



Newsletter

27th March 2026 | Issue 143



Ministry of Defence

Dear Families,

It has been a relatively short term (5 weeks) however it has left much for our school and community to contend with. I am incredibly proud of the role we have played in serving our community during an uncertain time. We have ensured continuity for our school and Akrotiri Primary School, keeping disruption to a minimum. It is hoped that the role played by St John’s School has provided the necessary support required by all associated with our school and, in turn, a small role in ensuring the operational output that keeps us all safe.



On behalf of all of us at St John’s School, thank you for the service of our parents and wider BFC community in your defence of all of us. As we close for the Spring (Easter) break I hope that pressures many of our families are facing ease to allow you some well deserved time together whether here in Cyprus or perhaps elsewhere for those of you who are travelling.

Please be reminded that following the disruption of the past half term, we have postponed our planned Inset day allowing us to open on Monday 13th April. The rationale for this postponement is to maximise the time we have in school with Years 11, 12 and 13 prior to the start of the Summer Exams.

The Inset day will now take place when these exams conclude on Monday 6th July 2026.

I look forward to welcoming students back to school on:

Monday 13th April at 0800 hrs.

Upcoming School Events

<u>Week Commencing 30th March</u>	Spring (Easter) Holiday	
All Week	School closed to students and staff	
<u>Week Commencing 6th April</u>	Spring (Easter) Holiday	
All Week	School closed to students and staff	
<u>Week Commencing 13th April</u>		<u>Week 1</u>
Monday 13th April	School Opens for students in all years at 0750 hrs	
Thursday 16th April	SJS Coffee Morning 0900—1000 hrs Bookings required via SJS.Enquiries@modschools.org	
<u>Week Commencing 20th April</u>		<u>Week 2</u>
Thursday 23rd April	Headteacher’s Surgery : 0900—1000 hrs @ Akrotiri Hive	
Friday 24th April	Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition	



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This week at St John's School

Today we were able to award 12 students with our prestigious St John's School Challenge Coins. Launched in September, the award of a Challenge Coin, modelled upon those issued by our British and US Armed Forces, represents the pinnacle of our school rewards system. This system is based upon our three values chosen by stakeholders in 2023 and drawn from the values of the British Army, Royal Air Force, Royal Navy, Civil Service and US Armed Forces, to whom our school serves. Congratulations to our recipients, we look forward to bestowing this award to further recipients in the Summer Term.





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This week at St John's School



Six of our Key Stage Three students have been taking part in the 'Poetry by Heart' competition, recording their performances this week. This national competition encourages students to learn and recite poetry from memory, helping to build confidence, develop oracy skills, and foster a deeper appreciation of literature.

Students have spent the past few weeks preparing for this exciting opportunity, supported by Paul Simpson, Oracy Lead for DCS. A range of powerful and thought-provoking poems were selected, including 'If' by Rudyard Kipling, 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae, and 'Like a Girl' by Becky Hemsley. One student also chose to compose and perform their own original piece.

The competition begins at school level, with successful students progressing to the national stage. Finalists are invited to perform live at the prestigious Globe Theatre in London, offering a unique opportunity to showcase their talents in a fabulous setting.





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Easter Revision and Exam Preparation

For most of our students the Easter Break presents a welcome break from study, however, for students in Years 11 and 13, the Easter Break presents an opportunity to reshape their revision programme and commit to an extended period of independent study. This period will be rewarded with an extended Summer Break, but there is a need for students to continue their study ahead of their final exams which will commence on the third week of the Summer Term.

EXAM REVISION



Students in both Year 11 and 13 should look to spend approximately 2—2.5 hrs a day revising in 30 minute chunks. This commitment should afford days off and involve a wide variety of revision activities. These activities are likely to centre around (but not exclusively) the practice of past exam questions, which can be done with notes and revision guides. As the Easter holidays roll on, the use of notes should be reduced and a shift made towards answering past questions under timed and exam conditions.

The approach to revision should be timetabled and parents are encouraged to discuss with their child what they have revised and how they are progressing. Each student's timetable will be individual to them and, for students in Year 11, it should plan for a greater amount of time studying for English, Maths and Science.



