



Newsletter

30th January 2026 | Issue 136

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Dear Families,

Students in Year 8 who enrolled upon our year-long Aspire programme spent the early part of this week in York in England. Students had opportunity to explore this culturally rich city and visit the University of York as part of their raising aspirations outreach programme. Returning tired late on Wednesday, they universally had a great experience in England and with their friends. As always they showed exemplary behaviour, and their enthusiasm and approach was commented upon by all who engaged with the group, ensuring they were a credit to all.



On Tuesday we welcomed King Richard School for our postponed netball tournament. This time we had improved fortune with the weather, allowing over 100 students to compete from across both schools. There were some close fought matches, particularly between our Sixth Forms and St John's School edged the tournament overall.

With two weeks to go, there has been no further progress on having our heating system repaired and due to the temperatures at this time of year, students are encouraged to continue to attend school in their own clothes.

Upcoming School Events

Week Commencing 2nd Feb.

Week 2

Wednesday 4th February**SGC Meeting @ 1000 hrs****DofE Bronze Practice Walk****Thursday 5th February****Headteacher's Surgery : 0900—1000 hrs @ Akrotiri Hive**

Week Commencing 9th Feb.

Week 1

Monday 9th February**Y8 Parent/Teacher Meeting : 1430—1700 hrs****Wednesday 11th February****Key Stage 3 Valentine Disco @ 1800hrs****Thursday 12th February****GCSE Food Practical Examination (all day)****Year 8 Environmental Trip****SJS Coffee Morning 0900—1000 hrs****Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org****Interschool Football Tournament @1130hrs****Friday 13th February****GCSE Food Practical Examination (all day)****Year 8 Environmental Trip****Last day of term.**

Week Commencing 27th Oct.

Half-Term Holiday

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



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This week at St John's School



Students from King Richard School competed with students from St John's School in this weeks netball tournament.

The matches were close fought with King Richard School championing overall.

Next week we look forward to hosting another netball tournament with Year 6 from Episkopi and Akrotiri Primary Schools taking on Year 7.





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Aspire Trip to York

This week, Aspire students enjoyed an unforgettable three-day residential trip to the historic city of York. The visit was packed with exciting experiences, hands-on learning, and opportunities to explore future pathways, and it was a fantastic showcase of our students' enthusiasm, maturity, and ambition.

On day one, students stepped back in time at the Jorvik Viking Centre, where immersive rides and interactive displays brought York's Viking history vividly to life. Students learned about daily life, trade, and housing in the Viking city of Jorvik, helping them visualise what the city would have been like over 1,000 years ago. This was

followed by a city sightseeing tour, allowing students to see many of York's famous landmarks and learn more about its Roman and medieval past. Later, the group visited the York Chocolate Story, where students discovered York's proud chocolate-making heritage, including famous brands such as Rowntree and Terry's. The highlight for many was creating their own white chocolate lollipop, which they were able to design and take home.

On day two, students visited the National Army Museum, where they explored British military history and even had the rare opportunity to hold original weapons from the Battle of Waterloo. The group then visited the York Castle Museum, which offered something for everyone — from historic prison cells and dungeons to 1960s fashion displays and retro children's games. The excitement continued at the York Dungeons, where actors, special effects, and storytelling brought York's darker history to life. Students were thoroughly scared (in the best way!) and left buzzing with excitement. A quick shopping visit to The Shambles and Primark was also squeezed in and enjoyed by all.

During the residential stay, hostel staff praised the St John students for their impeccable behaviour, respectful attitudes, and excellent routines, including going to bed on time — something not all visiting schools managed! Our students were outstanding ambassadors for the school throughout the trip.

On day three, students visited both the University of York and York St John University, where they learned about courses, accommodation, and university life, helping to raise aspirations and inspire future goals. A huge thank you goes to all the staff who supported the trip, giving up their time and energy to ensure it ran smoothly and safely. Their dedication made this experience possible.

Overall, the York trip was a huge success and a brilliant example of the opportunities Aspire offers. Applications for next year's Aspire cohort for current Year 7 students will open around Easter, and we look forward to welcoming the next group of Aspire students.



Our students with celebrity Judge Rinder in York



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6th Form Suite

Promoting Independence and Accountability in the Sixth Form

Following consultation with our Student Leadership Team and the School Governors, we are pleased to share a new initiative designed to further promote independence within the Sixth Form, while ensuring that students remain accountable for their actions and choices.

From this term, we will be trialling a **red** and **green** system, with an **amber** stage to be introduced in the new academic year. During non-timetabled periods, students who are on **green** will have the freedom to choose how they use their time. This may include remaining in school to work in the study room or relax in the common room or choosing to leave the school premises or go home. This approach reflects our commitment to treating our Sixth Form students as young adults and supporting them in developing the self-management skills they will need beyond school.

