



Newsletter

24th November 2023 | Issue 51



Ministry
of Defence

Dear Families,

As you have hopefully read on Facebook, I am delighted to share that St John's School features in the **Top 5% of schools nationally for student progress**, a key school performance measure. Combined with significantly above average attainment in English and Maths, as well as the Government's EBACC measure, I am extremely proud of the achievements of our students, staff and parents in securing these outstanding outcomes and look forward to continuing the rapid upward trajectory of school improvement benefitting the current and future cohorts of students in attendance. Our ratified exam results are:



- **93% achieved a GCSE Grade 4 (C) or above in both English & Maths**
The National Average was just 64%
- **The average grade achieved was a Grade 5 across all subjects**
The National Average was just Grade 4
- **90% of students passed their Post 18 qualifications**
The National Average was also 90%

Aside from our exam results, our school enjoyed success as we participated in an interschool netball tournament on Monday. Students also set off on their Duke of Edinburgh training expedition, with preparations on Wednesday evening, before setting off in earnest on Friday. Our school also celebrated students identified over the past two weeks by teachers as stand out role models of our **Respect** value during Tuesday's assembly.



Upcoming School Events

This Week

Monday 27th November

Wednesday 29th November

Thursday 30th November

Friday 1st December

Year 9 Parent Afternoon @ 1430—1700hrs

School Improvement Quality Assurance Visit

SJS Coffee Morning 0900—1000 hrs

Mock Examinations begin for Year 11 and 13

Next Week

All Week

Tuesday 5th December

Thursday 7th December

Mock Examinations for Year 11 and 13

U14 Interschool Football Tournament @ Happy Valley

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

Parent Forum @ Akrotiri Primary School : 1500hrs—1600hrs

Christmas Carol Concert @ Episkopi Station Church : 1800hrs



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This week at St John's School in pictures



Leading Ladies

Our female Sixth Form students met with female community leaders to discuss and explore the challenges our volunteer leading ladies have experienced and overcome in their leadership roles.



Respect

Students identified as best exemplifying our value of Respect were applauded by their peers on Tuesday as we all celebrated how they have embodied this important value.



Student Leadership Team

Our student leaders fashioned their action plans for the year ahead on Thursday, before participating in an highly engaging and thought provoking seminar lead by Maj. Naveen Rahman, which explored the qualities of effective leadership.



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Sport's Day Medallists



Congratulations to everyone who participated in our Sports Day, with a special mention to our Medal winners, some of whom are pictured here.

Headteacher's Surgery

On Thursday 30th November 0900—1000hrs, 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.

Limited to 15 people, I look forward to touring you around the school, visiting lessons and answering any questions or concerns you may have.



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2023

St John's School

Christmas Card Competition



Christmas Card Competition

Your child's design could be our 2023 Christmas Card



We would like to invite students of St John's School to design a Christmas Card. The winning card will become the School Christmas Card to be used this Christmas.

There will also be an opportunity for the winning design to be reprinted and available for purchase, with proceeds being donated to a charity of the winning student's choice.

The deadline for entries is **Monday 4th December**, Entries should be submitted as a physical design directly to Mr Guyton



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Year 9 Parents' Afternoon

Monday 27th November 1430—1700hrs

Have you made your appointments? Appointments must be made in advance of the Parent Afternoon. Appoints can only be made through our Parent Portal, EPraise.



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

Parent Forum

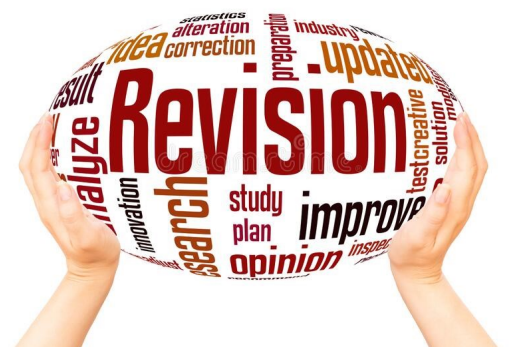
On Thursday 7th December 2023 at 1500hrs Mr Colin Guyton and Mrs Kate Parkinson will be hosting our Parent Forum Meeting. The meeting will take place at Akrotiri Primary School and will have a focus on our strategic approach to addressing student use of inappropriate language. Parents are cordially invited to attend, either in person or via this [Teams Link](#)

Mock Examinations

Students in Year 11 and 13 will begin their Mock Examinations next week, with the first exams taking place on Friday 1st December. The Mock Examination timetable has been circulated separately as an email and as a physical copy to the students.

The Mock Examinations are being designed to replicate the experience our students will have in the Summer of 2023 when they take their final public exams. Students will sit, and be expected to complete, a full examination paper testing their understanding and recall of content covered. The Mock Examinations will take place in the Exam Room.

