



Newsletter

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Dear Families,

Our students have been fantastic in their approach to their Mock Examinations. An exam window, usually extending over six weeks in the summer term, has been condensed into a fortnight. Despite this, our students have proudly demonstrated in spades our value of Commitment. I wish them well for their final exams next week.



Looking ahead to next week and near the Christmas Stand Down, I want to reassure families that normal lessons will take place up to and including Period 2 (1015hrs) on the final day of this term. I ask that students continue to attend school right up to and including the last day of term. Our school attendance has been excellent up until now and exceeds our target of 96% and I hope we can sustain this percentage as we end this term.

Although it is business as usual in school, I was proud to be in attendance for Thursday's Christmas Carol Concert. Thank you to everyone who joined me for what was an outstanding Christmas Event and for those present, I think you will agree the students of St John's School and Episkopi Primary School were incredible in getting us into the Christmas Spirit.



Upcoming School Events

This 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

Next Week

Monday 18th December

Tuesday 19th December

Wednesday 20th December

End of Term Reward Trips

End of Term Reward Trips

Progress Reports Issue for Year 7, 8, 9, 10, 12

End of Term Reward Trips (KS5)

End of Term, School Closes at 1230hrs



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This week at St John's School in pictures



**Save the
Children
CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY**

Our Student Leadership Team ensured we participated in and supported this year's Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day, which took place on Thursday 7th December 2023.

Thank you to our students and staff who supported this initiative and charity.





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This week at St John's School in pictures

This term, students across Key Stage 3 have been practising to take part in the Bebras Computing Challenge. This global contest introduces computational thinking to students and is designed to get students all over the world excited about computing. This November, over 408,000 students took part in the UK, and over 3 million across 60 countries worldwide.

This year nearly 170 St John's students participated for the first time, and I would like to congratulate them on their persistence in practicing and their commitment to doing the best that they can against so many competitors.

The results have now been released and we are delighted and extremely proud that 7 of our students scored in the top 10% of the UK as a whole in this competition.



Nikolaus Tag am 6. Dezember

GCSE and A-level German students have been learning about the traditions of Saint Nicholas Day.

Saint Nicholas Day is celebrated in the evening of December 5th and the morning of December 6th during the Advent Christmas season.

It takes place on the anniversary of the death of the third-century saint who is said to have been a source of inspiration for Santa Claus.

As the story goes, on the night of December 5th, St. Nicholas would visit homes dressed in white robes carrying a book with a record of

children's wrongdoings. Upon St. Nicholas' visit, children would be asked about their behaviour. If the kids have been good, in the morning they'll find their shoes filled with small gifts and treats. But if they were naughty children, they could wake up to find sticks, twigs or coal in their shoes instead!

Luckily all of our students have been good and found treats in their shoes!





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Student of the Month



November saw the launch of our Student of the Month reward initiative. This is one aspect of a wider rewards strategy launched this year to underpin our new school values of **Integrity, Commitment and Respect**.

Each month we will look to identify a Student of the Month who has gone above and beyond in their demonstration of our values. Upon doing so, we will secretly invite parents to attend school and surprise the Student of the Month, who will join us for a celebratory coffee (or Diet Coke) and cake. We thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to do this last Friday, inviting not one but two students, brothers, who are outstanding role models to others in their respective year groups and across the school.

Well done and thank you to both boys. We look forward to identifying and celebrating with the Student of the Month for December in the New Year.

Student Celebrations

On Tuesday we applauded students in assembly identified as best exemplifying our value of Integrity. Well done and thank you to all of our students who have embodied this important value.





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Reports for Years 7, 8, 9 10 and 12

I am sure your child has been telling you that they have been thoroughly assessed in every subject recently. This is to ensure we can generate an accurate picture of their current position in relation to the targets we set them.

Next week all students in Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will receive an end of term report. This will tell you for each subject how they are progressing against their target bands in Key Stage 3 and target grades in Key Stage 4 and 5. It will also give you information about how much effort they are showing. Reports for Year 11 and 13 will be issued after Christmas when all mock examination papers have been marked and grades collected. Parents / carers of students in Year 11 and 13 will be invited to a short afternoon meeting on Tuesday 16th January at 13.30pm in The School Hall when we will issue all mock exam grades to students.