Students will remain on **green** provided they are up to date with deadlines, demonstrate a positive attitude and engagement in lessons, and maintain attendance above 96% over a fortnightly period. Where these expectations are not met, a student may be moved to **red**. In this instance, these freedoms will be temporarily rescinded, and the student will be required to work in the study room during all non-timetabled periods. Students placed on **red** will remain so for the following fortnight, after which the process will restart and progress will be reviewed.

We believe this system strikes an appropriate balance between independence and responsibility, and we look forward to working closely with students and families as we trial this approach.

- Maintained attendance above 96% over a fortnightly period?
- Up to date with all deadlines?
- Demonstrated a positive attitude and engagement in lessons?

- Use the study room
- Relax in the common room
- Leave the premises / go home

Reviewed fortnightly



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Year 9 GCSE Options Process - Important Information for Parents

We have now begun the GCSE options process for our Year 9 students. Over the coming weeks, students will be encouraged to think carefully about the subjects they may wish to study in Years 10 and 11, considering their interests, strengths, and future aspirations.

As a first step, parents/carers of Year 9 students have been sent an online GCSE Options Interest Canvass via email. This canvass is not the final options form, but it is a crucial part of the process. It helps the school understand students' subject interests so that option blocks can be created to allow as many students as possible to access their preferred subjects.

We strongly encourage parents and carers to discuss subject choices with their child and complete the canvass together.

If you have not received the email containing the link, or if you experience any difficulties accessing the form, please contact the school as soon as possible so we can ensure all responses are received.

Further information about GCSE options and next steps will follow in due course. Thank you for your continued support.

Year 11 Individual Student Meetings

My PA, Mrs Penny Demetriou, has begun contacting parents of Year 11 students to arrange a meeting with myself or Deputy Head Teacher. Each meeting is to involve the student and their parents. The meetings can be undertaken in person or online and there is a limited availability for weekend appointments.

Each meeting will focus upon a holistic review of student progress following the publication of the mock exam results and subject specific feedback that was provided during this week's Parent Afternoon. It is anticipated that the outcome of each meeting will facilitate the construction of revision timetables that will guide students and families over the coming three months leading up to the start of this summer's exam series.



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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Year 8 Parents' Afternoon

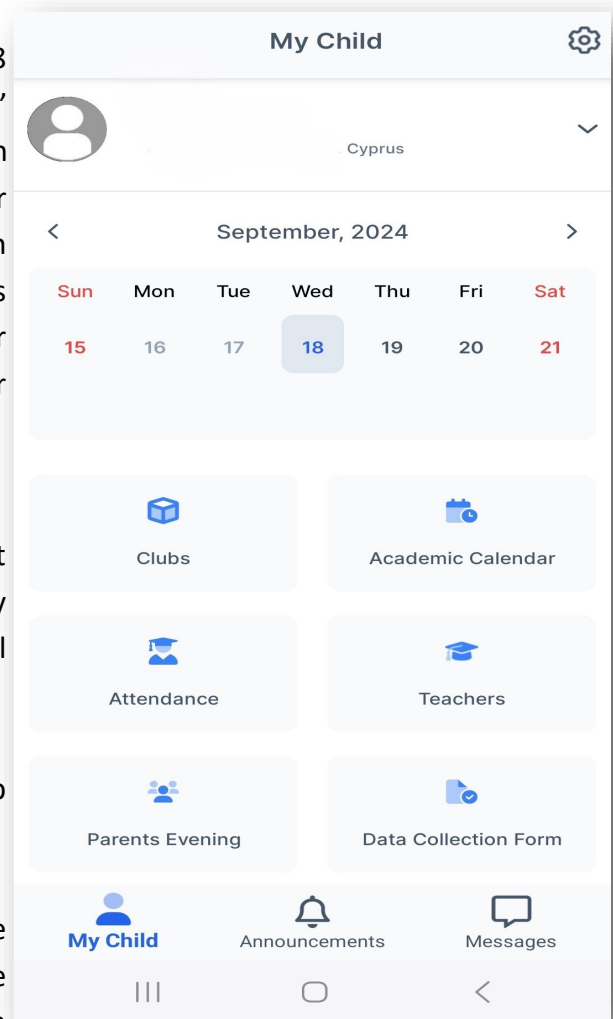
Monday 9th February 1430—1700 hrs

We look forward to welcoming parents of our Year 8 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 start to the new academic year, hear about their progress and identify subject specific actions for further improvement.

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 10th November at midday.

Please ensure you have registered to use the MCAS App in advance of Monday 2nd February.

