



# Newsletter

26th September 2025 | Issue 121



Ministry  
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Dear Families,

In addition to what is happening in the classroom, students in Key Stage 3 had opportunity to visit Kourion on Wednesday. This is the first of a year long offer for students to learn outside of the classroom and experience a little of what Cyprus has to offer. Next week it is the turn of our Sixth Form Geographers who head out on fieldwork. As well as these two school visits students also participated in workshops that challenged their thinking around stereotypes and misogynistic thinking.



This afternoon our students will benefit from a slightly extended lunchtime affording them chance to enjoy Cypriot food provided by Gianni at the Paramali Taverna. The food will be accompanied by Cypriot music and dance lessons as we celebrate Cyprus Day, an event organised by our Student Leaders.

## Upcoming School Events

### Week Commencing 29th Sept.

### Week 1

**Monday 29th September**

**A-Level Geography Fieldwork (All Day)**

**Tuesday 30th September**

**A-Level Geography Fieldwork (All Day)**

**Wednesday 1st October**

**A-Level Geography Fieldwork (All Day)**

**Thursday 2nd October**

**RAF STEM Day Key Stage 3**

**RAF STEM Day Key Stage 3**

**SJS Coffee Morning 0900—1000 hrs**

**Bookings required via [SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org](mailto:SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org)**

### Week Commencing 6th October

### Week 2

**Tuesday 7th October**

**Year 10 & 12 SMSC School Trip (optional)**

**Wednesday 8th October**

**SJS Vs KRS Swim Gala 1015—1230hrs @ SJS**

**Thursday 9th October**

**SJS Coffee Morning 0900—1000 hrs**

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

### Week Commencing 13th October

### Week 1

**Monday 13th October**

**Parent Information Evening unpacking CAT, NGRT and PASS Results  
@1430—1515 in Exam Room**

**Tuesday 15th October**

**School Governors Meeting @ 1000hrs**

**Thursday 16th October**

**St John's School Peer Review: All Day**

**SJS Coffee Morning 0900—1000 hrs**

**Bookings required via [SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org](mailto:SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org)**

**Thursday 17th October**



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## This week at St John's School



Students in Key Stage 3 visited Ancient Kourian on Wednesday as part of a series of opportunities to experience Cyprus.





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## School Uniform Changes

Earlier this week a letter was shared with parents detailing changes to our school uniform. As explained in the letter changes to our uniform will begin to take effect in September 2026 and students will not be expected to comply fully to the new school uniform until September 2027. A copy of this letter can be found on our Facebook page.

### Why are we making changes?

We have consulted with stakeholders extensively over the past 18 months during which we were told:

- there is peer pressure to ensure the school skirt is short in length
- the skirt procured by the school is often ill-fitting, requiring it to be rolled around the waist to prevent it from being loose fitting
- that our girls feel uncomfortable moving around the school site, particularly upstairs
- by parents that some items of uniform generate unnecessary expense by mandating logos or limiting where items may be purchased e.g. logoed PE shirt (€15) and the tartan skirt (€15).
- that the beige shorts are difficult to source, show dirt and are difficult to keep clean
- by the wider WSBA community that the length of skirt worn by students is inappropriate as an item of uniform and risks sexualising our students
- by teaching staff that by persistently challenging students around uniform risks positive teacher-student relationships.

### Why make the changes now?

Summer 2026 is a period of high transition for our student population. We have timed the change to ensure students arriving in September 2026 can procure new items of uniform that will last the duration of their time with us. We have phased in the uniform changes over two years to ensure parents are able to extract good value for money out of the items already purchased and being worn. For students already enrolled at St John's School they will be able to continue to wear existing items of uniform up to July 2027.



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## Year 11 and 13 Parents' Afternoon

