



# Newsletter

22nd May 2026 | Issue 149



Ministry  
of Defence

Dear Families,

We have found ourselves at the end of another half-term and, following the short break, look ahead to the end of this academic year. For students in Year 10 through to 13, the half-term will be a busy one as they prepare for the ongoing public and then end of year exams. I wish all the students preparing for their exams well and encourage them to balance their hard work with some time for themselves.



As we end this half term, we said goodbye to students in Year 13 who will now remain on study leave until their exams conclude. For Year 11, they are expected to return to school after the half-term break until they finish the school year on the 12th June. For both year groups we will formally recognise the end of the year with a leavers assembly to which parents are cordially invited on Monday 15th June at 1300 hrs.

## Upcoming School Events

### Week Commencing 25th May

All Week

Half-term holiday

### Week Commencing 1st June

Week 1

All Week

GCSE and GCE Final Examinations

Tuesday 2nd June

Year 10 & 12 Parent Afternoon @ 1430—1700 hrs in the Hall

Thursday 4th June

SJS Coffee Morning 0900—1000 hrs

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

### Week Commencing 8th June

Week 2

All Week

GCSE and GCE Final Examinations

Tuesday 9th June

End of Year Whole School Rewards Ceremony @ Akrotiri

Thursday 11th June

SJS Coffee Morning 0900—1000 hrs

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

Key Stage 3 Overnight Residential

Friday 12th June

Last school day for Year 11

### Week Commencing 15th June

Week 1

All Week

GCSE and GCE Final Examinations

Tuesday 15th June

Year 11 & 13 Leaver's Assembly @ 1300 hrs

Creative Faculty Exhibition @ 1400 hrs

Thursday 18th June

GCSE and GCE Mock Art Examination (All Day), involving Year 10 & 12

SJS Coffee Morning 0900—1000 hrs

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



# Newsletter

22nd May 2026 | Issue 149



Ministry  
of Defence

## This week at St John's School



Congratulations to our student who this week was involved in the 'Young Orpheus' music competition in Paphos and was part of around 30 singers in her age group. She sang 'Girl in the Bubble' from 'Wicked' and was awarded an Honourable Diploma in her first ever competition.

[Young Orpheus – Pancyprian Instrumental&Vocal Music Festival-Competition](#)



Our transition activities got underway this week, with visits by Mrs Gardiner and I to students in both Akrotiri Primary School and Episkopi Primary School on Tuesday and Wednesday. It was a great opportunity to meet all students whether they will be coming to St John's School or not in September. Visits to Year 6 classrooms were followed up with presentations to parents.

Over the coming months there will be further transition activities including two taster days at St John's School, further parent information events, including school tours. We will also be hosting a Transition Disco involving students from Year 6 and Year 7. The details of all transition activities events have been shared through the respective primary schools for parents unable to attend the parent information events this week.



# Newsletter

22nd May 2026 | Issue 149



Ministry  
of Defence

## Year 7 PSHE Lessons—FGM

Over the course of the year so far, your child has explored a range of topics in PSHE from friendships, mental health resilience to bullying and keeping safe. Within this current PSHE unit on Health your child will explore FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) as part of safeguarding, with the aim to protect all students from any form of abuse or exploitation. This will be delivered after half term.

FGM is illegal in the UK (also known as female circumcision, cutting or sunna) and is a practice that is carried out in some communities, it is a criminal offence to take a UK citizen abroad for the purpose of FGM (whether or not it is lawful in the country the girl is taken to). According to the NHS there were 2,175 cases of FGM identified in the UK between April 2024 to June 2024. It is estimated that in the UK there are approximately 20,000 girls under the age of 15 at risk of FGM each year.

This lesson will build upon lessons already taught at primary school and lessons on biological anatomy of the body and will be age appropriate. It is important that young people are able to use the correct language, keep safe and feel confident to ask questions and discuss in a mature and appropriate way.

We would rather be secure in the knowledge that our young people have learned about Relationships and Sex and Health Education in a safe environment, rather than learning through hearsay, gossip and be exposed to learning through harmful online influences such as pornography, inappropriate websites and social media.

