



# Newsletter

28th March 2025 | Issue 104

Ministry  
of Defence

Dear Families,



On Tuesday I was invited to meet with The Commander of British Forces Cyprus (CBF), AVM Peter Squires, along with Headteachers from across MOD Schools, Cyprus. It was an opportunity for us all to thank CBF for the support he has offered all of our schools throughout his three year tenure here in Cyprus. As a staunch advocate for all of our schools, students and families, I was delighted that we were able to gift AVM Squires a piece of artwork produced by Lillie G in Year 12 as a token of our thanks. This piece of artwork can be seen pictured and was presented by Mrs Donna Simpson, the Chief Education Officer for MOD Schools here in Cyprus.



Elsewhere this week, Year 11 completed their last round of Mock Examinations that will support them in targeting key content and skills that need to be revised and honed ahead of the Summer Exam Series that will start in little over a month's time. Throughout this week our Sports Leaders helped out in the smooth running of the Episkopi Primary School Sports Days, whilst on Thursday we fielded a teams against TLC and Foley's International School in a football tournament hosted at Happy Valley. The tournament followed our school waving goodbye to the Puma Helicopter as it undertook its Island-wide farewell.

## Upcoming School Events

### Week Commencing 31st March

### Week 2

**Monday 31st March****Rewards Trip****Wednesday 2nd April****Year 8 Environmental Trip—Cohort 1****Thursday 3rd April****Year 8 Environmental Trip—Cohort 2****Headteacher's Surgery : 0900—1000 hrs @ Akrotiri Hive****Friday 4th April****Rewards Trip****Deadline for the Year 9 Options Return****Last Day of Term—School Closes at 1230 hrs**

### Week Commencing 7th April

**All Week****Easter Holiday****School closed to students and staff**

### Week Commencing 14th April

**All Week****Easter Holiday****School closed to students and staff**



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## This week at St John's School



On Thursday we waved goodbye to the Puma Helicopters as they undertook a farewell flyover after 55 years of service. The Puma retires at the end of March.



Our Key Stage 3 Sports Leaders supported teachers of Episkopi Primary School in their successful series of Sports Days this week.

Mr Fazackerley said "everyone was so impressed with their leadership skills, kind nature and positivity. They were great role models to the young children and a credit to your school"







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## Aspire

We recently invited applications from students in Year 7 to enrol in our inaugural Aspire Programme. The programme aims to provide students with a broad suit of enrichment opportunities designed to further challenge and develop their academic curiosity. Students will participate in activities that will facilitate their learning of Greek, allow certification in Science through the CREST Award and in completing the Foundation Projects Qualification. Students will also have opportunity to develop their debating and public speaking skills, whilst also exploring a wide variety of subjects ranging from sociology, criminology and journalism. Students participating will also be provided opportunity to attend a University and Cultural residential visit to the UK.

We were delighted to have received eighteen high quality applications and look forward to each of the applicants commencing the programme in September when it is formally launched. I am hopeful that this programme can be further expanded in future years, matching similar opportunities afforded to students in UK schools.

On Tuesday I enjoyed the opportunity to join Mrs Fox, the Aspire Programme Leader, in celebrating the students who secured their place on the programme. I am sure you will join me in wishing them all the very best as they look forward to the programme's start this September. I am confident that they will be able to demonstrate our value of Commitment in their approach to the programme.





