



Newsletter

14th February 2025 | Issue 99



Ministry
of Defence

Dear Families,

We have reached the end of another half term and this one has raced by!

It has been a good start to the new calendar year and continuation of the academic year. Across the school our students continue to model our core values of Integrity, Commitment and Respect, allowing them to make good progress across the curriculum.



At the midway point of this school year, DCS reviewed attendance across all MOD Schools and I am delighted that, as a school, we lead the way in almost every measure with a school attendance very close to our target (96%) at 95.6% and significantly higher than the national average of 92%. Thank you to all of our parents in support of our shared effort to promote excellent school attendance.

As we embark upon the half term break, I hope that all of our families manage some quality time together and look forward to welcoming everyone back into school on Monday 24th February at 0800 hrs.

Upcoming School Events

Week Commencing 17th February

All Week

Half Term

School closed to students and staff

Week Commencing 24th February

Week 2

Monday 24th February

The new term begins at 0800 hrs

Tuesday 25th February

Year 7 Parent Afternoon : 1430—1700 hrs

Wednesday 26th February

Year 11 GCSE Food Practical Examination—All Day

Thursday 27th February

SJS Coffee Morning 0800—1000 hrs

Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org

Year 11 GCSE Food Practical Examination—All Day

Friday 28th February

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition

Week Commencing 3rd March

Week 1

All Week

National Careers Week 2025

Year 12 Design My Future Trip

Tuesday 4th March

Peer Review of St John's School

Wednesday 5th March

Aspire Programme Launch: Year 7 Parent Information Event @ 1500hrs

Thursday 6th March

World Book Day

Year 11 Geography Fieldwork

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

Friday 7th March

Year 11 Geography Fieldwork



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This week at St John's School



Our students set off in typically British and very changeable weather conditions on Wednesday as they undertook their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze practice expedition. They endured hail, heavy rain, sunshine and blue skies in temperatures that hovered around the mid to low teens, perfect for such an expedition and well done to all who took part!





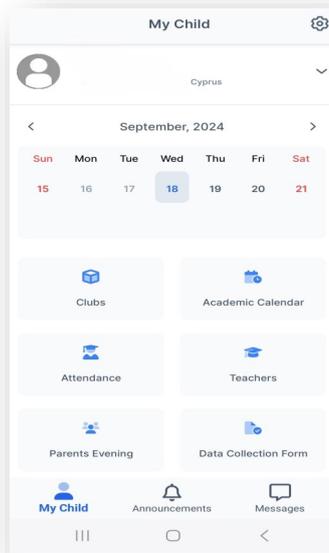
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Year 7 Parents' Afternoon

Tuesday 25th February 1430—1700 hrs



Have you made your appointments? Appointments must be made in advance of the Parent Afternoon. Appointments 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@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

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.



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Extra Curricular Opportunities

We have managed to capture an overview of all of the different extra curricular opportunities available to our students outside of school hours across the Western Sovereign Base Area and locally in the Republic of Cyprus. The summary document with details relating to days and times can be found on our [website](#).



About Us - Admission - Attendance - Careers - Curriculum - Information - News -

As many of our students travel to us on school buses (from RAF Akrotiri, North and South Paramali), we have a late bus that runs each night at 1500hrs to allow them to join in with our extra curricular programme.

Extra-Curricular Activities in the WSBA

In addition to the opportunities provided at school, students can participate in an extensive range of opportunities across the WSBA. These opportunities are detailed below and updated three times each year. Please note that the activities listed below are not organised or supervised by St John's School. The school does not endorse or take responsibility for any aspect of these events, including safety, supervision, or content. Parents and guardians should assess the suitability of these activities and make their own arrangements directly with the organisers.

1 of 6

St John's School logo

Extra-Curricular Opportunities for students of St John's School
Current as of February 2025

