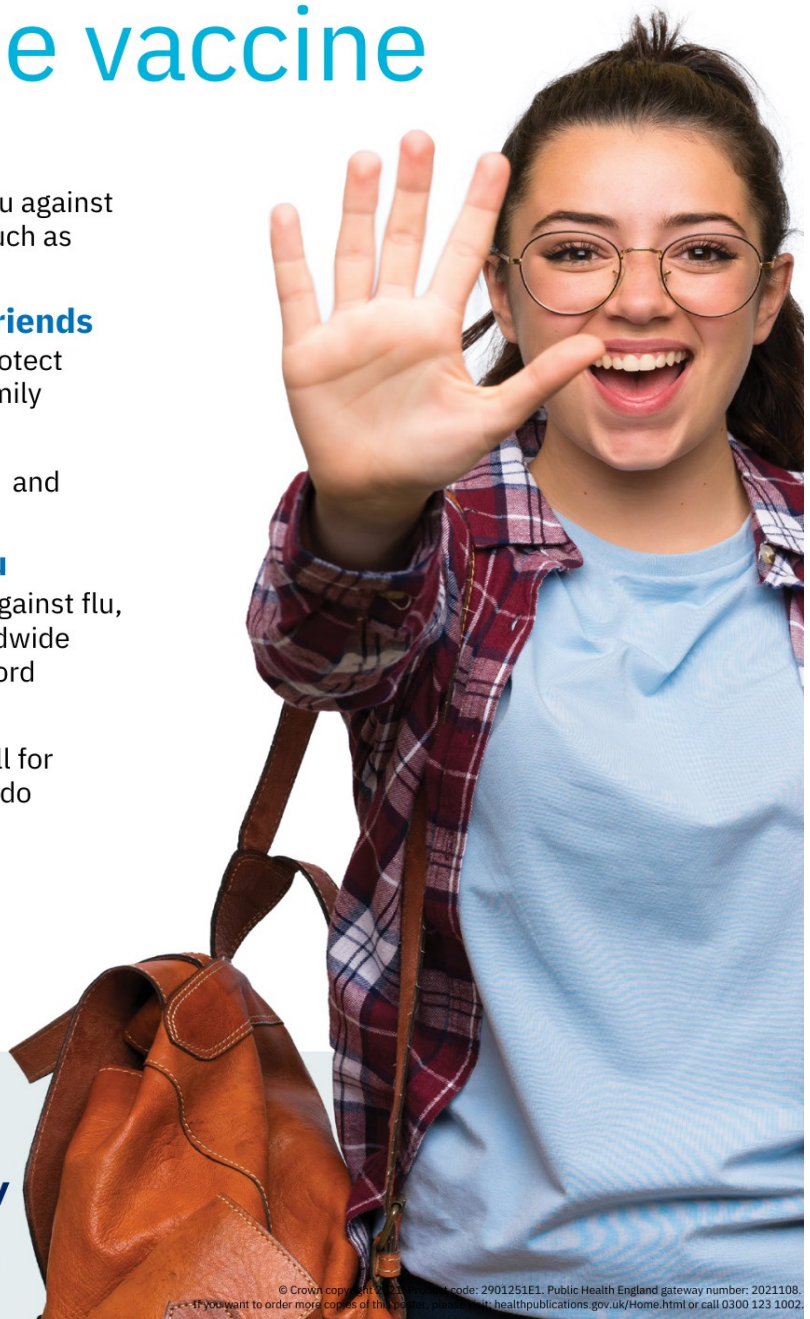
If you get flu, you may be unwell for several days and not be able to do the things you enjoy

For more information visit
www.nhs.uk/child-flu

St John's School
with signed consent forms

Wednesday 22nd Nov

For any questions or further info
please call **+357 2596 3413**





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St John's School Writers

One of our core school values at St John's is 'Respect' and our common need to respect ourselves and each other. In this week's article, Litiana in Year 11 discusses the importance of respect in the context of diversity.

Diversity

What is diversity? Diversity is the broad range of human differences which define and distinguish our society. For example, Gender Identity, Social Class, Race, Ethnicity, Religion, Sexuality and more.

The first element I am going to discuss is the world's plentiful races and ethnicities. Our many races and ethnicities consist of African People, White Americans, White People, Black People, Asian People, Pacific Islanders, Latino, Hispanic, Multi-racial People. Our society consists of such variety and this alone really shows us the significant diversity mankind has.

What is the difference between race and ethnicity which may be the thought that slips into your head? Or not, considering the people who know the difference. Well, race is mainly associated with biology that connects to your physical attributes like your skin tone and hair texture.

Ethnicity, on the other hand, holds a more specific tone, reaching deeper into the background of where people might be from. It involves cultural aspects, history and tradition. Take my culture, for instance. My ethnicity is Fijian and I am a full indigenous Melanesian part of the Pacific Islander community. Even though I wasn't raised in Fiji, I still have a considerable interpretation of Fijian culture and one of the chances I get to learn more about my culture is during Fiji Day (on the 10th of October). Fiji Day is a day where we as Fijians celebrate our independence in 1970 - a day where we celebrate with traditional dances like the Cibi, sing and more. Through this personal example, I have already highlighted the three main aspects of ethnicity which are cultural, historical and traditional.

I move on to another factor of diversity which is religion. There are many religions which involve spiritual awareness and beliefs, like Christianity, Buddhism, Sikhism, Catholic, Islamic, Hindu, Folk religions etc. These religions have had growth over time gaining more followers in the belief and getting more a grasp of the meaning for those who don't believe in the religion but respect it. In religions, there are many things that come under joining the religion or already being a part of it. Examples can include praying, a person's morals, beliefs and prophecy. It astounds me truly, that this majority put their all into their religions and take so much pride in it. As I have shown you this side of things, it gives you an understanding of what the diversity of religious culture is all about.



