



Newsletter

24th January 2025 | Issue 96



Ministry
of Defence

Dear Families,

The weather impacted upon some of our plans for this week, which included a Duke of Edinburgh practice hike and an interschool football tournament we were due to host on Wednesday. We will look to reschedule both events in due course where the school calendar permits. Fortunately the weather did not impact Tuesday's GCSE PE practical assessments in which our students demonstrated fully our value of commitment.



This week saw the hugely anticipated launch of an Expedition to the Island of Borneo (Malaysia). The student launch is being followed up with a parent information event, which is taking place in the School Hall at 1530 hrs on Monday 27th January. Further information regarding this launch can be found in this newsletter.

On Friday afternoon our students in Year 11 and 13, along with their parents, collected their mock examination results. The exam season is on the horizon with the exams starting in 15 weeks time. Students are encouraged to undertake an 'Exam Wrap', a metacognitive strategy shared in assembly by Mr Dixon and used by many teachers with their Year 11 classes. Upcoming appointments with either the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher will guide students on how they should be spending their time outside of school with their revision.

Upcoming School Events

Week Commencing 27th January

Week 1

Monday 27th January

Borneo Expedition Parent Information Event: 1530 hrs @ Hall or Online

Wednesday 29th January

Royal Navy STEM Day (selected students)

Thursday 30th January

Headteacher's Surgery : 0900—1000 hrs @ Akrotiri Hive

Year 11 and 13 Parent Afternoon : 1430—1700 hrs

Week Commencing 3rd February

Week 2

All Week

Individual Year 11 student and parent meetings with either the HT or DHT

Wednesday 5th February

Year 7 Midsummer Night's Dream Performance

Netball Tournament Year 7—13 @ SJS

Thursday 6th February

SJS Coffee Morning 0800—1000 hrs

Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschools.org

Friday 7th February

GCSE Music Practical Examination

Week Commencing 10th February

Week 1

Monday 10th February

Year 8 Parent Afternoon : 1430—1700 hrs

Wednesday 12th February

School Governors Meeting @ 1000 hrs

Headteacher's Surgery : 0900—1000 hrs @ Akrotiri Hive

Thursday 13th February

Key Stage 3 Valentines Disco @1800 hrs



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Cyprus Road Race Grand Prix



Congratulations to our students who competed in last weekend's Cyprus Road Race Grand Prix in Larnaca.

During unseasonably warm conditions they placed 23rd, 53rd and 56th out of 309 competitors, most of whom were adults.

Congratulations from us all at St John's School



Cyprus GRAND Road PRIX Races



Newsletter

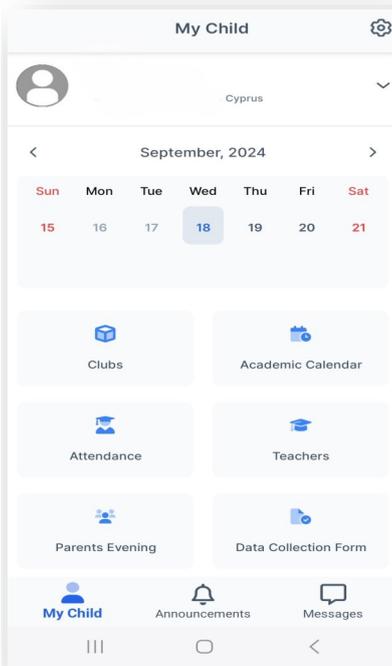
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Year 11 and 13 Parents' Afternoon

Thursday 30th January 1430—1700 hrs



Have you made your appointments? Appointments must be made in advance of the Parent Afternoon. Appoints can only be made through My Child at School (MCAS) App.

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 Mrs Twyford who will gladly assist you in logging on. Mrs Twyford's email is Hayley.Twyford@modschoools.org

Headteacher's Surgery - Akrotiri Hive

On Thursday 30th January 0900—1000 hrs, parents and/or members of the BFC community are welcome to drop into the Akrotiri Hive, without appointment, to meet the Headteacher, Colin Guyton, to discuss any ideas or issues concerning St John's School.