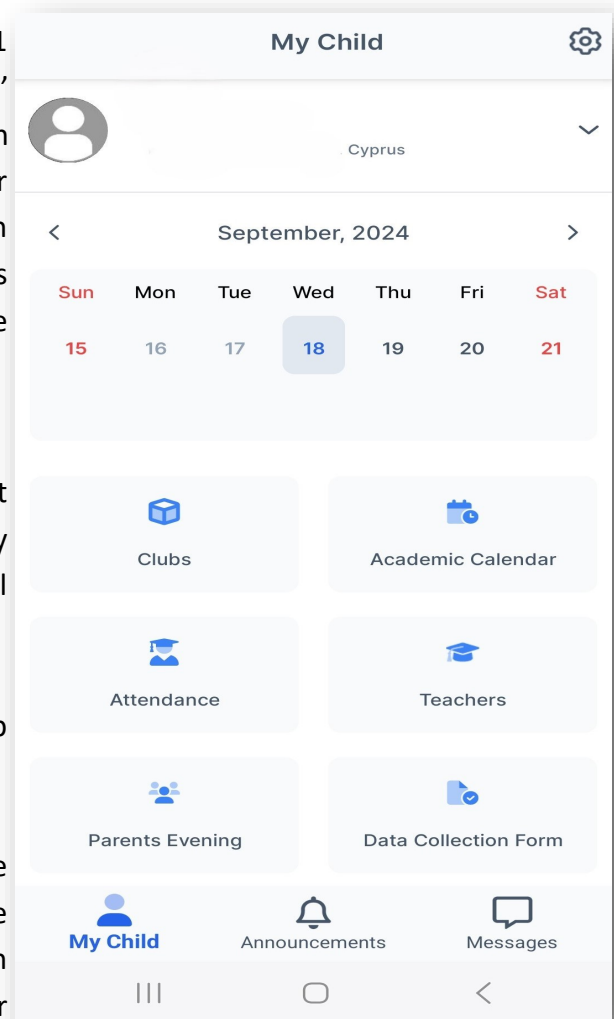
Thursday 9th October 1430—1700 hrs

We look forward to welcoming parents of our Year 11 and 13 students into school for their upcoming Parents' Afternoon. The Parents' Afternoon will give you an opportunity, along with your child, to meet their teachers in a series of 1:1 meetings. During each meeting you will be able to reflect upon your child's performance in their recent mock examinations and the next steps ahead of the December mock examinations.

Appointments must be made in advance of the Parent Afternoon. Appointments can only be made through My Child at School (MCAS) App. The appointment book will open on Monday 29th September at midday.

Please ensure you have registered to use the MCAS App in advance of Monday 29th September.

Once registered, to make your appointments, please visit the Parents Evening tab via the MCAS homepage after Midday on Monday 29th September. You can then follow the prompts to make appointments for your child's teachers.



## Having difficulties?

Should you encounter difficulties please email Mrs Twyford who will gladly support you in logging in for the first time and/or making an appointment. Mrs Twyford's email is [Hayley.Twyford@MODSchools.org](mailto:Hayley.Twyford@MODSchools.org)



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## Exploring the Learning Circle at St John's

### Why Kindness Matters in the Classroom

At St John's we believe that developing strong learning behaviours is just as important as academic progress. To support this, every two weeks our pupils will focus on a different part of our Learning Circle. During this time, children explore what the chosen characteristic means, why it matters, and how they can show it in their everyday school life.

At the end of each cycle, pupils who have demonstrated that learning behaviour particularly well will be recognised with a Quick Note of **Integrity, Respect, or Commitment**. These notes are a way of celebrating the values that underpin learning and community life at St John's.

For the next two weeks, our focus is on **Kindness**.

Kindness is more than simply being polite – it creates the right environment for everyone to learn and flourish. A kind word can give a classmate confidence to try something new, and a thoughtful gesture can help someone overcome a difficult moment. In classrooms, kindness might look like:

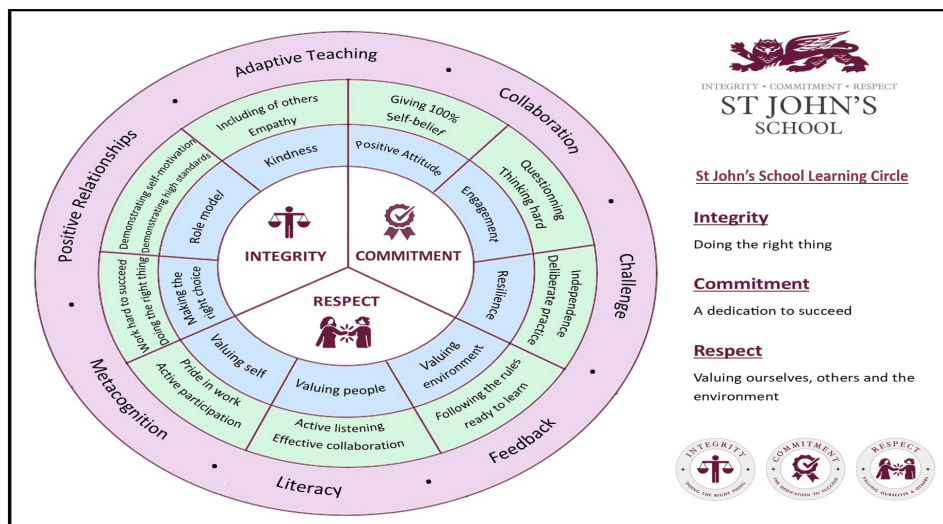
- Encouraging a partner when the work feels tricky.
- Listening carefully and valuing others' ideas.
- Sharing resources or taking turns fairly.

Speaking to others in a respectful and supportive way.

When kindness is part of everyday learning, children feel safer to take risks, make mistakes, and grow. It strengthens friendships, builds resilience, and helps everyone feel they belong.

Reflection question for home:

***When someone has shown you kindness, how did it make you feel – and how could you show that same kindness to others this week?***





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## School Photos

Parents recently received a letter regarding this year's school photographs. School photos, both group and individual photos, will be taken on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th November. The cost for the photographs will be €11, which will include 1 large and 2 small individual photographs, as well as a year group photograph. To help us plan accordingly, please confirm your intention for your child to have a school photograph by completing the proforma at the bottom of the letter with payment by Friday 10th October.