The purpose of all Relationship and Sex Education and Health Education is: to prepare students for the physical and emotional changes of growing up; to give them the knowledge and skills to make informed and healthy choices; to build their confidence and skills to deal with situations they may encounter; to help them to stay safe and know where and how to ask for help if needed. We also see this as an important health and citizenship issue for all students in developing their understanding of discrimination and inequality.

As a school we believe that FGM is an important health education addition to the Year 7 PSHE programme as recommended by the government. Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. This can sometimes make an already confusing time as a teenager seem even more complicated. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.



# Newsletter

22nd May 2026 | Issue 149



Ministry  
of Defence

## Year 7 PSHE Lessons—FGM cont...

We are keen to support parents and carers who may have concerns about FGM and put them in contact with agencies which will support them. Please see the list of support organisations below, should you wish to make contact directly.

How to start the conversations about 'difficult' subjects that you need to have if you want to keep your children safe: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

NSPCC: [fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk) 0800 028 3550 or [www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/)

FORWARD: [www.forwarduk.org.uk](http://www.forwarduk.org.uk)

For your awareness, parents and carers have the right to request and excuse their child/children from Sex Education with the exception of those parts that are included in the statutory Science National Curriculum. There is no right to withdraw from Relationship and Health Education at secondary level and we believe the content of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety, FGM) and ways to maintain a healthy lifestyle – are important for all children to be taught.

This term's PHSE lessons on Health include:

**Puberty** - To learn about the physical and emotional changes that occur in young people during puberty and the impact this can have

**Diet and Exercise** - To learn about different influences on someone's diet and exercise choices

**Physical Health** - To learn how to make independent, informed decisions about maintaining physical health

**Sleep** - To learn about healthy sleeping habits

**FGM** - To learn about FGM and how to access help and support

If you have any questions regarding FGM, please do not hesitate to contact our safeguarding team at SJS. If you feel there are any sensitivities for your child around this subject please let us know.



# Newsletter

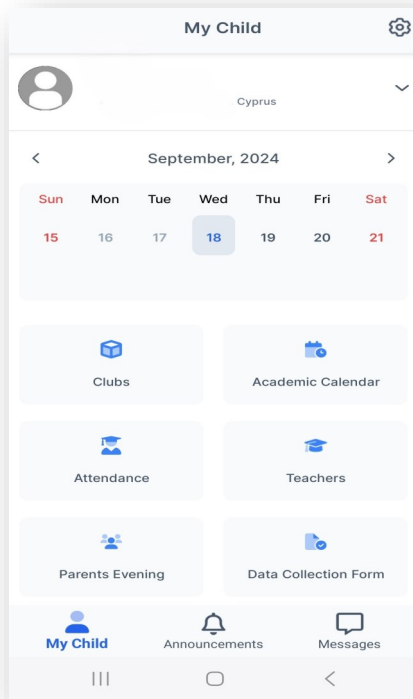
22nd May 2026 | Issue 149



Ministry  
of Defence

## Year 10 and 12 Parents' Afternoon

Tuesday 2nd June 1430—1700 hrs



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](mailto:Hayley.Twyford@modschoools.org)

## Contacting the school

Parents are reminded that contact can be made through:

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



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

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



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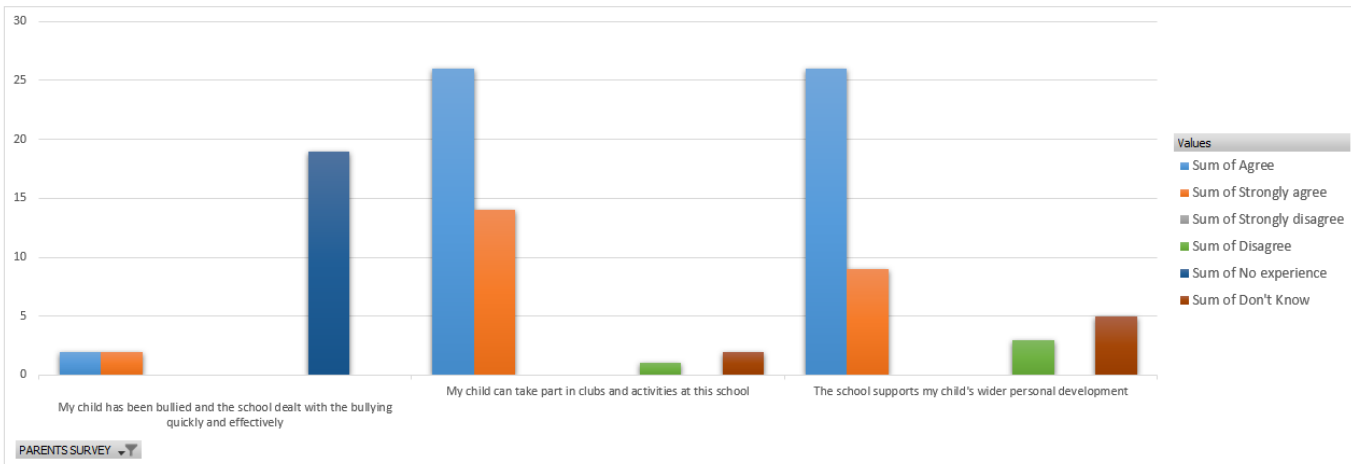
22nd May 2026 | Issue 149



Ministry of Defence

## Parent Voice

Thank you for taking the time to respond to our Parent Survey over the past two weeks. Approximately 10% of families responded to our survey. As I did over the last couple of weeks, using the upcoming newsletters to share with you your collective responses and address some of the key themes you have kindly provided through your suggestions.



## What are we doing well

I am pleased and reassured that the vast majority of parents have not had any experience of their child being bullied at St John’s School. This is view if matched by our students of whom 96% reported that bullying isn’t a problem in our school. I am also pleased that so many students are able to take advantage of the after school clubs that are provided. If there isn’t a club that appeals to your child please take a look at our website, where under [Information, Extra Curricular Activities](#) to find so many offered across the WSBA and locally in Cyprus. Finally, I am proud of the recognition parents and students through their survey have awarded our support for wider personal development. Over the past year Ms Papaioannou has redesigned and led our school in an improved PSHE programme, further supported by a tutor activities and a well thought out and ambitious series of school trips. Comparing parent and student responses to last year, this is the area we have seen significant improvement in response.

## What we could improve upon

Through our survey parents commented upon the lack of option choices, particularly with our Post 16 curriculum. I am pleased through Key Stage 3 and 4 we are able to offer the vast majority of what can be expected in a school in the UK, however I do recognise that at Key Stage 5 the offer can be much more limiting. We consistently lobby DCS and in turn the Army for improved funding to expand our offer and will continue to do so on behalf of our students.



# Newsletter

22nd May 2026 | Issue 149



Ministry  
of Defence

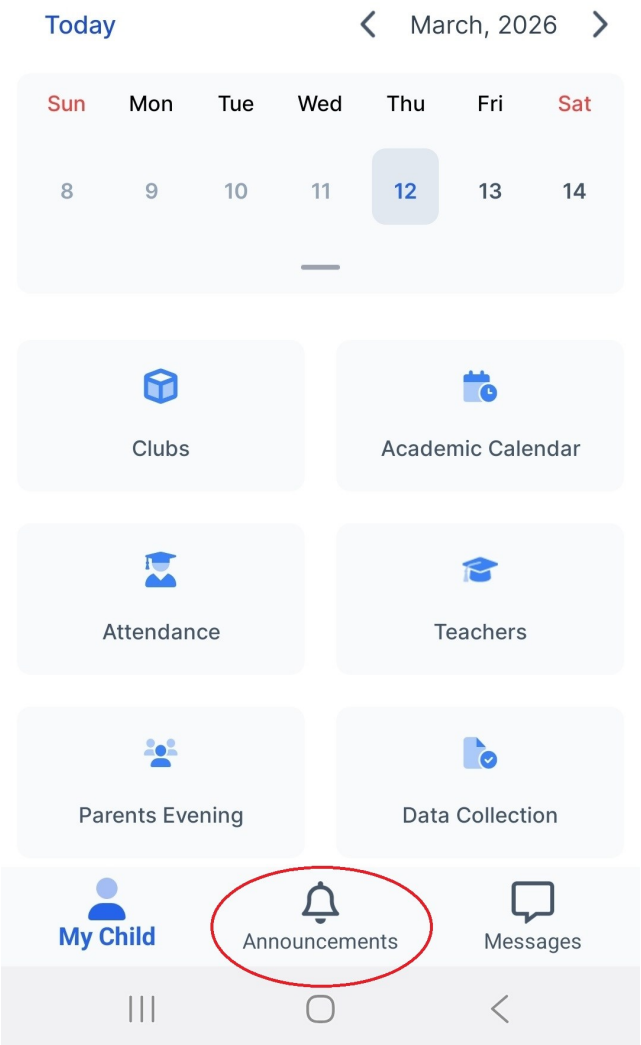
## Receiving announcements through the My Child at School (MCAS) App