ACTIVITIES	EPISKOPI STATION				AKROTIRI STATION				REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS			
	ORGANISERS	MEET	DAY	TIME	ORGANISERS	MEET	DAY	TIME	ORGANISERS	MEET	DAY	TIME
Swimming	Swim Squad & Lessons Andrea K Jane @stjohns Swim School Facebook	Station Pool	Monday Wednesday	18:15-19:45 15:15-16:00	Swim Squad Julie @stjohns Facebook	Station Pool	Tuesday	17:00-18:00	Ypsonas Sports Centre 77777172	Lynn	Monday-Friday	16:00
Running Club	Achae Miner & Matt Sanders @stjohns Episkopi Running Club Facebook	Happy Valley	Thursday	17:00-18:00 Three-Stern run					Apolonia Runners @apolonia.runners gmail.com Call Mr Andreas Odaouis 99469390	Limasol	Various	Various
Park Run	Achae Miner & Matt Sanders @stjohns Happy Valley parkrun Happy Valley parkrun	Happy Valley	Saturday	07:50-sign up time 08:00-start time	Katie Fenton Elle Cloak @stjohns Akrotiri parkrun	Chaplaincy	Saturday	08:00				
Netsball 14 and up	Stacey Prinsley Episkopi Netsball	Station Gym	Wednesday	17:30-19:00		Station Gym	Monday	18:00				

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Students and parents are encouraged to visit this page to find out what is available.

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Internet Safety Week

On Tuesday we were treated to an excellent assembly led by Mr Kingston-Bray who reminded us of the trappings of phishing scams that find their way all too often into our email inboxes. It is all too easy to fall victim to such scams and great care must be taken by all of us to avoid the loss of personal data, money and/or damage to our computers through virus. Key Stage 3 illustrated just how easy it is to fall victim, setting a phishing trap that targeted teachers with enticing offers that were clicked by 65% of our staff.



Phishing in numbers:

- An estimated 3.4 billion emails a DAY are sent by cyber criminals
- More than 90% of all successful cyber attacks start with a phishing email
- One in 5 people click phishing email links
- Cybercrime costs the world \$10.5 trillion annually by 2025 - 3rd largest economy

Year 11 Core Mock Examinations

Students in Year 11 will sit a final round of mock examinations in English, Maths and Science on Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th of March. Further exams will then take place on Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th of March. Schedules have already been circulated and the times of the exams will reflect the times of the Summer Series. To accurately reflect the Summer Series students are permitted to come into school for 1015hrs on the day of their exam. Buses will leave from :

- Akrotiri @ approximately 0930hrs
- Paramali @ approximately 1005hrs



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Our School Show—The Wizard of Oz

Earlier this week we took the very difficult decision to postpone our upcoming school show—The Wizard of Oz. This decision came as a result of the absence of a colleague who has been instrumental in the successful delivery of our previous school shows. I personally spoke to parents of our cast and then, together with Mr Dixon, our cast members.

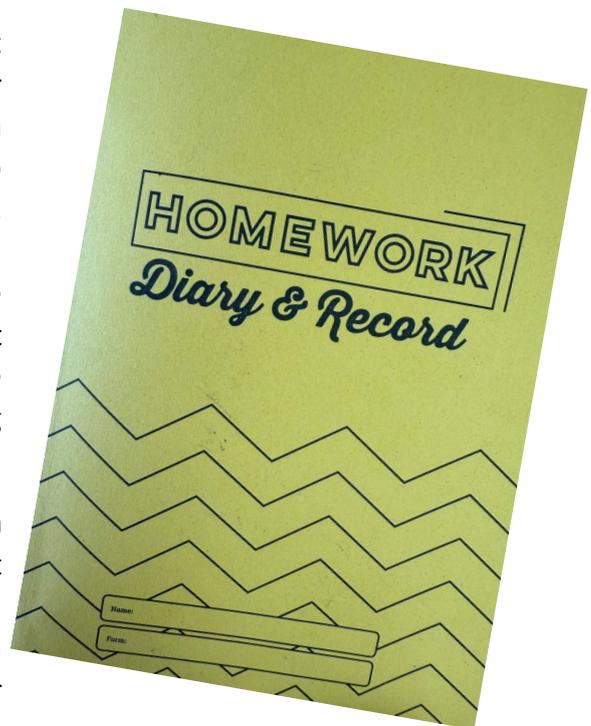


Understandably they are all extremely disappointed, having already committed hours to rehearsing. We have not given up on putting this show on in the coming months and our students are also keen to do so. Should putting on the show become a possibility, we will confirm revised dates in due course, get back to our rehearsals and publish the performance dates accordingly.

School Planners

There has been an absence of student planners at St John's School for a number of years. However, over recent months students and staff have expressed a desire to reintroduce student planners to help keep track of assignments, home learning and revision. Responding to this growing interest, we are going to trial the use of a cost effective student planner which will be issued to students after half term. These diaries are not only for logging homework and deadlines, but can be used to plan and organise revision for any upcoming assessments and examinations.