Mock Examinations provide students, parents and teachers with an insight into their current performance. Revision should be well underway. The grades achieved may be used (at the discretion of the exam board) if a student is unable to sit one or more of their final exams. The Mock Examinations will also inform appropriate interventions and decisions around the tier of exam entry (where applicable). It is important that students are supported to revise thoroughly and take each exam seriously.





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Mathematics Updates

Year 7

Year 7 will be sitting their end of term assessment during the week commencing 27/11/2023. This will be a cumulative assessment where students will be assessed on all of the topics that they have covered this academic year.

Year 8

Year 8 will be sitting their end of term assessment during the week commencing 27/11/2023. This will be a cumulative assessment where students will be assessed on all of the topics that they have covered this academic year.

Year 9

Year 9 sat their assessment last week and all of them have been marked and will be returned to students over the next week. From this, we have made some set changes to ensure that all students are both challenged and supported.

Year 10

Year 10 have their Mathematics assessment on Thursday 30th November. Students have been told about this also and provided with revision lists to support them.

Year 11

With Mock Examinations coming up; Year 11 have taken part in their Walking Talking Mock's on the 20th and 21st November. This experience was designed to support their examination preparations.



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



INTEGRITY • COMMITMENT • RESPECT

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Limassol Christmas Festival

8 DECEMBER - 31 JANUARY

Monday-Friday 16:00-23:00

Saturday-Sunday 11:00-00:00



FOOD
CHRISTMAS
MARKET



LUNA PARK

LIVE CONCERT



LIVE
SHOW



PLAYGROUND

E109, Pareklisia
Limassol, Cyprus

eliochori
fun park

7 7 7 7 0 5 0 3

WWW.CHRISTMASFESTIVE.COM



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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

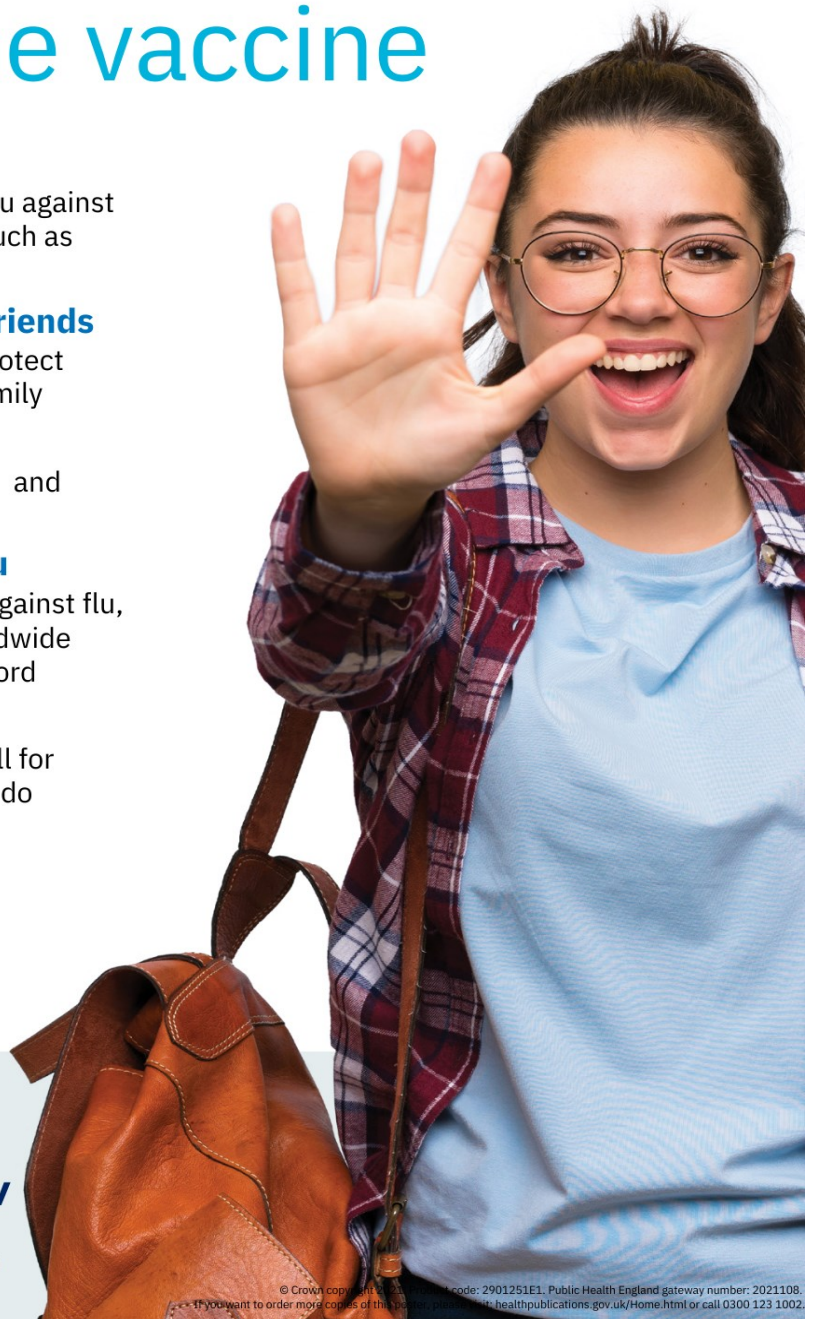
If you get flu, you may be unwell for several days and not be able to do the things you enjoy

