



# Newsletter

18th July 2025 | Issue 117



Dear Families,

With two days remaining of this academic year this will be my final newsletter. In reaching the end of the academic year, we sadly say goodbye to so many of our students and their families. It has been a busy school year and I am in debt to the hard work and support afforded by everyone associated with our school. On behalf of us all here at school I wish all of those leaving this summer the very best in their future schooling and upcoming postings. It has been a privilege to contribute to your child's education and I hope they reflect fondly upon their time with us.



In addition to our student goodbyes, we also say farewell to a small number of staff. Together they have contributed over eighty years of service to St John's School. This year we say goodbye to Mrs Cambridge, Mrs Edwards, Mr Carter, Mr Jones and Mrs Mackellar. In addition, we also say goodbye to Mrs Habgood who has undertaken a maternity position as our Science Technician.

Like the end of every academic year, the final weeks bring mixed emotion. Along with farewells, we have had a series of recent celebrations. The term has however continued with purpose on Monday we hosted over 40 professionals from a wide range of industries who participated in our whole day, whole school careers fair. Students had opportunity to interact with the professionals through career stands and their attendance to four career workshops.

Now that the summer holidays are almost upon us, we wish everyone associated with our school a restful Summer Holiday, hoping that you all manage to squeeze out some leave between work and relocation.

## New Year Arrangements

For students returning to St John's School at the beginning of the new academic year, the new year begins:

- for students in Year 7 and 11 on Wednesday 3rd September at 0800 hrs
- for all other students on Thursday 4th September at 0800 hrs

Should you be arriving to Cyprus and have a child starting at St John's School in September, you are cordially invited to attend our new arrivals briefing on Friday 29th August at 0900 hrs.

The next edition of this newsletter will be published on Friday 5th September

## Upcoming School Events

### Week Commencing 21st July

**Monday 21st July**

**Lessons as normal**

**Tuesday 22nd July**

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

### Week 2

**School Summer Holidays**

**Wednesday 23rd July—Tuesday 2nd September 2025**

**(inclusive)**



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## New academic year arrangements

The school will close on Tuesday 22nd July for students with only a skeleton number of staff in school throughout the holiday period. Should you need to contact the school during this period, please email [sjs.enquiries@modschoools.org](mailto:sjs.enquiries@modschoools.org), however, please note there may be a delay in response, particularly over the Cypriot summer holiday period.

The table below details when the school will be open throughout the summer period, as well as the start of term arrangements.

Thursday 14th August 2025	1000—1200	A-Level Examination Results Published	SJS Episkopi
Thursday 21st August 2025	1000—1200	GCSE Examination Results Published	SJS Episkopi
Tuesday 26 August 2025	All day 0900 – 1200	Year 11 into 12 Sixth Form Interviews (letter being sent by Sixth Form) Purchase of Uniform	SJS Episkopi
Wednesday 27 August 2025	All day 0900 – 1200	Year 11 into 12 Sixth Form Interviews (letter being sent by Sixth Form)  Purchase of Uniform	SJS  Akrotiri Hive
Wednesday 27 August 2025	All day	Purchase of Uniform	SJS Episkopi
<b>Friday 29 August 2025</b>	<b>0900</b>	<b>New Student/Parent Induction Briefing</b> Meet the Head Teacher School Tour Purchase of Uniform	SJS Episkopi
Monday 1st September 2025	All day	Staff Inset Day	SJS Episkopi
Tuesday 2nd September 2025	All day	Staff Inset Day	SJS Episkopi
Wednesday 3rd September 2025	0800-1400	School opens to Y7 and Y11 only	SJS Episkopi
Thursday 4th September 2025	0800-1400	School Opens for all students	SJS Episkopi



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## This week at St John's School



## Careers Fair 2025

On Monday we hosted over 40 professionals from across a wide range of industries who participated in our Careers Fair. Students met professionals from the healthcare sector, legal departments, tourism and leisure industry, military and emergency services to name just a few. Our students had a very informative and enjoyable day and I am very grateful to everyone who gave up their time to ensure this successful opportunity, including Mrs Papaioannou whose vision, ambition and sheer hard work resulted in our 2025 Careers Fair.