It is hoped that by using the planner that students can develop stronger time management skills, ensuring that they stay on top of tasks and do not feel overwhelmed. The diaries include space for students to note down their weekly timetable, giving them a clear view of their week and helping them balance their academic and personal commitments.



It is expected that students will bring their planner to school each and every day. We will review their use and effectiveness to evaluate their potential use in future academic years.



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House Football !!

Apollo vs Poseidon

After school at Happy Valley !!

14:00 - 15:00

Thursday 27th February

Year 8 Boys

Thursday 6th March

Year 7 Girls

Thursday 13th March

Year 7 Boys

Thursday 20th March

Year 8 Girls

Thursday 27th March

Year 9/10 Boys

Thursday 3rd April

Year 9/10 Girls

Maximum 8 players on each team

Equipment needed:

- Football Boots
- Shin Pads
- Football socks

Late bus back to Akrotiri at 15:10 after the game

Sign up via the 'MCAS' app

Any questions please email Alfie Parkinson (sports leader) at
twenty19.6324@stjohnsschoolcyprus.com



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Supporting ALL to Thrive

OXFORD
BROOKES
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RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

We are seeking families with children who have special educational needs, disabilities, additional learning needs, or support needs.



An online survey investigating educational experiences of school-age children with additional needs.



The survey should take between 10 and 25 minutes, depending on your circumstances.



The survey closes on 14th February 2025.

Parents or carers of a child aged 4-18 with additional needs in UK education or in MOD schools overseas are eligible to take part.



This survey is part of a larger study focusing on children in Armed Forces families, but it's open to ALL families with children who need additional support.

✉ clairelee@brookes.ac.uk

🌐 <https://sattproject.org.uk/>

☎ 01865 603398

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Caterpillar Time!

The Cyprus pine processionary caterpillars can cause skin irritations.



The hairs on the caterpillars can cause painful skin, eye, and throat irritations, rashes, and allergic reactions in humans and animals. The hairs can cause drooling, swelling of the mouth, and difficulty breathing to pets

The higher the altitude the earlier the emergence of the adult and the later the pupation of the fully-grown larvae



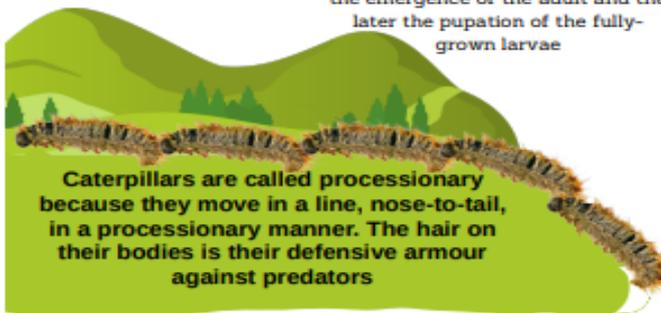
The hairs of caterpillars can easily detach and be swept away by the wind. If you spot any nearby your home, make sure to keep windows and doors closed to prevent the hairs from entering your house

Do not mistake the Cyprus Pine Processionary with the endemic Martouthkia!



Photos by George Konstantinos

Caterpillars are called processionary because they move in a line, nose-to-tail, in a processionary manner. The hair on their bodies is their defensive armour against predators



Climate Change

Climate change in combination with processionary moths can be detrimental to the trees higher temperatures however can also kill the caterpillars in the nests



Help us record the Cyprus pine processionary moth



and upload photos of the moth, the caterpillars and the infestation. Join the project: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/cyprus-pine-processionary-moth-thaumetopoea-wilkinsoni-pipimoth-project>

Download the iNaturalist App



Funded by Darwin Plus DPLUS200, DPLUS124 & DPL00079



We are Dr Kelly Martinou, Cpt Helen Tokaigali and Eloise Springate, working at the Joint Services Health Unit, British Forces Cyprus. If you wish to find out more about our work contact us at thethreemosquiteers@gmail.com

Leaflet created by Eloise Springate

The Three Mosquiteers Learn about the The Cyprus Processionary Moth (Thaumetopoea wilkinsoni Tams)



The Cyprus Processionary Moth

In September they lay their eggs on young



Caterpillars appear at lower altitudes and start feeding on pine needles and constructing nests



