



Newsletter

4th July 2025 | Issue 115



Ministry
of Defence

Dear Families,

On Tuesday we joined a Guinness Book of World Records attempt with celebrity chef Jamie Oliver and schools around the world to participate in what is hoped to be the largest cookery lesson. Students participated in a virtual lesson to make a delicious dish of homemade pasta. It was great to be involved even if the pasta was far from a hit when it came to the taste test!



Tuesday also saw some of our students participate in a water polo competition against King Richard School. Unfortunately a serious accident and resulting gas leak shut the main road across Cyprus for much of the day, preventing some students from attending. We are hoping that the fixtures will be rearranged before the end of the school year.

The week ended with two Year 6 Transition days, where we welcomed students from Episkopi and Akrotiri Primary Schools as well as others from further afield to St John's School. The students had a fantastic two days and have already forged good friendships.

To our American students and their families Happy 4th of July!
Wishing you a day full of fun, freedom, and fireworks.



Upcoming School Events

Week Commencing 7th July

Week 2

Monday 7th July

Year 10 Work Experience

Tuesday 8th July

Year 10 Work Experience

Wednesday 9th July

Year 12 Work Experience

School Governors Committee Meeting @ 1000hrs

Thursday 10th July

Year 12 Work Experience

SJS Coffee Morning 0800—1000 hrs

Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org

Friday 11th July

Inter School Swimming Gala

Week Commencing 14th July

Week 1

Monday 14th July

Careers Fair

Thursday 17th July

Year 12 into 13 1-1 Transition Meetings

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

Friday 18th July

Year 12 into 13 1-1 Transition Meetings

End of Year School Reports published.

Week Commencing 21st July

Week 2

Monday 21st July

Lessons as normal

Tuesday 22nd July

Last day of the academic year—school closes at 1230 hrs



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This week at St John's School

Students participate in a World Record Challenge with Jamie Oliver. 19 students from Year 7 & 8 participated and joined thousands of people to cook a fresh pasta dish in a tomato sauce at the same time across the globe, hoping to break the record!

In the one hour students were guided by live streaming from Jamie Oliver and his fellow chefs Dimo and Cerrone. The cooking lesson was designed around the 10 core skills Jamie believes every 16 year old should be able to leave education with.



**SIGN UP TODAY
TO JAMIE OLIVER'S
RECORD BREAKING
COOKERY CLASS!**

AS PART OF THE **GUINNESS WORLD
RECORDS™ ATTEMPT.**

**OFFICIAL
ATTEMPT**

**JAMIE OLIVER
COOKERY
SCHOOL**

SUPPORTED BY **wonde**





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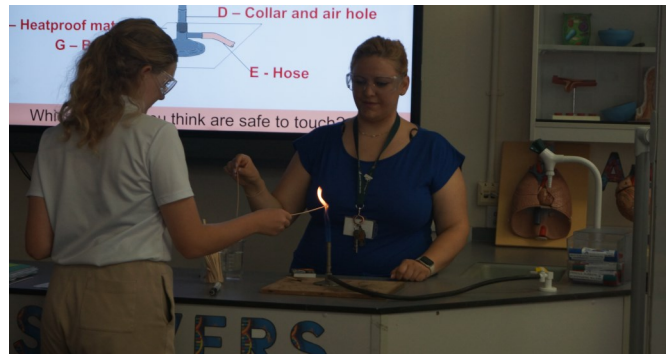
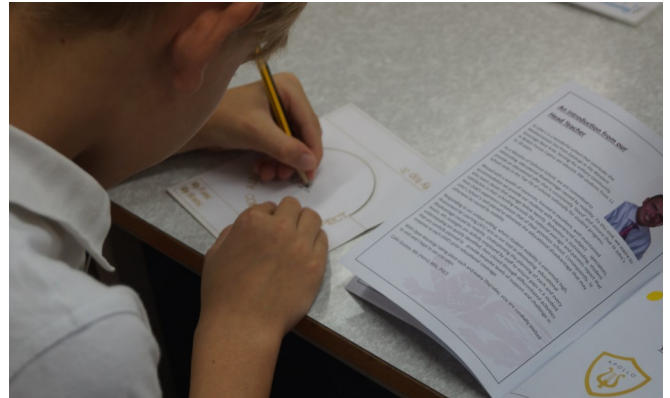
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This week at St John's School

Year 6 joined us at St John's School for a taste of life at Secondary School.





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2025—26 Tutor Groups for Year 7 moving into Year 8

Due to the departure of a number of our staff and students, we will be moving from four tutor groups to three. This decision has been carefully considered to ensure that we continue to provide high-quality support and care for all our students.

As a result of this change, students may be allocated to a different tutor group. We are working closely to make sure that all students are placed thoughtfully, with their wellbeing and friendships taken into account.

We understand that changes of this nature can cause some uncertainty. Please be assured that we will support all students throughout the transition and help them settle into their new groups smoothly.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we make this adjustment to better support our school community.

Students will be notified of any changes concerning their tutor group by the end of this academic year.

Episkopi Primary School Car Park

Please can parents avoid using Episkopi Primary School car park to drop and collect children attending St John's School at either end of the school day. Instead students can be dropped off in the car parks by the Youth Centre and outside of the school gates. The volume of traffic presents a significant risk to the safety of pedestrians as identified in a Health and Safety Inspection of both schools this week.