The envelope will also contain a short information guide which will help you to understand how we set the target grades and bands and also how we reach the current band / grade plus information explaining the effort grade criteria.

We have special assemblies planned next week for all pupils to explain to them how to understand the contents of their reports so you might also want to discuss this with them. The report will be given to your child by Friday 15th December.

You will have the chance to discuss your child's progress and effort at two parent / teacher meetings throughout the school year. The remaining dates for these are as follows:

YEAR 7:

Tuesday 9th January 2024

Tuesday 4th June 2024

YEAR 8:

Tuesday 6th February 2024

Tuesday 25th June 2024

YEAR 9:

Tuesday 14th May 2024

YEARS 10 & 12:

Tuesday 23rd January 2024

Tuesday 30th April 2024

YEARS 11 & 13:

Tuesday 20th February 2024



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Year 7 Parents' Afternoon

Tuesday 9th January 1430—1700hrs



We look forward to welcoming parents of our Year 7 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 11th December at midday.

Please ensure you have registered to use EPraise, either via the website or App in advance of Monday 11th December. 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 11th December 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

Akrotiri Christmas Fayre



On Sunday 3rd December, three Y11 Business Studies students used their enterprise skills to set up a stall at the Akrotiri Christmas Fayre.

The pupils, organised and made items to sell, set up a stall and sold their products with all proceeds going to Malcolm's Cat Sanctuary, the charity of their choice.

Cookies and sweets were enjoyed by many visitors to the stall with one customer buying 24 cookies in one go! There were 108 sweets in the 'Guess the Sweets in the jar' competition which was won by William K.

The students were great ambassadors for St John's School, displaying the school values of integrity, commitment and respect in all that they accomplished.

After a busy afternoon and a near sell out of the treats, we managed to raise 129.35 for Malcolm's Cats and look forward to visiting the sanctuary soon to hand over our donation.



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UCAS University Applications

Year 12 and 13

Many of our 6th form students are currently completing their Mock Examinations. The results of these will be issued to our students on 15th January 2023. Year 12 and 13

BTEC students will receive mock results earlier so that they can prepare for the January entry exams.

As previously communicated, the deadline for students submitting UCAS applications to university has now lapsed (October 27th). We have noted that a number of the students have not completed their personal statements and would ask parents to encourage students to submit these as soon as possible. A further delay will ensure students miss the UCAS equal consideration deadline.

The final internal deadline for UCAS applications is 15th December 2023 to allow the school adequate time to process the application fully with supporting references - this can take two weeks from student submission.

UCAS



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

Headteacher's Surgery

On Thursday 14th December 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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Year 11 Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

Over the coming weeks Year 11 students will start to receive invitations to a careers interview. These meetings will allow them the opportunity to speak one to one with our careers advisor in the UK via Teams. In order to minimise the impact on their studies, many of the meetings will be in the Spring term and after school between 1400 and 1500hrs. This will allow Akrotiri students to get the late bus home afterwards.

Each meeting will be facilitated in school in a private space to allow students to be honest and really explore their career plans. Once the meeting time has been arranged, students will receive a Teams call link to their school email address. If the time and date of the meeting clashes with other commitments, please speak with Miss Stonier to arrange another time, this will also allow us to give your slot to another student so that the time is not wasted.



Career Corner



Job of the week

Detective

As a detective you will deal with serious and complex investigations. If you thrive on problem solving; have good communication skills; love team work and want to make a difference this could be for you.

Qualifications/ Experience needed:

While many get into the role by first qualifying as a [Police Officer](#), it's not essential to do so.

Graduates can take an alternative training route through the [Police Detective Programme](#) which over a two-year period develops the key skills and leadership qualities needed for the role.

To be eligible you need to achieve a minimum of a 2:1 at undergraduate level.