This approach draws similarities from the MP Local Constituency Surgeries you may be familiar with in the UK and it is hoped that it will prove a useful opportunity to share ideas that help improve the provision we provide to the young people in our care.



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



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Year 11 Individual Student Meetings

In the coming days my PA, Mrs Penny Demetriou, will contact parents of Year 11 students to arrange a meeting with myself or Deputy Head Teacher. Each meeting is to involve the student and their parents. The meetings can be undertaken in person or online and there is a limited availability for weekend appointments.

Each meeting will focus upon a holistic review of student progress following the publication of the mock exam results and subject specific feedback that will be provided during the Parent Afternoon on Thursday 30th January. It is anticipated that the outcome of each meeting will facilitate the construction of revision timetables that will guide students and families over the coming three months leading up to the start of this summers exam series.

Leavers - Year 7 to 12

Sadly this academic year will see a significant number of students leave St John's School. We are aware that a number of you are starting to receive details of your next posting.

If you know you will be leaving us before the new academic year, please can you inform the School Office as soon as possible by completing a [Departure Form](#). This will help us ensure that your child has a smooth transition to their new school and that all the information required is prepared and ready to send across to them. This also includes children in Year 11. If you are unsure of exact dates, or currently do not have a school confirmed, please still complete the form as these details can be added at a later time.

If you have any queries regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Parkinson on 00357 2596 3888 or alternatively you can email at Kate.Parkinson@modschools.org.

School
Leavers



Our Values





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Upcoming Sporting Fixtures

Despite this week’s inclement weather which impacted upon a football tournament we were due to host, we have a final series of fixtures coming up and detailed below:

Date and Time	Fixture	Who
Wednesday 5 th February 1230—1500 hrs	SJS vs KRS Netball	All Years
Tuesday 11 th February 1400 hrs	SJS vs Foleys School Boys Only Football	All Years
Wednesday 12 th March TBC	Interschool Football Tournament	All Years
Friday 11 th July 1000—1230 hrs	SJS vs KRS Swim Gala	All Years

Key Stage 3 Valentine School Disco

Key Stage 3 students are being offered the opportunity to attend a Valentine’s School Disco on Thursday 13 February 2025 between 1800 and 2000 hrs. The event will involve a disco, games and a tuck shop.

Students can be dropped at Episkopi Primary School car park but will need to be collected from the St John’s School Hall at 2000 hrs promptly unless permission has been given through the QR code below for them to make their own way home.

The Disco will cost 2 Euro for attendance and will take place in the St John’s School Hall. Students can bring money to buy snacks and drinks from the tuck shop and to take part in games.

In order to confirm attendance, parents must complete the permission form via the QR code below prior to the event. This form will close on 12 February 2025.

Valentine Disco 13th February 2025





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Metacognition

Our drive to improve the metacognitive skills of the students at St John's continues with the introduction of **exam wrappers**. Some departments in school will use this reflective tool but students might also want to use them individually after each exam they take. The template can be found on the student shared area in school.

What are exam wrappers?

Exam wrappers encourage students to critically evaluate their own their learning. Exam wrappers consist of a number of questions and activities that students engage in before and/or after they complete an exam which focus on their study strategies and help them learn from mistakes. Research has found that students who completed the exam wrappers scored higher on the exam than those who didn't.

- Exam wrappers help students practice metacognitive skills such as planning and evaluating performance.
- They allow assessment to become a learning tool in itself by facilitating discussions of exam study strategies
- They allow students to see evidence of how strategies might have been more or less successful for them in the past and feedforward into changing behaviour based on past successes and failures.



Exam Wrapper

Name:		Exam score:	
Exam paper:		Exam grade:	

Revision time investment

How much time did you spend revising for this exam?	
When did you start revising for this exam?	
Was this enough time?	