By way of a reminder parents are able to access school communications through the MCAS App. To access communications from school please make sure you are looking at the School Announcements tab on MCAS App; this can be found on the bottom of the main MCAS page (as shown).

This is where you will find important information regarding the current situation, as well as other school notifications. If you receive notification of an announcement, and you have more than 1 child in school, but you can't see the announcement on their account, please toggle between your children on MCAS; every announcement is sent to the relevant child's account.

If you are not getting notifications regarding this, please can you refer to your phone's notification settings, and ensure that they are on.

If you are having any issues regarding the setting up of your MCAS account, please contact Mrs Hayley Twyford ([Hayley.twyford@modschoools.org](mailto:Hayley.twyford@modschoools.org)), who will be able to assist you.



### 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.



# Newsletter

22nd May 2026 | Issue 149



Ministry  
of Defence

## School Governance Committee (SGC)

School Governance Committee (SGC) members are interested members of the community, including parents of children at St John's School

We work with the Headteacher and school staff to assist in making key decisions vital to the successful running of the school, contribute to decisions directly affecting the education and wellbeing of pupils, assist in improving standards throughout the school and monitor the school budget.

The SGC meets once a term as a whole committee to review and discuss school business and to represent the views of parents.

### Main Roles

#### **Provide a strategic overview**

- Focussing on the key issues of raising standards of achievement, establishing high expectations and promoting effective teaching and learning

#### **Act as a Critical Friend**

- Providing the Headteacher and staff with support and advice using members' knowledge and experience

#### **Ensure Accountability**

- Questioning and openly discussing with the Headteacher the school's performance and other issues, whilst respecting both the professional roles of the Headteacher and school staff and their responsibilities for the management of the school

## Are you interested in joining our SGC?

We currently have a number of vacancies upon our School Governance Committee. Should you be interested we welcome a short expression of interest detailing your suitability by email to:

[Penny.Demetriou@modschoools.org](mailto:Penny.Demetriou@modschoools.org)



# Newsletter

22nd May 2026 | Issue 149



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](mailto:Hayley.Twyford@modschoools.org).

## Water Bottles

The temperatures are beginning to rise as we head into the Cyprus Summer. It is essential that students come to school prepared for the warmer months that are a feature of this Summer Term. Students are therefore asked to come to school with their own refillable water bottle to ensure they can stay hydrated. Students should use break times to fill their water bottle. Students are also able to wear a hat during breaktimes when enjoying breaktimes in the sunshine.



Don't forget to  
bring your own  
bottle to refill

## SJS Coffee Mornings

On Thursday 4th June 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](mailto: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.





INTEGRITY • COMMITMENT • RESPECT

# Newsletter

22nd May 2026 | Issue 149



Ministry  
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**A  
MIDSUMMER  
NIGHT'S  
DREAM**

<b>DATES:</b> 11TH JUNE 18:30 12TH JUNE 18:30 13TH JUNE 16:00	<b>VENUE:</b> ST JOHNS AND EPISKOPÍ PRIMARY SCHOOL GROUNDS	<b>TICKETS:</b> ADULTS: £10 KIDS FREE PASS HOLDERS ONLY (INCLUDING HOLIDAY VISITORS)
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**LIVE ON STAGE!**