SJS Coffee Mornings



On Thursday 10th July 0900—1000hrs, parents of students at St John's School are cordially invited to join our coffee morning.

This will be the final coffee morning of this academic year.

Should you wish to book a place, please email

SJS.Enquiries@modschoools.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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PE Uniform for September 2025 onwards

Over the past year Nike Pro Training shorts have become increasingly popular amongst students participating in Physical Education (PE). The shorts and similar compression-style athletic shorts (pictured) are made to be close fitting with stretchy material and from September 2025 will no longer be permitted to be worn for PE.



This decision has been made in order to uphold the school's standards for appropriate dress, ensure a consistent and respectful learning environment for all students, and maintain a focus on physical activity over personal attire. While Nike Pro shorts are popular for athletic performance, they are not aligned with the school's expectations for modesty and uniformity during school hours.

Approved PE attire includes the following:

- Loose-fitting black athletic shorts of mid-thigh length or longer
- PE T-shirts provided by the school
- Athletic shoes suitable for physical activity

Suitable loose-fitting black athletic shorts can be purchased from school directly for €5 or elsewhere.

Students who arrive to PE in non-compliant attire, including Nike Pro shorts, will in the first instance be asked to change with repeated non-compliance being addressed through the use of our behaviour policy.

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 and that many members of our RIB will be returning to the UK through a staggered approach which has already begun.



If you know you will be leaving us before the new academic year, please can you inform the School Office as soon as possible. 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@modschoools.org.



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School Governance Committee (SGC)

School Governance Committee (SGC) members are interested members of the community, including parents of children at St John's School.

We work with the Headteacher and school staff to assist in making key decisions vital to the successful running of the school, contribute to decisions directly affecting the education and wellbeing of pupils, assist in improving standards throughout the school and monitor the school budget.

The SGC meets each half term as a whole committee to review and discuss school business, and represent the views of parents.

Main Roles

Provide a Strategic Overview

- Focusing on the key issues of raising standards of achievement, establishing high expectations and promoting effective teaching and learning

Act as a Critical Friend

- Providing the Headteacher and staff with support and advice using members' knowledge and experience

Ensure Accountability

- Questioning and openly discussing with the Headteacher the school's performance and other issues, whilst respecting both the professional roles of the Headteacher and school staff and their responsibilities for the management of the school

Are you interested in joining our SGC?

We currently have a number of vacancies upon our School Governance, should you be interested we welcome a short expression of interest detailing your suitability by email to:

Penny.Demetriou@modschoools.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



INTEGRITY • COMMITMENT • RESPECT

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HOME
START
WSBA



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you a mum, dad, grandparent, or carer? We need people with your experience to volunteer



Benefits :

- Have a sense of purpose and fulfilment
- Social connection and community integration
- Mental and physical benefits
- Sharing skills and experiences

JOIN US NOW!

We Need Help With :

- ✓ Home visits to families
- ✓ Support for new parents
- ✓ Assistance with children's learning and play
- ✓ Providing emotional support and practical advice
- ✓ Running groups for families with young children



Email:

homestartwsba@yahoo.com



telephone:

+357 25963748





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St John's School Writers

Earlier this term, Year 7 students studied a range of animal poetry with a focus on learning about how writers use metaphor. At the end of the unit, students were assessed on their ability to respond to the following unseen poem:

The Tom Cat

At midnight in the alley
A tom-cat comes to wail,
And he chants the hate of a million years
As he swings his snaky tail.

Malevolent, bony, brindled,
Tiger and devil and bard,
His eyes are coals from the middle of Hell
And his heart is black and hard.

He twists and crouches and capers
And bares his curved sharp claws,
And he sings to the stars of the jungle nights
Ere cities were, or laws.

Beast from a world primeval,
He and his leaping clan,
When the blotched red moon leers over the roofs
Give voice to their scorn of man.

He will lie on a rug to-morrow
And lick his silky fur,
And veil the brute in his yellow eyes
And play he's tame, and purr.

But at midnight in the alley
He will crouch again and wail,
And beat the time for his demon's song
With the swing of his demon's tail.



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St John's School Writers

The following response was produced under timed conditions and is an excellent example of a student using a concept (the cat as a demon) to drive their essay.

How does the poet describe the tom cat in this poem?

The tom cat is presented by the poet as a brutal creature among the other cats at night. When the poem says "Eyes are coals from the middle of hell," this is describing that he does not see clearly through these eyes, he sees hatred and a threat to his dominance. He will probably never see kindness or empathise with someone else because he has eyes like "hell."

In this poem the cat can be seen as secretive. This can be seen when the poet says "veil the brute." He is concealing the disgust and all of the envy he feels towards the world. He pretends that he feels emotions with his hollow, power-corrupted heart when he is at home lying on a rug but you can never hide a beast in an angel.

In the last couple of lines, the animal is described as a devil coming back to wail at midnight. He beats the "time for his demon song" and with "a swing of his demon tail" telling the reader that he has come out from under his veil and is back on the streets. In the poem it mentions "beat the time". This is referring back to the start when he "wails" at midnight. This wail is also his demon song. As the cat is not one for showing affection so the demon song is probably to warn other males that he wants to fight or that he wants to have heirs to continue his dominance.

As a whole the cat is not described in a positive way. Tom cats like to have dominance and this one particularly wants to keep it, is hungry for it. He has turned into a mean, obnoxious and wary cat.



Lyra C (Y7)