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## The Manosphere

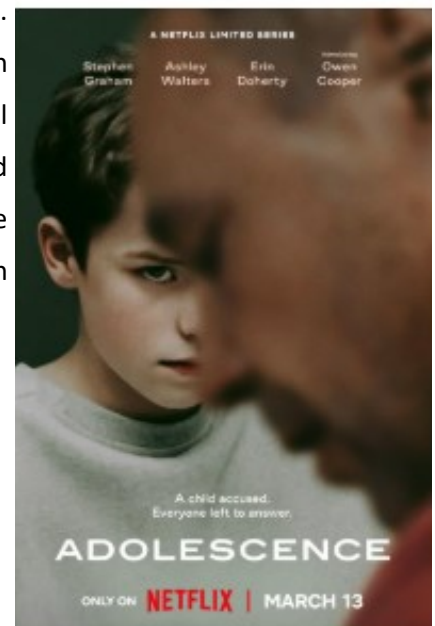
*"Adolescence quickly became the most talked-about show of the year so far"* ([BBC.2025](#)). The show, which can be watched on Netflix, follows the arrest of a 13 year old boy on suspicion of murdering a girl from his school. The show has brought into sharp debate discussion around the Manosphere and the impact of social media upon young people, particularly boys and their views towards women.

The Manosphere refers to online literature in all its forms (blogs, websites and online forums) that promotes masculinity, misogyny, whilst promoting anti-feminist and sexist beliefs. There has been a growing trend amongst young boys and men for some years. Last year at St John's School we undertook a sustained, strategic approach that has continued into this year to address anti-feminist views and counter the Manosphere. Students at school report these efforts to have been successful. Efforts have included a revised and updated PSHE Curriculum, increased PSHE lesson time at Key Stage 3 and the inclusion of tutor activities that looks to challenge the notion of the Manosphere. Furthermore, through our carefully chosen texts, students have explored articles and text that serve to challenge stereotypes, misogyny and other key themes that promote inequality in all its guises. These efforts come against a national backdrop which research reports that *"50% of young men aged 16-24 believe feminism makes it more difficult for men to succeed"* ([Hope Not Hate. 2020](#)).

Parents are encouraged to engage students, both boys and girls, into conversations around the Manosphere to enable parental understanding into online content young people are accessing, the views they hold and how young people can be supported to question and challenge online content.

The links displayed below provide support and guidance for parents in further understanding the Manosphere, the language students use as well as emojis that possess a hidden, sometimes more sinister meaning. Should you want more information or hold concerns or wish for support please contact your child's Form Tutor or Head of Key Stage for further information and guidance.

- ⇒ [BBC Radio 4 - AntiSocial, What is the 'manosphere'?](#)
- ⇒ [Emojis and their hidden meanings | Essential Safeguarding Company](#)
- ⇒ [Giving your child a mobile phone | Family Lives](#)
- ⇒ [430+ Teen Slang, Emojis, & Hashtags Parents Need to Know](#)
- ⇒ [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)