Revision techniques

Revision technique:	Used:	% of time:
Self-quizzing		
Rereading notes in your book		
Graphic organisers		
Flash card creation and use		
Practice questions		
Revision guides / sites		
Wider reading		
Other		

Revision environment

Revision environment:	Applied:
Attended after school study	
Created a revision timetable and stuck to it	
Revised in an environment that was quiet and away from distraction	
Worked in a study group /with a learning partner	
Other	

Reviewing your exam paper

Lost mark cause:	Where:
Not answering a question	
Not reading the question carefully	
Not knowing the content well enough	
Not applying the skill in the way needed	
Exam conditions	

What questions did I find the most challenging

Question:	Why I found it challenging:

Moving forward

Three things you will do differently for your next exam:

Editable and printable versions of the Exam Wrapper, along with other metacognitive resources can be found in the students Google Classroom.



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Dear Parent/Carer,

We are delighted to be working with Camps International, offering our students the opportunity to join us on a 4 Week expedition to Borneo in July*, 2026.

Come along to our informal presentation evening where you can learn more and ask questions about this exciting opportunity. We expect the presentation to last around 45 minutes.

Date & Time: **Monday, 27 January - 13:30 GMT**

Location: **In the Hall, or Online (link to be sent upon registration)**

To ensure you receive an information pack, please confirm your attendance online via this link.

<https://register.campsinternational.com>

Your School Code is **9687**

Who are Camps International?

Camps International are award winning global leaders in ethical and sustainable school expeditions. They offer fully supported school expeditions, to industry leading safety standards, across Africa, Asia and Latin America, providing an authentic cultural experience for every travelling student.

Where will they be going and what will they be doing?

4-week expedition giving you the chance to experience true off-grid living, trekking through the heart of the Bornean jungle and helping to protect orangutan habitats. You'll discover a totally different way of life, living as part of a rural community and working together to create sustainable change.

On this once-in-a-lifetime adventure, you'll get the opportunity to explore the unique jungle ecosystem and unexplored tropical wilderness on an adventurous 5 day trek. You'll play an active part in helping to protect this important environment through long-term conservation projects. There will be plenty of time to immerse yourself in the traditional culture too, as you live in the heart of a rural village and work alongside local people to support community development.

What will they get out of the experience?

This fully supported expedition will provide our students with a unique opportunity to live alongside rural communities, broadening their perspective on the world. It will allow students to push boundaries and step outside of their comfort zone, embarking on a personal development journey. It will enable them to reach and exceed their academic and personal potential, develop valuable life skills and gain key extra-curricular experience highly regarded by universities and employers.

How much does it cost and how will we pay for the expedition?

This all-inclusive expedition costs £4890 and can be paid via scheduled payment plans. Payment plans facilitate both fundraising activities and financial management. All students are encouraged to fundraise the cost, teaching them important life skills such as money management, problem solving and event planning. If fundraising is new to you, then don't worry, the Camps International crew will support you and our students every step of the way.

We look forward to seeing you and your family at the presentation. **Can't make it?** Register anyway and we will send you more information.

Kindest regards,

St John's School



* Pending your schools preferred travel dates



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St John's School Writers

Year 11 have completed their initial study of the content for GCSE English Language and Literature and are now in the process of revising their texts and deliberately practising examination questions. The following two pieces were completed in class in response to a descriptive prompt, based on an image of snowfall.