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## This week at St John's School



The summer term has led students to the pool with water based competitions that have included a swim gala and water polo both hosted by King Richard School.

We have also had students participating in the recent Poseidon Challenge at RAF Akrotiri. The challenge was a 24 hour event that saw six teams competing to swim the furthest to raise awareness for Drowning Prevention Week.

Cyprus Joint Security Unit (CJSU) was the only team with teenagers taking part, and finished in 3rd place thanks to Beth and Evie's exceptional effort.



Competing against Soldiers, Airmen, and triathletes, Beth and Evie showed tremendous grit and determination; especially during the early hours of the morning as the team pulled an all-nighter and the girls contribution was critical to maintaining a podium position



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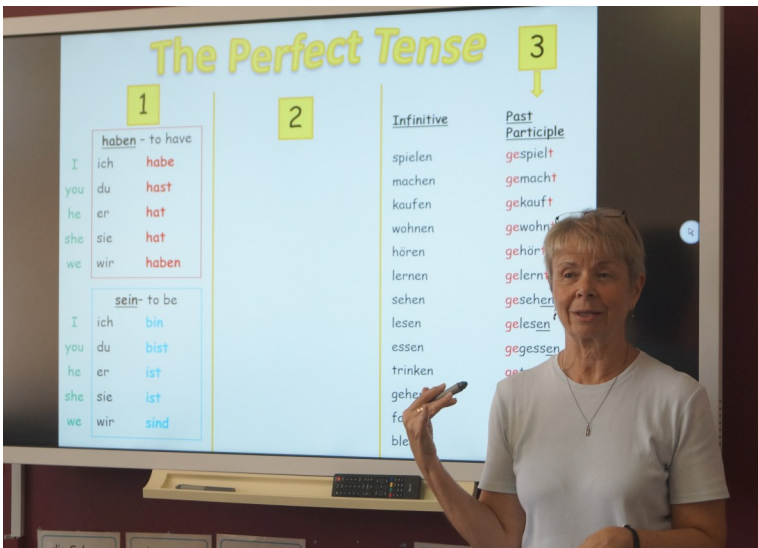
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## Leaving Staff

### Mrs Alison (Ali) Cambridge



Alison (Ali) Cambridge one of our beloved teachers of Modern Foreign Languages retires after almost 25 years of service to St John's School. Ali has touched the lives of so many students with her passion for languages and pastoral nature.

Fondly regarded by all, we wish Ali all the very best in her retirement as she returns to the Wirral with her husband Andrew.

### Mrs Julie Edwards

With 25 years of service Julie Edwards has masterminded a legacy of outstanding community events and school performances. Most recently these included our shows Grease and Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat. In addition to these showcases Julie has shared her passion for music through her teaching and contributed widely to our school.

Julie looks forward to pursuing her passion for music as she embarks upon new endeavours here in Cyprus.







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## Leaving Staff

### Mrs Tracey Mackellar



Tracey Mackellar has done a sterling job stepping in to undertake a maternity cover for Mrs Timms (nee Lea) over this past year.

As an experienced teacher of all design subjects, we were extremely fortunate to have Tracey on hand.

Tracey leaves us this summer for a permanent role at King Richard School.

### Mr Andrew Carter

Andrew Carter leaves us after 18 years service to St John's School . Andrew has played an important back office role in maintaining our school information system and record keeping throughout his time.

Andrew returns to the UK with his wife Ali Cambridge (Carter) and looks forward to retirement in the Wirral.



### Mr Mark Jones



Mark Jones has been a pillar of support in our Creative Faculty, lending his experience and expertise in Design and Technology. As a skilled carpenter, Mark has aided numerous students in completing their wood and metalwork projects up to A-Level. Mark has also provided much wider whole school support, often going unnoticed, but sizeable in his contribution. Mark looks forward to retirement here in Cyprus with his wife Julie Edwards.