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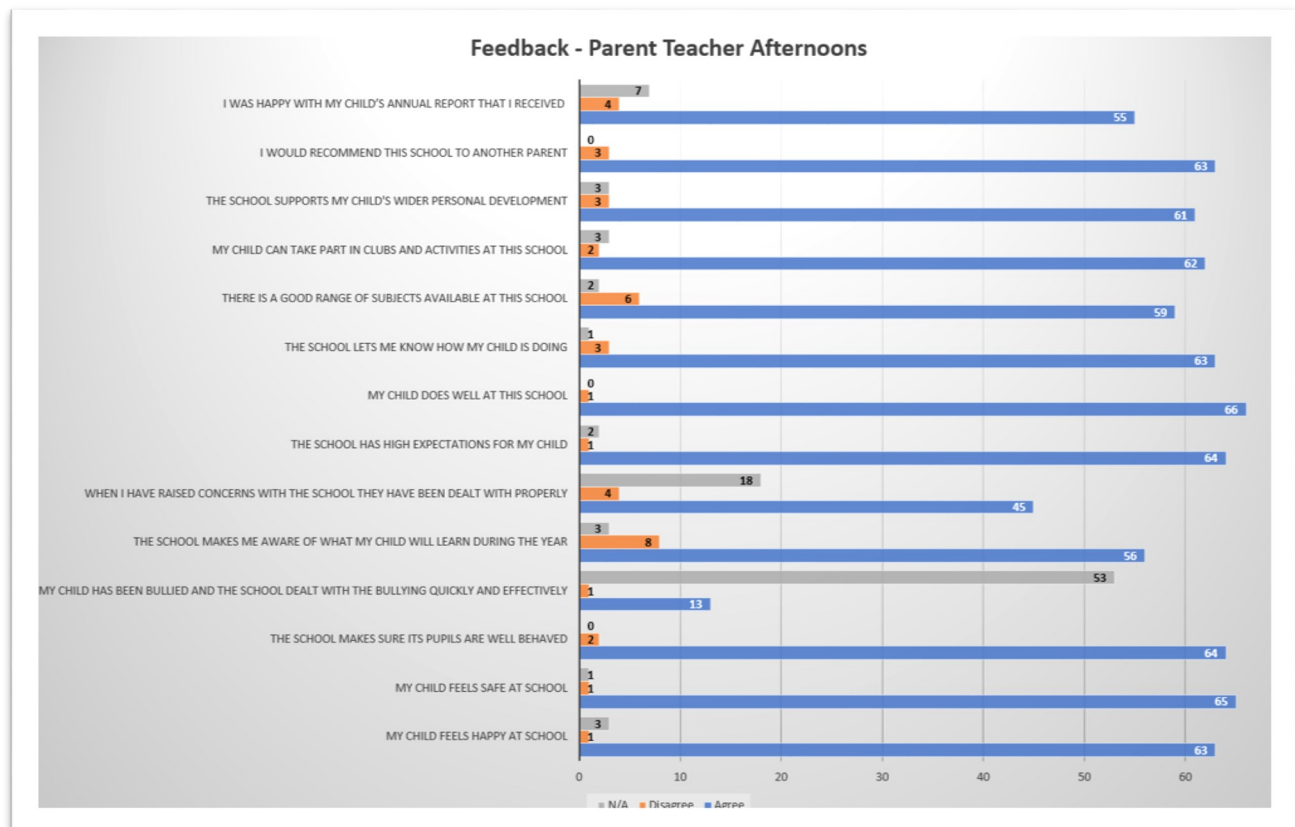
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## Parent Feedback

Thank you to all of our parents for your ongoing support of our school. I am really grateful for the regular feedback you provide us with whether it is informally given during school visits, by popping in to see me at the Akrotiri Hive or via email and parent survey.

The feedback you provide helps to inform ongoing school improvement, whilst also providing me with the necessary reassurance in the provision we are currently providing you and your child(ren). The feedback below has been captured throughout this academic year and provides headline insight into how we are doing. Beneath these headline figures lies specific feedback, which is being incorporated into the formulation of our school improvement plans for the remainder of this academic year and into the next.



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](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsschoolcyprus)



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## Career Exploration Fair

As part of our **Careers Programme** at St John's School, we invite community members to share their work experiences with students at our **Careers Fair on Monday 14 July 2025**.

This is a great opportunity to inspire and inform our young people about your career path and essential employability skills in your field.

All areas of work are of interest to our students including but not limited to; **hair and beauty, fitness, public services, Armed Services, farming, business, finance, construction, computing, security, nursing, vet, photography** and more...

## WE NEED YOU



Careers Stall

Practical  
Demonstration

Careers Talk

Something else?

If you feel you maybe able to support us, we would welcome you to complete the form to share your details if you are able to help in some way <https://forms.office.com/r/UrNNgggwJF> or contact [Samantha.Papaioannou@modschools.org](mailto:Samantha.Papaioannou@modschools.org) for more information.





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## Easter Activities

We are delighted to announce that on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April, the Student Leadership Team will be hosting an Easter Day of celebrations during an extended break. As part of the day, you are invited at the cost of 1 euro (per event) to partake in various Easter-themed competitions, which will commence from 10:15-11:00. (Please see list of activities below). Additionally, all students are also invited to take part in the Easter-themed bake off competition, which will be judged by students who have the opportunity to purchase the treats at the bake sale- all with the purpose of raising money.