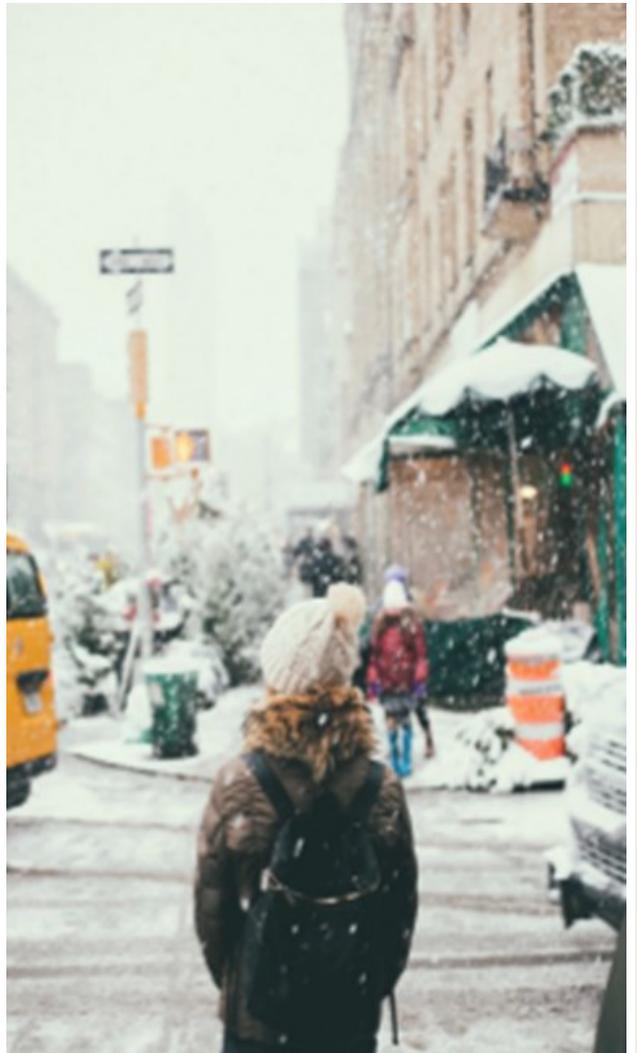
It's snowing, it's always snowing. The last few weeks had been utter hell for Zoe. All she worried about was making it to her exam in time. With her coat still being sodden from the previous day, where she again trundled through the snow with car lights blaring and blinding, snow never ending and her worry ever growing. Her face felt raw and tender with each snowflake and gust of wind hitting her like a whirlwind of razors.

Nevertheless, she carried herself forward, the snow never ending.

Zoe clutches her hat as another gust of icy wind blows through her. She stumbles backwards now, the never-ending doubt and worry of this exam riding on her back with her as she stumbles, trying to find the exam hall. The streets are packed for the holidays, each person outmatched 100 to 1 by the never-ending platoon of snow.

She's trying so desperately now to find her way, each snowflake falling clouds her vision and even her thoughts. This exam could get her out of the trench-worthy slum she currently lives in. The snow never stops, like her grief, her sadness, her worry and her utmost despair.

Alfie H (Y11)





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St John's School Writers cont...



Walking, Austin started the day walking. Walking was rare for him, unless it was for a reason, but on that certain day, I would gamble on the reason being the snow. Snow can only be described as a thousand frosty diamonds, taking its place on its own walkway of fame; a white plague that only passes through at winter time. And inside or outside, you will be infected. Why was Austin walking on this particular day? Some say it could have been for the aesthetic, or a stroll down a memory lane, a sense of familiarity and a contribution to his childhood life.

Austin was held as a family member to the Brockin household, the second born son. The Brockins weren't particularly wealthy in terms of money as they ran a barn in the North of England, using the six children to their advantage, putting them to work like rabbits. Because of this placement, snow was regularly passing from the calendar's hold of November to March, like a mother clinging onto a week-old baby.

It was a separate feeling, however, being giddy like a drunken man and the feel of the crunch of white was his alcohol, intoxicated with the feeling.

Finally...now, worrying if he kept only the radiator that worked on; the bill of the creeping land holder increasing; and if his neighbour above him was having a bath, leaving water pouring into Austin's kitchen domain.

Back to real time.

Suddenly, an arousing smell clouded his nasal senses, bringing him out of his euphoric episode. He turned. The infamous Costco, known for trading hours of precious time sat at desks, for baked treats like Hell's slave. Why not? He entered.

Theo M-M (Y11)