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Enrichment Opportunities

The past three weeks has left much for St John's School to contend with. I am incredibly proud that, despite the challenges, we have continued to maintain the delivery of our school curriculum whilst keeping disruption to a minimum. As we have navigated how to support all our students and manage the transport logistics which come with their dispersal, we had to curtail our extracurricular programme.

As more families now return to RAF Akrotiri, the pressure upon the number of buses in use has reduced and we will be able to provide our usual 'late bus' from school to Akrotiri. The bus will leave school promptly at 1510 hrs, initially stopping at North and South Paramali before passing the Wateringhole (Chelona) and Chaplaincy bus stops. This service will resume on Monday 23rd March. Sadly, there will be no late bus transporting students to other locations in Cyprus.

Most after school extracurricular enrichment clubs will resume in earnest from Monday 13th April 2026.

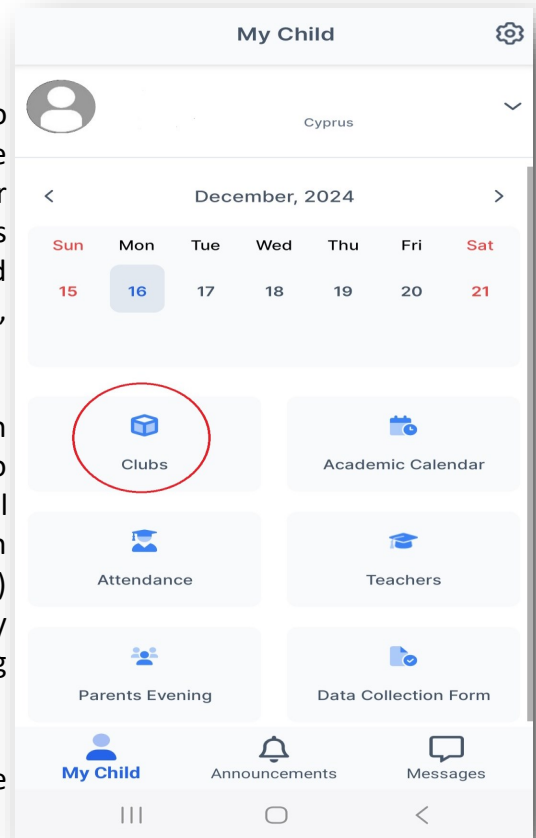
To attend an extra curricular activity, students must enrol onto their chosen activities. A register will be taken to confirm their attendance to each enrichment activity and a message (via the MCAS App) sent to parents to confirm their attendance or bring to your attention their absence should they have been expected to attend.

Students who have registered for the Bromcom Student Portal can also enrol themselves into any of the enrichment activities.

Please continue to monitor the MCAS App to enrol your child into the extra-curricular clubs they wish to attend.

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@modschoools.org





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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@modschoools.org.

SJS Coffee Mornings

On Thursday 16th April 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.

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



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.



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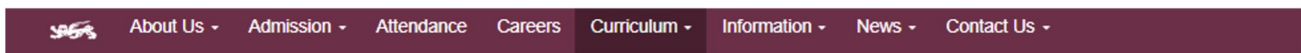


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Our Curriculum

Annually we collectively reviewed and revised our curricula for each and every subject. Some subjects are further ahead than others and the processes around curriculum development will be ongoing with frequent revisions and updates. You can find the latest curricula for each and every subject on our website. Upon opening the link you will be able to see what your child will be studying at any stage in their educational journey at St John's School and explore how you may help them at home.

www.stjohnsschoolcyprus.com/curriculum



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English & Drama



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- English & Drama
- Geography
- History
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Mathematics
- Music
- Religious Education
- Physical Education
- Science

Year 7-13 Curriculum rationale

Curriculum intent: "A word after a word after a word is power." Margaret Atwood

The English Curriculum at St John's aims to help students see their power and place in the world and explore, empathise and question the experience of themselves and others through the study of a diverse range of challenging heritage and modern texts. Through this study, we will foster and develop a curiosity around language which can be applied to a range of creative and academic contexts, resulting in empowered readers, writers and orators who can contribute positively to the local, national and international communities of which they are a part.

