



Newsletter

1st December 2023 | Issue 52



Ministry
of Defence

Dear Families,



Last week ended with over 15% of our students participating in their Duke of Edinburgh expedition preparations as they took to Happy Valley for their first overnight stay. There were some tired feet on Monday, however students revelled in an excellent camping experience and look forward to participating in future expeditions. Thank you to all of the staff and community volunteers who gave up part of their weekend to make this opportunity possible.



Christmas came early for our Sixth Form students this week as they took receipt of their new furniture that has since been laid out in an assortment of designs in our recently relocated and decorated Sixth Form Centre. We are very near to the Centre's completion, which has been fashioned due to the hard work of students and staff.



On the theme of Christmas we look forward to the Christmas Carol Concert being held at the Episkopi Station Church next Thursday. I hope that many of you can make it and look forward to our students, together with pupils from Episkopi Primary School, pulling us into the festive season.

Today, and throughout the next two weeks, our Year 11 and 13 students will embark upon their Mock Examinations. We wish them well and hope that their hard work and revision pays dividends.

Upcoming School Events

This Week

All Week

Tuesday 5th December

Thursday 7th December

Mock Examinations for Year 11 and 13

U14 Interschool Football Tournament @ Happy Valley

National Christmas Jumper Day,

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

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

Christmas Carol Concert @ Episkopi Station Church : 1800hrs

Next Week

All Week

Tuesday 12th December

Wednesday 13th December

Thursday 14th December

Mock Examinations for Year 11 and 13

SJS vs. KRS Football Match : 1300-1600hrs @ Happy Valley

School Governors Meeting @ 1000hrs

SJS Coffee Morning 0900—1000 hrs

House Sport—Netball : 1300-1600hrs @ Happy Valley



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This week at St John's School in pictures



Students enjoyed a weekend practice expedition for their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Students will participate in the final expedition in the New Year. Well done to everyone who supported and participated in the expedition.



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Our Sixth Form Centre



During the Summer Holiday we completed the relocation of our Sixth Form to create our new bespoke Sixth Form Centre. Since then we have been waiting the delivery of new furniture from the UK. This week this furniture finally arrived and has created a modern, purposeful work space for our Sixth Form students. The Sixth Form work room is accompanied by two additional break out spaces and a common room (pictured left). In the New Year, we will install 30 computers to be placed around the perimeter of the room.

Our new Sixth Form Suite, together with an improving curriculum offer, continues to support the delivery of our improvement priorities linked to student satisfaction and our educational offer.



INTEGRITY • COMMITMENT • RESPECT

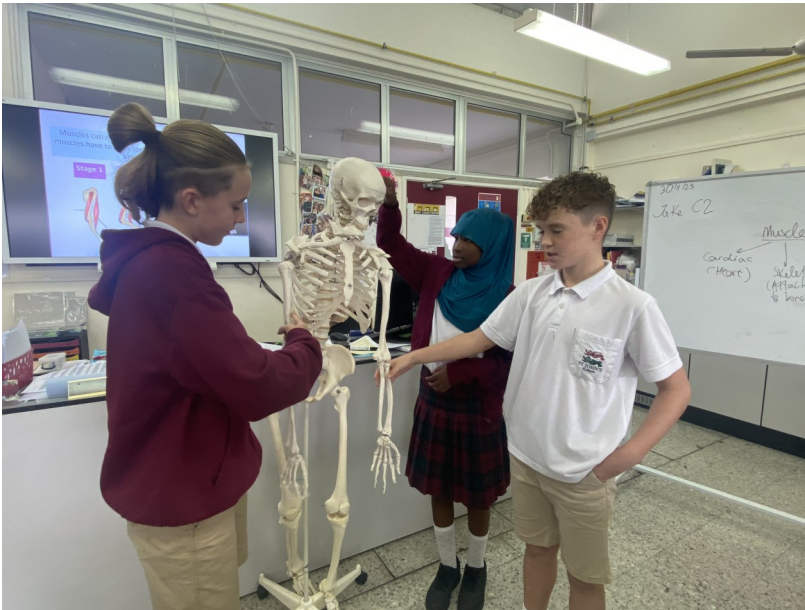
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This week in pictures





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This week in pictures

What a fantastic week of sporting opportunities for our students!