At the same time it is valuable prey for many species including ladybirds



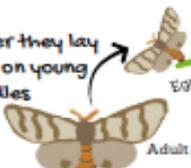
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The Cyprus Processionary Moth

In September they lay their eggs on young needles

Eggs & egg laying



Adult

Late summer and autumn adults are flying around

In May they pupate in the ground

Pupa

Life Cycle

Caterpillars appear at lower altitudes and start feeding on pine needles and constructing nests

1st INSTAR

2ND INSTAR

3RD INSTAR

4TH INSTAR

5TH INSTAR

In April and May caterpillars move from trees to the ground to pupate (procession or marching)

In January and February, you observe the nests on the trees

more studies are needed to understand the role of the pine processionary moth as prey for different species

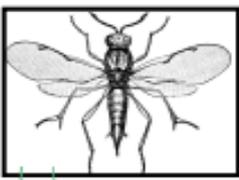
At the same time it is valuable prey for many species including ladybirds that can feed on the egg masses on trees and the Eurasian Hoopoe that digs the soil and feeds on the cocoons.

In the neighboring country of Lebanon researchers highlight the importance of multiple bird species, including the Eurasian Hoopoe, as natural predators of the processionary moth, calling for the protection of Important Bird Areas.

The Pine Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopoea wilkinsoni* Tams) belongs to the insect order of Lepidoptera



- The adults lay their eggs low in the trees, as they are unable to fly more than two meters.
- Larvae consume pine needles in forests causing defoliation, and making trees more vulnerable to other pests, diseases and fires
- First symptoms of infestations are the yellow needles on the trees that you spot in autumn



This tiny chalcid wasp *Anastatus* sp. is a natural enemy of the Cyprus pine processionary. It parasitizes its eggs



Only biocontrol products can be used for the control of the processionary moth such as natural bacterial toxins and pheromone traps that attract the male moths

pheromones



How to protect yourself and others

The hair of the caterpillars is toxic and can cause skin rashes and allergies So do not touch and try to avoid the caterpillars when marching on the ground



Wet your lawn when you see caterpillars on the ground to alleviate any symptoms from the hair that might have spread



Remove plastic lawn from gardens the caterpillars look for soft soil to pupate by marching on plastic lawn their hair is spread there



Keep your pets away from caterpillars when you see them marching on the ground



Do not try to handle the caterpillars as the caterpillars' hair can cause irritations



Choose plants wisely for your garden, or school. Avoid planting *Pinus halepensis* and *Pinus brutia* (the Calabrian pine). A native tree other than pines will be a better alternative. Always research before planting





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St John's School Writers

Year 8 are studying William Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' this term and exploring complex themes that arise from the text. The following essay maturely assesses the relationship between Caliban and Prospero through the lens of colonialism and the power of language. Well done Lola!

Why is Caliban so angry with Prospero?

Caliban is angry because Prospero usurped Caliban and took the island from him. Caliban states that "this island is mine, by Sycorax my mother, which thou tak'st from me." This suggests that Caliban's mother gave him the island but Prospero came along and took control of the island away from Caliban. "The Tempest," one of Shakespeare's comedies, has many links to colonialism and the idea of people coming to foreign lands, taking control of the land and enslaving the indigenous population. Prospero came to Caliban's island and expected that Caliban would willingly give him the island when realistically the island has sentimental value as Caliban's dead mother gave it to him. This idea is similar to the colonisation that was going on in the world at that time. It could be argued that Prospero does not have a proper reason to own the island. Caliban has every right to want his island back and to be annoyed with Prospero.



Caliban is also angry with Prospero because Prospero would not let Caliban speak in his native language. Caliban says to Prospero "the red plague rid you for learning me your language." This shows that Prospero would not let Caliban speak in the language that he knows and would have been taught by his mother. Prospero taught him Italian so they could communicate with each other better but really it is so that Prospero has more power and he can understand everything that Caliban is saying. When colonising another land, the language of the colonisers would be imposed upon the indigenous people so any plots against them would be understood. Caliban's personal identity is being taken away from him. When Prospero forces him to speak Italian Caliban does not get to be who he wants to be and Prospero forces him to do what he wants. Caliban has a right to be angry as Prospero is making him speak a language just so he can understand him. If Prospero wanted to understand Caliban why would he not learn Caliban's language? It is unfair to Caliban.

Lola L-S (Y8)