



Newsletter

6th February 2026 | Issue 137



Ministry
of Defence

Dear Families,

It has been a busy week here at school. On Monday Year 8 had the opportunity to visit Hala Tekke Mosque and the Church of Saint Lazarus, both in Larnaca, as we continue to provide students in all years opportunity to promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.



Peppered throughout this week there were daily sporting fixtures as we competed against schools across Cyprus in football, basketball and netball. Wednesday also gave opportunity for our students to practice their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition.

On Thursday I received our note of visit from our recent Sixth Form review. I am awaiting permission from Command to share this with parents and hope to do so next week. The report celebrates *“a successful sixth form in a successful school, doing a fine job for its community despite the challenges”* faced. The report captures the views of stakeholders with accuracy and articulates that an *“appropriately funded sixth form would enable a positing to Cyprus for military families...as a desirable option”*

Upcoming School Events

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 16th Feb.

Half-Term Holiday

All Week

School closed to students and staff

Week Commencing 2nd Feb.

Week 2

Monday 23rd February

School Opens for students in all years at 0750 hrs

Tuesday 24th February

Y7 Parent/Teacher Meeting : 1430—1700 hrs

Wednesday 25th February

Year11 GCSE Geography Residential

Thursday 26th February

Year11 GCSE Geography Residential

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

Friday 27th February

Year11 GCSE Geography Residential

Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Expedition



Newsletter

6th February 2026 | Issue 137



Ministry
of Defence

This week at St John's School



Top left:

Students in Year 7 lift the transition cup having come out victorious in a rain disrupted Transition Netball football tournament on Monday, contested between teams from Year 7 and 6 from across all MOD Cyprus Schools

Middle left:

Students in Year 7 took to the football field on Tuesday for a match against Foley's School in Limassol



Bottom left:

Students from Key Stage 4 and 5 competed in a basketball match against Foley's School, Limassol. It seems the score favoured SJS 9—15?

Top right:

Students benefitted from rugby training



Newsletter

6th February 2026 | Issue 137



Ministry
of Defence

This week at St John's School



Students took advantage of fantastic weather on Wednesday to head out on their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award practice expedition.





Newsletter

6th February 2026 | Issue 137



Ministry
of Defence

Year 8 visit Hala Sultan Tekke Mosque and the Church of Saint Lazarus

Students took part in a highly successful educational visit to Larnaca, exploring key religious and cultural sites that form part of the Religious Education curriculum.

A particular highlight of the visit was our time at Hala Sultan Tekke, where students were privileged to hear a talk from Shakir Alemdar, the Imam of Hala Sultan Tekke. Imam Alemdar spoke thoughtfully about the role of the mosque within the Republic of Cyprus and his work dedicated to welfare, interfaith dialogue, religious freedom, and the importance of peaceful co-existence between people, faiths, and the natural environment. This linked strongly to the school's commitment to British Values, particularly mutual respect, tolerance, and individual liberty.

Students were especially fortunate to be given the opportunity to view the tomb of Hala Sultan at close range, an area not usually open to visitors. This provided a rare and meaningful insight into the significance of the site and was received with maturity and respect by all students.

At the Church of Saint Lazarus, students were visibly struck by the beauty and intricacy of the architecture and iconography. Many commented on the atmosphere inside the church and how it deepened their understanding of Orthodox Christian belief and worship.

Throughout the visit, students' behaviour was exemplary. They were consistently respectful, attentive, and engaged, particularly within active places of worship. Their conduct was a credit to the school and was noted positively by staff and site representatives.

Overall, the visit provided students with a valuable lived experience of religious belief, cultural heritage and respectful engagement with diversity, enriching their classroom learning and supporting their development as informed, thoughtful global citizens.