Last Friday Alfie and Millie in Year 9 lifted the Cross Country Cup as St John's School beat Foley's and King Richard School in the 2.6 km event, both of them winning gold medals. The Cross Country event was followed up with House Football for Year 8 and 9, which helped inform the teams for next weeks U14's tournament.

On Wednesday we hosted English School Kyrenia, Foley's and TLC from Paphos in a International Tournament. Our under 18 girls came second and the under 18 boys won with two stand out performances from Ethan and Noah.

Thursday was a real treat as Foley's hosted a combined MOD Schools team (consisting of SJS & KRS) for their annual swim gala. It was an amazing experience for our swimmers with standout performances from Freddie in Year 9 and Florence in Year 8, both winning 3 gold medals.



**Save the
Children**
**CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY**

Our Student Leadership Team are keen to support Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day, which takes place across the United Kingdom on Thursday 7th December 2023.

Students and staff are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper to school on this day.

Students should wear their normal school uniform, but can wear a Christmas Jumper instead of their school jumper or hoodie.

Students wearing a Christmas Jumper are encouraged to bring in €1 which will be donated to Save the Children, a registered UK Charity on behalf of St John's School.



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Annual Consent Form for school trips and other off-site activities

Thank you to all parents and carers who have completed our annual consent form. This must be completed each academic year. Should you wish to complete the annual consent form, your child/ren will be able to participate in activities locally, such as outdoor learning and school trips further afield. It is hoped that by undertaking this annually that we can reduce the administrative burden placed on parents and staff.

Parents/carers will still be contacted in advance of school trips with fuller excursion details. This provides a further opportunity to withdraw consent if applicable.

The trips and activities covered by this consent include:

- **All visits (including residential trips) which take place during the school day, during holidays or at the weekend**
- **Adventure activities at any time**
- **Off-site sporting fixtures outside the school day**

You can, if you wish, tell the school that you do not want your child to take part in any specific school trip or activity.

Further written parental consent will not be requested from you for off-site activities offered by the school.

With this form you are signing to say you are happy for your child/children to:

a) To take part in school trips and other activities that take place off school premises; and

b) To be given first aid or urgent medical treatment during any school trip or activity.

Should you wish to complete the annual consent form, please can we encourage you to click on this [link](#).





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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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Parent Forum

On Thursday 7th December 2023 at 1500 hrs 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](#)



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

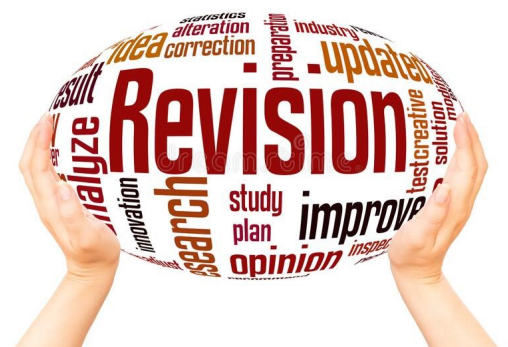
www.facebook.com/stjohnsschoolcyprus

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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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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St John's School Writers

Students in Key Stage 3 have been consolidating their learning based on their study of literary heritage texts this term by producing extended essays based on the presentation of character (Y7 and Y8) and genre (Y9).

What follows is an independent study task completed by a Year 7 student, who was prompted to write a TV news report on the events of Nancy's murder in 'Oliver Twist' and an exemplar Year 7 essay in response to the question 'What type of character is Bill Sykes?'.

TV News Broadcast Script

BREAKING NEWS

Late yesterday evening, a young girl was found dead in her small, rented flat presumably after being murdered. Believed to be named Nancy, the victim of this crime was found by her landlord yesterday evening after hearing loud noises from his building. She was a young girl around the age of seventeen to twenty; the police are currently trying to confirm her identity.

The police presume it was a man, in his early thirties, named Bill Sikes, after being seen entering the house a few minutes before the murder, staying for around 10-20 minutes and then leaving and locking the door behind him before walking down the street in the same direction he arrived. We received information from the crime scene investigators about what could have happened; in the flat bedroom they found a pistol on the floor that was still fully loaded but there was only blood on the handle, not far from the pistol they also found a club drenched in Nancy's blood. From all the evidence the police have started to put the story together: Sikes entered the flat and then proceeded to hit Nancy on the head with the end of the gun, explaining the two large wounds on her forehead and why no bullets were missing. After that Nancy must have fallen to the floor, meaning she was in the perfect position for Sikes to beat her with the club found on the floor.