Year 7-13 Curriculum rationale 2023



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
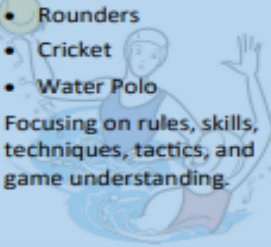



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Year 7 Curriculum - TERM 3

<p>Art</p>  <p>Students investigate the historical and architectural significance of Gargoyles and Grotesques with the intention of designing and producing their own.</p>	<p>Computer Science</p>  <p>Students will develop digital literacy through webpage creation, covering word processing, copyright, source credibility, and media promotion.</p>	<p>Design & Technology</p>  <p>Students develop CAD skills, understand thermoplastics and heat effects, and apply creative thinking to design, model and prototype tasks.</p>	<p>Drama</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devising skills using the theme 'Relationships' Research skills Practitioner work Naturalistic style Stanislavski's acting techniques.
<p>English</p>  <p><u>Poetry:</u> Poetry (Metaphor) <u>Reading for Writing:</u> Short stories Ancient Tales (oracy).</p>	<p>Food Technology</p>  <p>Students learn about vegetarian and vegan diets, menu planning, food groups, and reflect on their own diet for healthy eating.</p>	<p>Geography</p>  <p>Students develop geography fieldwork and map skills, including data collection, analysis, compass use, GIS tools, and interpreting choropleth maps.</p>	<p>History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medieval Realms The Norman invasion Castles - Cyprus focus Local study - Kolossi Culture life and difference The Black Death 
<p>Mathematics</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinates, gradients, line relationships Area and perimeter of 2D shapes Transformations: translations, rotations, reflections, enlargement. 	<p>Modern Languages</p>  <p>Students learn to discuss free time and food preferences in Spanish, using key vocabulary, grammar structures, phonetics, and descriptive language.</p>	<p>Music</p> <p>Introduction to Music technology history, Cakewalk software, sound effects, and Foley artistry.</p> <p>Vocal skills, breathing, harmony, listening, and a year-wide singing competition.</p> 	<p>Physical Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rounders Cricket Water Polo <p>Focusing on rules, skills, techniques, tactics, and game understanding.</p> 
<p>Religious Education</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is the Bible important to believers? How is Islam practiced in Britain? 	<p>Science</p>  <p>Genes 1 Students study chromosomes, genes, and human reproduction.</p> <p>Electromagnetism 1 Learn about electricity, circuits, electric charge.</p>	<p>PSHE</p> <p>Building Relationships Self-worth, romance and friendships (including online) and relationship boundaries.</p> <p>Financial Decision Making Saving, borrowing, budgeting and making financial choices.</p>	<p>Careers</p> <p>Regular online activities using Unifrog to research the world of work.</p> 



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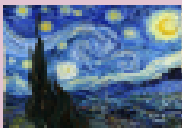


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Year 8 Curriculum - TERM 3

Art



Students research and analyse a chosen artist or artwork, then create a copy or personal interpretation based on their findings.

Computer Science




Students learn spreadsheet basics formulas, data formatting, and advanced functions.

Design & Technology

Students design and make gadget stands, learn isometric drawing, and explore timber, metal and polymer joining techniques to increase independence in future projects.

Drama



Students explore Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and Harry Potter through characterisation, staging, script work, physical theatre, choral speech, and teamwork.

English


Reading for Writing:
Travel Writing
Prose:
Novella 'Animal Farm'
Analytical writing using complex topic sentences, linking paragraphs, embedding quotes, exploring meanings, and applying literary terms with contextual analysis.

Food Technology




- Vegetarianism
- Healthy diets
- Body image
- Media influence
- Labelling of eggs in cooking.

Geography



Students explore how countries develop, using indicators, gapminder data, employment sectors, TNCs, and globalisation, comparing HICs and LICs and learning strategies to reduce the development gap.

History




- The causes and course of the Industrial revolution
- The transatlantic Slave trade
- Extension of the Franchise
- Living and working standard and reforms.