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Out of all the endless examples of the diversity in our world, why did I use Race/Ethnicity and Religion? The answer is because these two factors are the main reason why our diversity thrives, one of the longest lasting elements of diversity. And yet they come with as many negatives as positives.

With the race segment, all of you must be aware of the BLM (Black Lives Matter) movement which began in 2013 when three female black organisers, Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullos and Opal Tometi created the Moment Project. It started at the time as a social media #, which has definitely grown over time. This movement began after George Zimmerman shot Trayvon Martin back in 2012 leaving Trayvon Martin dead. The movement then grew even more attention nationally in 2014 after the deaths of Michael Brown in Missouri and Eric Garner in New York. Since then, it has continually grown into a worldwide movement, gaining more growth definitely after the death of George Floyd, a man who died under the hands of the trusted police in Minneapolis.

Black Lives Matter has spread worldwide, protesting police brutality and the racism that is targeted towards the black community. Furthermore, some you may know of the 'Stop American Asian Pacific Islander Hate, 'movement, which I was not completely familiar with at first. It is a movement that surfaced during the COVID-19 era and from this very unfortunate display of racism, it caused the creation of a movement. According to statistics, nearly half of American Asians and Pacific Islanders have suffered from discrimination or potentially illegal treatment. And these people who want to take their kids to school or shopping, or go through a normal day at work, face discrimination, get harassed, bullied and some of this discrimination and hate could involve civil rights violations. But thankfully this hate could get reduced due to this movement slowly growing.

Honestly, this is sickening. We shouldn't need a movement to show those people that we are equal. The fact is that in this day and age some people still struggle to understand that we are in the now. The now where we can all live free of hate, free of struggle, where we are all in a balanced society. The fact that some people in other countries aren't that confident in sharing their roots, their background because of discrimination. It's appalling. And it's sad. Not for the people that are struggling but for the people filled with hate. It's sad that they can't move from the past; it's sad that they can't help but see a difference; it's sad that in 2023 after everything that has happened, their opinion on the minority has stayed the same. Because, at the end of the day, the biggest problem for them is someone's skin tone, the way someone else speaks, or the way someone else has been brought up. These people that struggle should be able to take pride in their skin tone, take pride in their hair, their culture, their food. But because of those particular mindless people, the minority really can't do that. All they can do is continue to fight for their rights.



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St John's School Writers cont.

Delving into the religious aspect, religious hate crimes have grown over time, resulting in people not showing respect for each other's cultures. Religious hate crimes and non-crimes are deeds committed against a victim because the perpetrator harbours animosity towards them or a group because of their religious beliefs—or lack thereof. The law does not protect the teachings of the theology but it is based in human rights principles, meaning that we all have a right to hold our religious beliefs and to practice our theological faith in safety. Do you think it's right to target a certain belief out of your own hatred? Would you ever take such thoughts into consideration? In 2021/2022 Home Office Annual Hate Crime statistics show that 8,370 religious hate crimes were committed and do you know what was worst about this? It increased 37% from last year. Can you imagine? In England, it could've been the people around you. While some of you sleep soundly or relax quietly, these people cannot go a day without being disrespected and discriminated against. And it escalates for them. These religious people, popes, pastors are working, praying, religiously trying to connect and understand their religion and learn more. But the mindless constantly work against them, having to make it difficult. Is this right? That people who are minding their own business literally have their own business thrown against them carelessly? All this virus infested hate for what? When these people have their own right to their own religion, and they try, they try to commit, they try to stick to their morals and their faith. But they can't help but be interrupted abruptly by the inescapably troublesome negativity that follows on by.

Even though I have used religion and race as my main two areas of focus, there are more out there, and there are more people in this diverse society with differing sexualities, gender identities, disabilities, social classes. There is so much negativity going on and we honestly need to make a change, which is why I have selected this topic. To spread awareness on the fact that even though we are many different people in a diverse society, we at the end of the day are all equal. The main aspect of my topic reigns along with the word respect. What does respect mean? What does respect mean to you? How do you show respect?

Respect comes in many shapes and forms, and as our diverse community grows and our world advance by the day, respect is something that we lack. I would imagine that you, the school community would agree. Discrimination builds from a lack of respect. Yes, racism is a disease, and it's built of haters and yes, religious hate crimes are terrifying and inhumane but it never starts like that. It never started with a racist person. It never started with built animosity towards religious people. It started with the thing society has a lot of: judgement. The world has more judgement than respect and most of us, more than others, have more judgement than respect. Because under judgement comes assumptions. We assume before knowing the facts or the reality. Judgement starts, then comes the lack of respect, and then the main point. Discrimination, which comes in many forms.



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Respect is a blessing, to have respect is to have that deeper understanding of the people around you. And even though judgement can come with good, it comes with twice as much bad. To judge and assume makes you close yourself off from the people around you, with the people you really could've gotten to deep-delve with, and sometimes it can grow into something even worse. Which is why we should value respect, we should value the importance of it because respect is the core value for diversity to grow and embrace its true colours. Being able to embrace diversity is to have that sense of respect for the surroundings and respect for the people around us.

This is really important and significant because in reality we shouldn't need to create these movements to stop these crimes and we shouldn't need these links tallying up the rate of these hate crimes to spread awareness. We should just grow to become the better version of ourselves and we should grow to help other people grow to become better versions of themselves. All this growth and improvement and respect will bring out the best in our diverse refined cultured society. A society where diversity won't clash with discrimination but diversity will overrun the negativity of discrimination.

I really do hope that what I have discussed today will bring an impact in the way things will be handled in the future, not just in school, but in the future. Diversity is not just a topic, it's what makes our world.