Although it's obvious it was Sikes who committed the murder and all the evidence adds up that it was him, the police are still stumped on why Sikes would do it. Multiple sources have stated that Nancy and Sikes were in some kind of romantic relationship giving the police and detectives even more reasons to suspect it was him. Although Sikes is known for his violence with fights in local public houses and has a few criminal records, he has never been seen or heard attempting to murder someone, none the less actually doing it. So, what was the motive? Well later after being caught and arrested, Sikes revealed that an older gentleman, in his mid-50s, named Fagin, had manipulated him into committing this crime. Fagin was also convicted of theft, robbery and grooming of the younger children he forced into being his 'gang' members. But, as much as Bill was manipulated into doing this doesn't mean that he didn't do it, meaning Bill must face the judge and receive a possible life threatening sentence.

Olivia-Mae Y7)



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St John's School Writers

What type of character is Bill Sikes?

Bill Sikes Essay

24/11/23

In 1837, Charles Dickens wrote the novel "Oliver Twist". This book contains many complex, cruel and even murderous characters. One character, Bill Sikes, is despised and famous for his brutality. In this essay, we will explore Bill's hardened nature, his brutality and his scruffy and untidy appearance as well as his abuse of Nancy.

Bill's introduction

In chapter 13, Bill is described as extremely scruffy and dirty. Numerous quotes like "a beard of three days growth," prove this point. Dickens enforced his scruffy and dirty appearance by writing that Bill had "a dirty, belcher nondescript round his neck," which Bill used to "smear the beer from his face as he spoke." The fact that he openly presents himself in this way shows that he has a lack of self care - possibly because his money goes towards the beer smeared on his face, instead of on sanitary products. This introduction of Bill prepares readers for his other cruel and shocking attributes.

Bill has been hardened by his use of crime, in appearance as well as attitude. Dickens writes that "he had a wide, firm jaw and cold, dark eyes." This unpleasant description of Bill shows that any former warmth or caring has been forced out of him, leaving just a cold, dark man, willing to steal, abuse and murder. By this point, any reader can imagine the dark, cruel figure described by Dickens, and Bill is almost less like a human, with feelings and a conscience, than a beast, willing to do anything for its own sake.

At multiple points in the story, Bill does brutal and cruel things. The previous points have been part of Dickens' build up to the climax of the novel - Nancy.



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St John's School Writers

What type of character is Bill Sikes?

James G (Y7)

murder. Murder itself is already a brutal and dark crime, the worst sin and action possible to commit; however, Bill takes this crime a step further. Bill seized a heavy club and struck her down. With her being ~~as~~ Nancy, many readers will feel shock and even slight anger, as Nancy is the one person in Fagin's Den that is there to help ~~Oliver~~. Readers may have even grown affection for Nancy, due to her kind treatment of Oliver, and her constant abuse in the hands of Bill and Fagin. As well as Nancy's murder, he makes brutal threats and gestures towards Oliver and even Fagin; this is Dickens preparing us for his final act of brutality. However, even with all of Dickens's descriptions of Bill, readers still may feel strong emotions following the act.

Bill is a abuser ~~of~~ of Nancy and other characters. When they are discussing Oliver's capture from Mr. Brownlow, Nancy's opinions and ideas are stamped out and Bill shouts things like "keep quiet girl!". At this point Bill is going to help him capture Oliver, but Nancy is refusing. Bill is using Nancy as a tool, deciding what part she will play even if she openly rebukes his ideas. At one point, Bill decides to end the argument by squeezing Nancy's arm and silently implying that ~~if~~ he will do worse if she refuses again.

These points and details have shown us that Bill Sikes is a brutal, violent and cruel man. We can see that he abuses Nancy and induces fear into other characters so that he can control them. This suggests that he feels unstable, and he feels that he has to scare characters to keep his position. Bill's character is vicious and unpleasant, as he will hurt others to gain for himself. In my opinion, he is cruel and vindictive, but perhaps a little more complex than he gets credit for. *Wowzers!*