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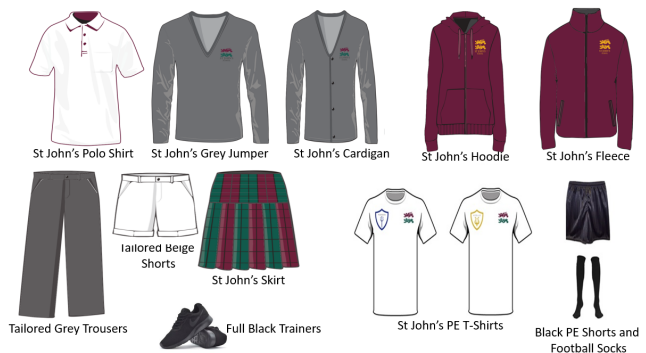
## Preparing for the New Academic Year

### Uniform

There are a number of opportunities to purchase uniform items from school and/or the Akrotiri Hive (27th August) during the final week of the school holidays. Parents are reminded that there is no longer an expectation for students to wear a polo shirt with the school logo and have the opportunity to purchase plain white polo shirts without logo instead.

Responding to stakeholder feedback, we will, as a school, be enforcing the expectation that the school skirts should not be shortened or rolled up and therefore be no shorter than 10cm above the knee.

#### School Uniform



### Piercings

Should your child be considering a piercing this summer, they are encouraged to get this done at the start of the holidays. Students are permitted studs in either ear and we will permit a single nose stud, reflecting this change in policy over the summer. All other piercings will need to be removed. All piercings must be removed when participating in PE.

### Fashion Accessories

Students are reminded that all acrylic or gel nails must be removed prior to the first day of school. We will permit subtle nail varnish colours and will reflect this change in policy over the summer. Please also note that hair colours not deemed as natural are also not permitted.

### Equipment

It is essential that students arrive to school equipped to learn. They are required to have the essential items shown and these will be checked daily by their tutor.





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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](mailto:Kate.Parkinson@modschoools.org).





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## School Buses

Parents will have received this week a letter notifying them of the number of the school bus which they have been allocated for the next academic year. This letter will also include the location from which their child is to meet the bus.

On the first Wednesday and Thursday of the new school year, students travelling from Akrotiri will be met by senior staff at the respective bus stops and be allocated their seat. Seats will be allocated using student preference as to who they would like to seat

next too. Student preferences regarding who they would like to sit next to has been extended to Year 7 who shared their preferences during the transition process.

If you are expecting your child to travel to school from Akrotiri by bus and have not received a letter, please email [Kate.Parkinson@modschoools.org](mailto:Kate.Parkinson@modschoools.org)



## Upcoming School Events

### Week Commencing 25th August

**Monday 25th August****Bank Holiday—School Closed****Tuesday 26th August****Y12 Sixth Form Interviews—all day****Wednesday 27th August****Uniform on sale at St John's School : 0900—1200 hrs****Uniform on sale at St John's School : 0900—1200 hrs****Uniform on sale at Akrotiri Hive: 0900—1200 hrs****Thursday 28th August****Uniform on sale at St John's School : 0900—1200 hrs****Friday 29th August****New student and parent Open Morning : 0900—1030 hrs @ Exam Hall**

### Week Commencing 1st September

**Week 1****Monday 1st September****Staff Inset Day, School closed to students****Tuesday 2nd September****Staff Inset Day, School closed to students****Wednesday 3rd September****School opens to Year 7 and 11 only****Thursday 4th September****Schools opens to all students**

### Week Commencing 8th September

**Week 2****Wednesday 10th September****Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT) for Year 7 and new students****Thursday 11th September****Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT) for Year 7 and new students****Friday 12th September****Advanced Level Information System Tests (ALIS) for Year 12**