## Bring in a Reading Book

We ask that students attend school with a book in their bag. They can bring their own book or one borrowed from a library, whether it is our library or one of the libraries on Episkopi or Akrotiri.



## SJS Coffee Mornings

Owing to a fortnightly meeting which has arisen and requires my attendance, I need to swap the sequence of my Coffee Mornings and visits to the Akrotiri Hive. To facilitate this we will host the following events next week to allow me to swap the fortnightly cycle of

On Thursday 25th September 0900—1000hrs, parents of students at St John's School are cordially invited to join our coffee morning, should you wish to book a place, please email [SJS.Enquiries@modschools.org](mailto:SJS.Enquiries@modschools.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.



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



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## Nut Free School

As you will likely be aware, a significant number of our staff, students and visitors have a severe allergic reaction to nuts and peanuts. Severe allergic reactions result in anaphylaxis.

Nuts and Peanuts can cause severe allergic reactions in a wide range of ways. A person with an allergy does not have to eat nuts or peanuts to have a severe reaction, this can be caused by surface contact and airborne particles. This allergy affects approximately 1/50 children and adults.

In recent years we have seen a sharp increase in snacks containing peanuts and a rise in the use of peanut butter in sandwiches.

As a school we have a responsibility to keep our students, staff and visitors safe and to reduce risk of harm. As you can imagine in a busy school environment this can be a challenge and, following consideration, we feel the only way to protect those students is by removing the allergens from the school.

### What this will mean?

- Peanut and nut based products will no longer be sold in the canteen.
- Students, staff and visitors **will not** be able to bring products containing nuts or peanuts into school.

Items that are found to break this rule will be confiscated and disposed of safely.

### What products will not be allowed in school?

- Peanuts and nuts and products containing peanuts or nuts.
- Peanut butter or peanut based chocolate snacks (Snickers/ Reece's pieces etc).
- Items where peanuts or nuts are listed as main ingredients.
- Nut or peanut based oils or products.

### What products are allowed?

- Items that "may contain nuts" and "may contain traces of nuts" or "made in factories that use nuts" These present a low risk and are not direct ingredients in the products.







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# It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

As well as cakes and bakes to buy we will also have games and competitions, such as quizzes, word search and guess how many sweets are in the jar.

Let's do whatever it takes  
to support people living with cancer.

**Place:** St John's School, courtyard

**Date:** Friday 10th October

**Time:** Second break

**Contact:** Miss Dunmore

Calling all bakers and bakers! There will be a competition for the best homemade cake or bake and for the best shop brought for both students and staff!



**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**





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## National Poetry Day



**Calling all poets!**

**It is National Poetry Day on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.**

**This year's theme is 'Play'.**

**You can interpret this in whatever way you like.**

**The English Department are looking forward to reading your entries.**

**This is homework for KS3 but we would love KS4 and 5 entries too...**



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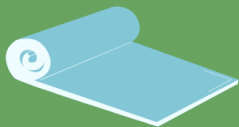


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**EPISKOPI STATION**

## UNIT HEALTH FAIR



**OCTOBER 2, 2025  
12:30-16:30  
DODGE**



**Come explore health, wellbeing and  
community at Episkopi Station!**

**MEET LOCAL HEALTH ORGANISATIONS  
DISCOVER OUR CLUBS & SOCIETIES  
LEARN ABOUT HEALTHY LIVING AND EATING  
TAKE PART IN FUN ACTIVITIES AND WORKSHOPS**

**For more information please contact Community Support Office**



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## St John's School Writers

Year 10 have started their GCSE English Literature studies by analysing a selection of war poetry. The following poem is a beautiful and striking exploration of the impact of war on a soldier in the trenches. Well done Alex!

### 5 Years

The sun is setting, under the snow and smoke.  
He lights his cigarette, to which he has no hope.  
The lighter flicks and sparks, yet no flame.  
He lies, clenching his chest. Filled with pain.

He takes a look over the horizon, Muzzleflash, rockets are all he sees.  
Propped up, sitting upright, against the trees.  
"When will this all end?" He says to himself.  
He looks back in his diary "deployed: October twelfth".

It's been five years this war has been going on.  
Yet it seems like nobody has won.  
The sharp pain, digging in his chest  
The burning brass, keeping him from rest

It's been five years, yet nobody has progressed  
While he looks as his patch, with the squadron crest.  
He's been sat there, as hours go by  
His blood slowly freezes and planes fly high.

It's been five years, people are dying.  
He might go soon, the sweat and tears are drying.  
He unzips his shirt, takes a look at his neck. There's no dog tag. No name, no 'Pte. Breck'.

It's been five years, after the war. He is forgotten. He is no more.  
Deep in the soil, where his bones still lay.  
Further in his chest, the brass will stay.

It's been five more years. Still no sign.  
Underneath the fallen oak, birch and pine  
Layers and layers have made new land  
Whilst the lighter and cigarette is still, clenched in his hand.

Alex H (Y10)