Newsletter

6th February 2026 | Issue 137



Ministry of Defence

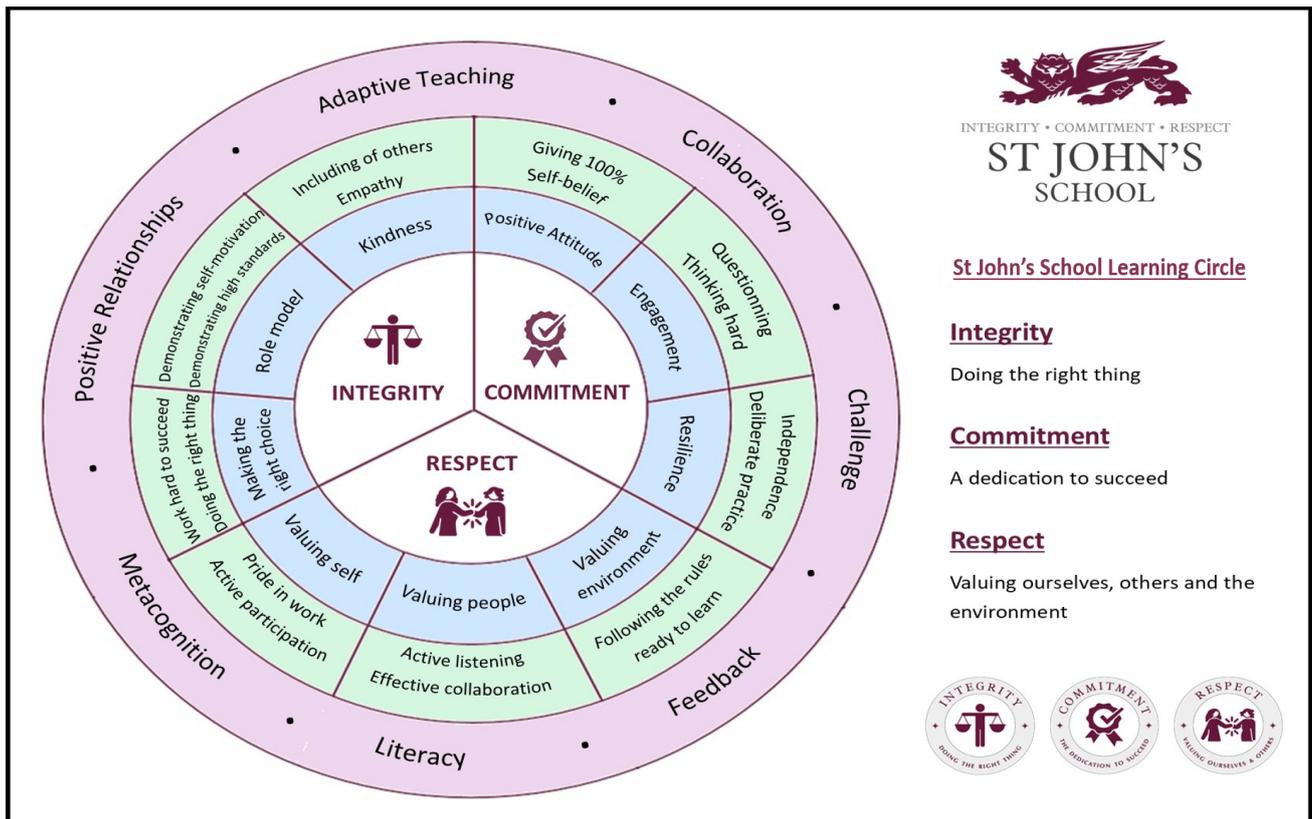
Valuing Other People in Learning

Valuing other people in learning means recognising that everyone in the classroom plays a part in creating a positive and successful learning environment. This includes listening respectfully, allowing others to share their ideas, and supporting classmates when they find learning difficult. When students value others, lessons become safer spaces where people feel confident to contribute, ask questions, and learn from one another.

For example, during a group task, a student who values others will include everyone, listen carefully to different viewpoints, and encourage a classmate who is unsure. Rather than rushing ahead or dismissing ideas, they understand that learning improves when people work together. These behaviours help build trust, kindness, and cooperation; skills that are just as important beyond the classroom as they are within it.

Discussion at home:

Talk together about what valuing others looks like in lessons. How can your child show respect for classmates' ideas, even when they disagree? Can they think of a time when someone else helped them learn more effectively?





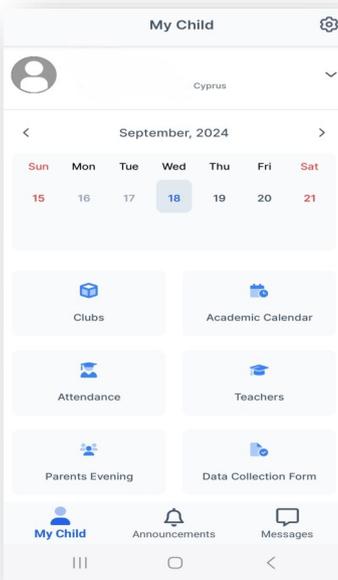
Newsletter

6th February 2026 | Issue 137

Ministry
of Defence

Year 8 Parents' Afternoon

Monday 9th February 1430—1700



Have you made your appointments? Appointments must be made in advance of the Parent Afternoon. Appointments can only be made through My Child at School (MCAS) App.

Trouble Registering?

Should you encounter difficulties it is possible the email address we have for you is out of date. To update your email address or to notify us of difficulties please email Mrs Twyford who will gladly assist you in logging on. Mrs Twyford's email is Hayley.Twyford@modschoools.org

Mobile Phones

Much has been made this week of Education Secretary Bridget Philipson's direction supported by the House of Lords that schools should ban phones in schools ([BBC.2026](#)).

As Headteacher it is my personal belief that, as a school, we should be educating students on how to use their phones appropriately. To this end, students are permitted to bring their phones into school and are expected to use them appropriately. To this end, and in line with policy, they should not be seen out between 0800 hrs and 1400 hrs unless they are making payment in our Snack Shack. Phones seen within this time will be confiscated by staff. This has been a long standing policy of our school and students demonstrate exemplary adherence, showing their understanding of appropriate use of mobile phones in school. Despite a statutory ban on phones in schools in England, we will continue with our approach



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



Newsletter

6th February 2026 | Issue 137



Ministry
of Defence

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](#)

The poster features a vibrant pink background with a large, glowing heart in the center. The heart is composed of soft, white, cloud-like textures. Surrounding the heart are several smaller, glowing hearts in various shades of pink and white. At the top, the text 'KS3 Valentine's Day Disco' is written in a white, elegant font. Below the heart, the date and time are displayed: 'WEDNESDAY 1800-2000 | 11 | FEBRUARY 2026'. At the bottom, a pink box contains the text 'St Johns School Hall' and 'Please complete the QR Code Form Below'. A QR code is located at the bottom center of the poster. The entire poster is framed by a decorative border of heart-shaped balloons and fireworks.

KS3
Valentine's Day
Disco

WEDNESDAY
1800-2000 | 11 | FEBRUARY
2026

St Johns School Hall
Please complete the QR Code Form
Below



Newsletter

6th February 2026 | Issue 137



Ministry
of Defence

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@modschoools.org.

SJS Coffee Mornings

On Thursday 12th February 0900-1000 hrs, 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@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.



Contacting the school

Parents are reminded that contact can be made through:

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