Apprenticeships:

Entering this career via a Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship is also possible. Visit [Joining The Police](#) to see the different routes into the role.

It is important to check individual entry requirements at universities and training providers.

What to expect?

You'll usually work on several cases at the same time.

Each day will bring different tasks and challenges

You'll deal with difficult situations including handling aggression, disturbing or distressing situations.

There are structured pathways for progression and promotion.

Skills you need will include:

- excellent communication skills both written and spoken
- planning skills to conduct an investigation effectively
- good problem-solving skills
- emotional resilience and the ability to keep calm and confident in challenging situations
- decision-making skills for assessing situations
- teamwork skills for building effective and collaborative relationships with colleagues and staff in external agencies

Labour Market Information:

Across England, Wales and NI starting salary for a constable starts at £26000 and increases through the ranks with higher end pay scales up to £91,500.

Different pay scales exist across Scotland and London.

More information:

[Detective job profile | Prospects.ac.uk](#)

[College of Policing](#)

[National Careers Service](#)

Career of the week

Each week we post on Facebook a job of the week. Students are encouraged to keep an eye out for career ideas and parents may wish to discuss each career and what is needed with their child.



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Limassol Christmas Festive.

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

This week's item is from William in Year 11 who, when prompted with the brief '*write a story about a new beginning*', produced this stunning piece of writing.

Plan: The endurance and perseverance of a persistent seed from a dying tree. Breaking out of the prison in the Earth.

The Life of a Seed

The sun glistened gently in the morning haze, gently stroking the heads of the flowers in the meadows below. The mist covering the land like a warm blanket in the peaceful harmony of a dawning day. The stream trickled through the grassy hills and fields, providing the calming nourishment for the plants on the shore. The crystal-clear water danced down the stream as if it were a thousand tiny ballerinas, tip-toes twirling through the morning air.

In the middle of the half-awakened meadow was a great willow tree, a grand wooden bastion that could withstand one hundred armies and come out unscathed on the other side, but on the bank beside it, sat a lonesome ash tree, shrivelled and rotten. It glanced upon the willow in all its glory, and silently envied it like a jealous cousin. The tree's sap turned sour and leaves turned brown from the generations of hatred. Half-stricken with defeat, the dying ash let out a cry of vengeance in a final act of distaste for its beautiful nemesis, and through this cry, a mass of tiny seeds ricochet the surroundings, creating a warzone of seeds, leaves and twigs turned so violent that even the sun had to shelter its eyes from the bloody barrage breaking the banks of the brook.

The skies lay grey and what had started as morning mist had evolved into a deadly fog polluted with the corruption of hatred and wickedness but among the flurry and futility of the chaos, a humble seed fell into the ground, entrapped in the grasp of Hades, encased in a coffin of sediments in a place where not even the heavens can hear a cry for help.



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St John's School Writers



Up on surface, the battle had stopped, a ceasefire between the forces of good and evil. Silence, but not the kind forged from peace, dark, deathly and desolate silence. This was no way to die, alone in the darkness of an unfamiliar place where the air that nourished you before was now gently cutting your throat and feasting off of the blood of a friend so dear.

The desire for freedom is something that lingers in all existence, this was something the helpless seed knew and with this desire of freedom, comes the burning flame of desire and ambition that comes to melt away the icy shackles of the solemn solitude of suffering. This was not the desire of the seed, and so it prevailed, pushing the very mounds that held it back, breaking free from the prison of the Earth, pushing out of the reach of the sedimentary jailers that kept it captive and with every push, the earth cowered back in fear for it did not know the strength and endurance one seed could have. The unforgiving soil was now just a distant dream in what been an eternal struggle for the melancholy seed but now its sufferings had been wiped away like bloody bandages turned white.

From the ground now emerged what had been the seed, now a majestic brown stalk, scraping the morning air, tickling the fog as it drifted by, the majestic stalk stood strongly streaking the silent dawn; a beacon of endurance amongst the green grass; a lighthouse to light the way for other seeds struggling under the satanic shackles of the earth. This was the life of a seed.

William K (Year 11)