Once registered, to make your appointments, please visit the Parents Evening tab via the MCAS homepage after Midday on Monday 2nd February. 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



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Key Stage 3 Valentine School Disco

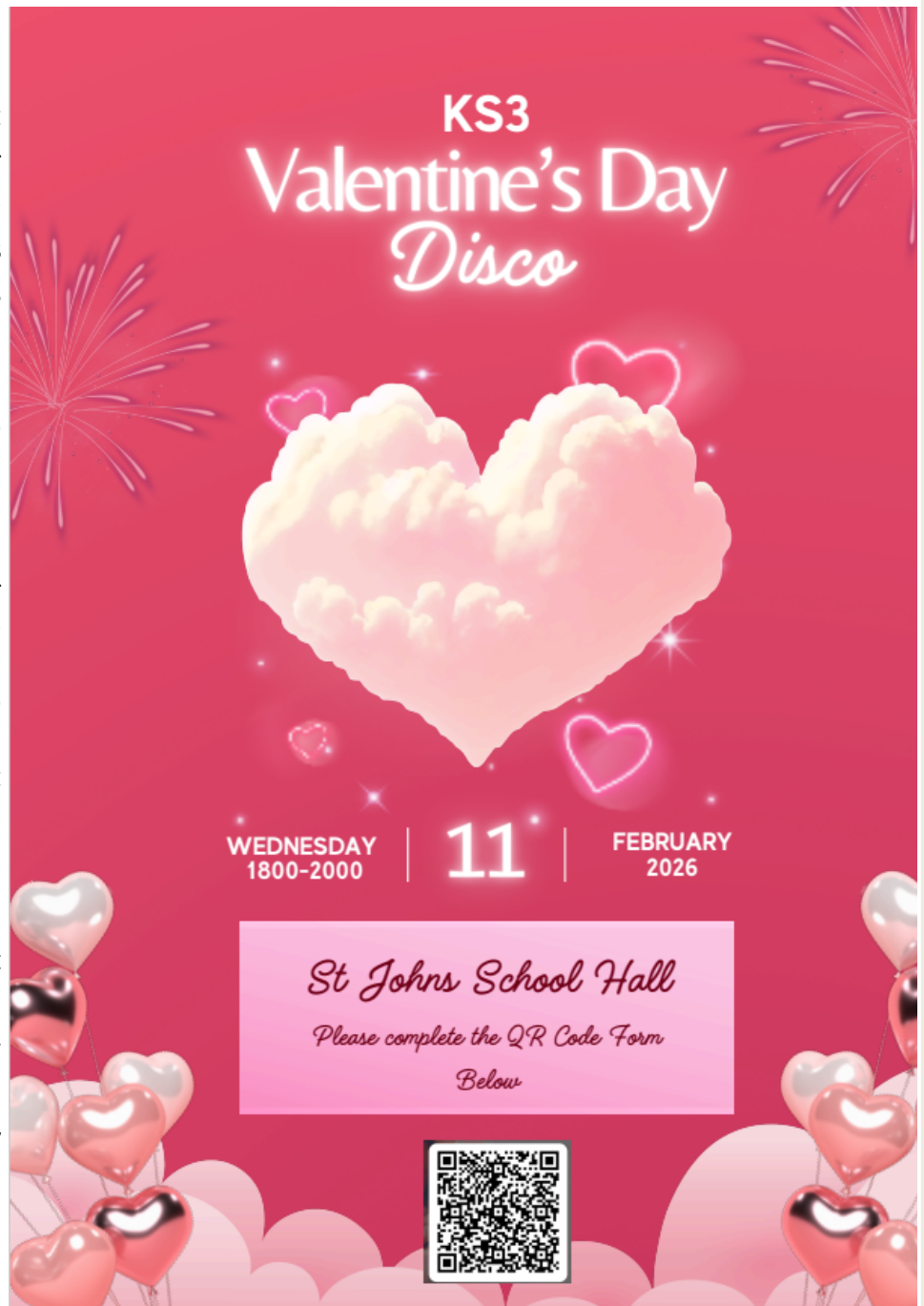
Key Stage 3 students are being offered the opportunity to attend a Valentine's School Disco on Wednesday 11th February 2026 between 1800 and 2000 hrs. The event will involve a disco, **games and a tuck shop.**

Students can be dropped at Episkopi Primary School car park but will need to be collected from the St John's School Hall at 2000 hrs promptly unless permission has been given through the QR code below for them to make their own way home.

The Disco will cost 2 Euro for attendance and will take place in the St John's School Hall. Students can bring money to buy snacks and drinks from the tuck shop and to take part in games.

In order to confirm attendance, parents must complete the permission form via the QR code or link below prior to the event. This form will close on 10th February 2026.

[Valentine Disco 11th February 2026](#)





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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 Twyford on 00357 2596 8003 or alternatively you can email at Hayley.Twyford@modschools.org.

Headteacher's Surgery - Akrotiri Hive

On Thursday 5th February 0900—1000 hrs, parents and/or members of the BFC community are welcome to drop into the Akrotiri Hive, without appointment, to meet the Headteacher, Colin Guyton, to discuss any ideas or issues concerning St John's School.

This approach draws similarities from the MP Local Constituency Surgeries you may be familiar with in the UK and it is hoped that it will prove a useful opportunity to share ideas that help improve the provision we provide to the young people in our care.



Contacting the school

Parents are reminded that contact can be made through:

- SJS.Enquiries@modschools.org
- 00357 2596 3888 (0730—1500hrs)