Mathematics


- Linear graphs, gradients, equations
- Rounding, significant figures, estimation
- Linearity and rates (speed, displacement-time graphs).

Modern Languages



Students learn how to describe their school subjects; their teachers; their school day and make plans for after school.


Music



Students explore Reggae, Ska, Rocksteady, Rap, and Hip Hop by listening, performing, and composing music using music software.

Physical Education

- Rounders
- Cricket
- Water Polo



Religious Education

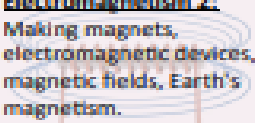
What challenges do the Muslim community face today?

How is food used as an expression of religious beliefs?

Science

Electromagnetism 2:
Making magnets, electromagnetic devices, magnetic fields, Earth's magnetism.

Ecosystems 2:
Energy from food, anaerobic respiration, microbes in industry, photosynthesis, leaf structure, minerals for growth.




PSHE

Discrimination
Discrimination in all its forms, including: racism, religious discrimination, sexism, homophobia, biphobia and transphobia

Digital Literacy
Online safety, digital literacy, media reliability, and gambling hooks.

Careers

Regular online activities using Unifrog to research the world of work.





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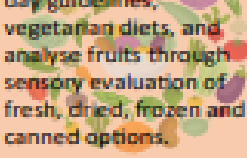


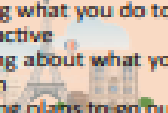


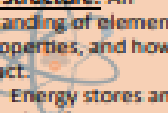

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Year 9 Curriculum - TERM 3

<p>Art</p>  <p>Students research trainer design, focusing on VANS, then they research and create their own themed designs.</p>	<p>Computer Science</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer Networks, focusing on the components, and technologies that enable data transmission between devices. Drone Programming 	<p>Design & Technology</p>  <p>Sweet Dispenser: Students research and analyse products to design a sweet dispenser. Explore mechanisms, use batch production and their creativity to bring their designs to life.</p>	<p>Drama</p>  <p>John Godber: Comedic style. Performing and adapting from a script.</p> <p>Exam-style performance: Duologues/small group performance and GCSE expectations.</p>
<p>English</p>  <p>Poetry: Journeys Poetry Prose: Short stories 'The Darkness Out There' Reading a range of 19th-21st century non fiction; using models to plan, structure and write letter, articles and essays.</p>	<p>Food Technology</p>  <p>Students explore healthy eating, food groups, 5-a-day guidelines, vegetarian diets, and analyse fruits through sensory evaluation of fresh, dried, frozen and canned options.</p>	<p>Geography</p>  <p>Rivers Students learn about river processes, profiles, landforms, flooding, and flood management.</p> <p>Coasts Coastal processes, landforms, management, and a UK case study.</p>	<p>History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Era of the Second World War Blitzkrieg's impact Battle of Britain The contribution of the USSR to victory D-Day Why the allies won? The pacific war and the atom bombs.
<p>Mathematics</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quadratic equations and expressions Pythagoras' Theorem Probability Constructions 	<p>Modern Languages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about what you do online Saying what you do to stay active Talking about what you watch Making plans to go out Saying what you did last weekend Taking part in an interview. 	<p>Music</p>  <p>Students film and musical theatre music, studying leitmotifs, sound effects, emotion, character themes, and composing to enhance storytelling and performance.</p>	<p>Physical Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rounders Cricket Water Polo 
<p>Religious Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can Religion and Science ever be compatible? What are new religious movements (NRMs)? 	<p>Science</p> <p>Cells and transport: An understanding of the fundamental components of living organisms.</p> <p>Atomic Structure: An understanding of elements, their properties, and how they react.</p> <p>Energy: Energy stores and transfers, key for understanding efficiency and sustainability.</p> 	<p>PSHE</p> <p>Healthy Lifestyles Diet, exercise, lifestyle balance and healthy choices, and first aid.</p> 	<p>Careers</p> <p>Employability Skills Employability and online presence. In addition, we help students reflect on their digital footprint-how their online behaviour, social media presence, and personal information might be viewed by future employers or educational institutions.</p>