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

Students in Key Stage 3 have been reading a range of literary heritage texts this term, including:

'Oliver Twist' – an abridged version alongside extracts from Dickens' original text (Y7)

Sherlock Holmes Short Stories (Y8)

Extracts from Gothic literature (Y9)

These texts are linked through their writers' common use of villainous characters and eerie settings and students across KS3 have been learning about how writers consciously craft these features of their writing for effect.

This week, we are sharing a selection of imaginative descriptions from Year 8, who were prompted to craft their own villains and gothic settings based on their study of 'The Speckled Band' by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Villainous Character

With the moon high, glistening on the snow scattered on the ground, not a soul was in sight, apart from the two silhouettes in the cathedral. A tall, dark figure wearing a black tweed suit, a grey flat cap and sleek black shoes, sat in the pews in front of an outline hidden behind a cloak at the altar. Quietly, the tall man spoke in a deep weak Scottish accent. Expensive cologne lingered in the air around him; the scent of pine trees outside was masked by the fragrance. Tucked inside his shirt pocket, the man carried a golden pocket watch which looked to be passed down through hundreds of years of ancestry.

After muttering for a while, the man looked at his watch and began walking through the cathedral doorway. He stopped and he gave a small flick of the hand. Walking evasively towards the street, with his head down, hands in pockets and his upper body hunched over, he was acting like a man of mystery. When he came into contact with another soul, he didn't even bat an eye as he was very misanthropic. His silhouette soon disappeared into the darkness of the night.

Stephen R



"SHE RAISED HER VEIL."



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St John's School Writers

Gothic Setting

She was oblivious to the muddy water that threw up over her shoes. The cold damp evening air permeated through the thick crowd of people pushing past her as she turned left down the ancient mud path that led to the woodland. As she approached the edge of the edge of the wood, the trees stood up eerily to greet her. They whispered and muttered like they were spreading secrets. A distant noise made her stop suddenly... Was that the sound of the Jailers chains rattling? She proceeded to stumble through the ever-narrowing path, desperately conjecturing whether or not they found it and were eagerly waiting upon her arrival. Time stopped. She arrived. A small cabin sat in the middle of the woods. Frost glazed over the window and snow fell upon the roof. The stairs leading up to the dark ivy front door were dusted with a thin layer of snow. Emerald ivy climbed up the stone wall and wrapped around the cabin like a bandage. The chimney was still coughing up smoke and the small pond was frozen over, just like how she left it. But it didn't feel right. The trees swayed in an unnatural way and its whispers turned into warnings. It felt like someone had been here and had been snooping around, trying to take it. She swung the door open and looked down the long hallway. The key was still there. The Jailers did not take it. She pressed the door shut and walked over her smooth stoned floors. Down the long hall were 3 rooms. The only thing keeping her able to see was the dimly lit lamp standing on the corner of the table. Her room was left in the same condition, her bed was made, pillows slouched on her armchair. The kitchen was the same with dishes stacked up in the sink and pots still left on the hob. Her living room was the same, a lonely single seat sat in the corner of the room next to a lonely table with paper polluting it and a burnt-out candle.

Ava K

Villainous Character

On a cold, gloomy night, a family are sleeping in their small cottage on the edge of a dark, ominous forest. The youngest child of the family wakes up and hears noises coming from the forest. He looks out of the window and cannot see anything, so he decides to put his shoes on and go and look to see where the noises are coming from.

As he enters the dark forest, the sounds become louder and the child's breathing becomes faster and faster until he finds out what is making the noises. It is an injured deer with a severed leg. Curious as to how it has been injured, the child suddenly hears a twig snap and, as he looks behind him, he sees a huge shape in the darkness. As it moves forward, the child sees a man with a half-burnt face. The skin on the left side of his face is dark pink and scarred with his eyelid burnt shut. On the right side of his face, his eye is dark and staring straight at the boy. The man's torn clothes are covered in dirt and he holds a chainsaw in his hands...

Finley M