To sign up for the events, please visit the reception with your money to put your name down on the Easter day sign-up sheets. Please note that not every activity will have unlimited places so make sure to sign up fast as it will be first come first serve. We look forward to celebrating the day with you!

### Activities:

(all activities have a prize involved):

- Who Ate the Chocolate Egg - a detective challenge where you get to interrogate your very own teachers to find the culprit.
- The Egg Drop - build a structure which will protect your egg from an amphitheatre-sized drop!
- Easter Egg Hunt - a race to find hidden eggs across the whole school using riddles
- Eggball - aka a basketball house competition
- Egg Decorating - paint eggs in the art room!





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## Armed Forces Helpline

SAFE, CONFIDENTIAL, & FREE

Helpline & Whatsapp

0 3 3 3 0 9 1 2 5 2 7

**A helpline for Royal Naval, British Army, and  
Royal Air Force personnel and their family  
members. UK or overseas.**

**For Victims and Survivors of:**

- **Domestic abuse**
- **Sexual violence**
- **Stalking**



AURORA  
NEW DAWN

### TALK TO US

	Helpline	Whatsapp
Monday	9 A M - 3 P M	
Tuesday	9 A M - 3 P M	9 A M - 3 P M
Wednesday	9 A M - 3 P M	5 P M - 8 P M
Thursday	9 A M - 3 P M	5 P M - 8 P M
Friday	9 A M - 3 P M	
Sunday		1 0 A M - 2 P M



THE ARMED FORCES  
COVENANT FUND TRUST







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## St John's School Writers

Well done to our Year 11 students who have recently completed their last round of mock examinations. As part of GCSE English Language Paper 1, students have to spend 45 minutes writing a description or narrative. Students were given the choice to either write a description based on an image of a hot place or write a story about a disagreement. The following piece of writing demonstrates a clear and sustained authorial voice and setting.

The year is 151BC. The south of the Sahara desert: one of the hottest habitable areas known to man. Here, we survive by hunting our animals and getting our water from a well. We live primitively, hunting with bows, knives and spears in larger packs. Yes, we take shelter from the sub-zero temperatures during the night however, during the day, we hunt and celebrate. Some will call us the modern cavemen, but to those who know us, it's Okanu. We are a South Saharan tribe, we strive off of the lands and I will tell you how my day has gone so far.

I woke up in the morning to the sounds of fire crackling, growling and shouting. Being the tribe leader, it is my duty to keep my people safe. I got out of my tent and saw that a tiger had infiltrated my home. My warriors are luckily well-trained and circled it, scaring it with fire torches and soon we agreed to kill.

Once the tiger was slain, we feasted on small pieces of meat from the tiger and cactus fruits our harvesters had gathered. It's pretty much all we have out here.

After the feast, I taught my young hunters tactics on how to take down bigger animals such as elephants. This took a while but by five o'clock, just about sunset, we heard of a location one of my scavengers noted as an elephant breeding ground. I brought one of my most experienced warriors, Taka, and a group of young hunters.



We found a small group of elephants. We first circled the group under the cover of the darkness, leaving a gaping circle for them to run through and, in a sequence, one by one, we lit our torches. This scared the elephants and made them run through the gap, but as the last one tried to leave, we closed the gap. Then, once it was trapped, all men rushed in, confusing it. They stabbed at it with spears, flashed with knives, but we underestimated this one. It started fighting back against the young hunters, injuring them severely. Taka and I had to do something. I threw my spear and it hit the raging elephant in the eye, however it did not submit to death. It charged at me, but just as it was about to impale me with its sharp tusks, Taka graciously leapt, like a Leopard, pouncing from nearby trees and impaling the creature's skull with his gorgeous pearly white knife that he had made from a sabretooth tiger's tooth. After the kill, we headed home.

Once home, we feasted on the great beast, and after the celebration, we drank to our hearts' desire. Once that was over, we headed back to our huts, where I am now, writing this story that will be passed through generations.

Harry R (Y11)