



Newsletter

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Dear Families,

Tuesday afternoon provided a lovely opportunity to meet many of our new parents at our 'informal, meet the teacher' event. Held to coincide with the arrival of a significant number of new students, the event provided a nice opportunity for staff and parents to meet one another and reflect upon the first few weeks of the new academic year.



Looking ahead to next week we already tip into October and the half way mark of the longest half term of the academic year. Taking pause to reflect, I am impressed by how quickly our school has settled following a summer of transition. We have welcomed almost 150 new students who have quickly forged new friendships, adapted to new school routines and expectations. We continue to take encouragement from student and parental feedback and look forward to an enjoyable academic year ahead.

Did you know?

We currently have 286 students on roll, anticipating a total of 306 students by October half term. The average class size is 16 students with the largest class size 21.

School attendance currently stands at 95.4%

Upcoming School Events

Week Commencing 28th Sept.

Week 1

Monday 28th September

Applying to University, an introduction to UCAS (Online) @ 1430hrs

Wednesday 30th September

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

Thursday 1st October

National Poetry Day

Year 11 and 13 Parent Afternoon @ 1430—1700hrs

Friday 2nd October

SJS Swimming Gala

Week Commencing 5th Oct.

Week 2

Wednesday 7th October

Inter School Swimming Gala @SJS : 1000hrs

Thursday 8th October

SJS Coffee Morning 0900—1000 hrs

Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschools.org

Episkopi Health Fayre @ 1330hrs : Dodge

Settling In Reports Issued for Year 10 and 12

Week Commencing 12th Oct..

Week 1

Tuesday 13th October

Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

Wednesday 14th October

DCS Inclusion Review of SJS—Day 1

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

Thursday 15th October

DCS Inclusion Review of SJS—Day 1

Friday 16th October

Settling In Reports Issued to Year 7, 10 and 12.



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This week at St John's School



Meet the Teacher

On Tuesday we enjoyed the opportunity to invite parents and students into school to informally meet our teaching staff and put a face to a name, in order to make those important initial connections. With plenty of food and drinks on offer it was a lovely event and opportunity to welcome our new families as part of our school and wider community.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

On Thursday students and staff brought a wide selection of cakes and sweet treats to raise money for MacMillan as part of their national coffee morning.



**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**



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Year 11 and 13 Parents' Afternoon

Thursday 1st October 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 Davies who will gladly assist you in logging on. Mrs Davies's email is Sophie.Davies@MODSchools.org

Headteacher's Surgery - Akrotiri Hive

On Wednesday 30th September 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.



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

Contacting the school

Parents are reminded that contact can be made through:

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





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Parent Afternoon

Dates for your diary

Date	Year Group	Times
Thursday 1st October 2026	Year 11 and 13	1430hrs—1700hrs
Wednesday 18th November 2026	Year 9	1430hrs—1700hrs
Tuesday 12th January 2027	Year 10 and 12	1430hrs—1700hrs
Monday 25th January 2027	Year 11 and 13	1430hrs—1700hrs
Tuesday 9th February 20267	Year 8	1430hrs—1700hrs
Wednesday 24th February 2027	Year 7	1430hrs—1700hrs
Tuesday 16th March 2027	Year 9 Options Afternoon	1430hrs—1530hrs
Thursday 29th April 2027	Year 9	1430hrs—1700hrs
Tuesday 8th June 2027	Year 10 and 12	1430hrs—1700hrs
Tuesday 29th June 2027	Year 8	1430hrs—1700hrs
Tuesday 6th July 2027	Year 7	1430hrs—1700hrs

You can also find further dates for the whole academic year on our school calendar which can be found on our website, linked [here](#)

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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Y10 - PSHE - YOGA SESSION

Our Year 10 students will be taking part in a wellbeing session in PSHE over the next few weeks focused on relaxation and mindfulness linking with their current studies into positive mental health.

Students will take part in a yoga session designed to help them relax, reduce stress and develop simple techniques to support concentration and focus.

We hope this will give students some valuable tools that they can draw upon to help approach their studies with a calm and positive mindset.



Upcoming Swimming Galas



This year we have two swim galas for year 7-10 students, both at the St John's School pool. The first, will be a form competition on Friday 2nd October, with each form competing against the other forms in **their year group**. Pupils have been signing up in tutor time and can do a maximum of 3 events plus relays. You don't need to sign up on MCAS as it's in school time (this is only needed for after-school clubs, like swim club).

After our school event our **best** swimmers will then be chosen to represent St John's School v King Richard School at our inter-school swim gala on Wednesday 7th October from 1030—1230hrs.

If your child is selected, you will receive a letter with more the information on and you will be invited to watch/support this event.

If you require more information regarding swimming - email the Head of PE: frank.marsden@modschoools.org.

Episkopi School Car Park

Please can parents not use Episkopi Primary School car Park when dropping students off to school by car. Instead parents can use the car park outside of the school gates next to the Youth Centre. It is hoped this will reduce congestion and ensure all students are safe when walking into school.





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Our Learning Circle: Commitment

Finding a way forward when the usual route is not possible

At the heart of the St John's Learning Circle are our core values: **Integrity, Commitment and Respect**. This week, we focus on **Commitment**.

Commitment means deciding that something matters and continuing to give it our time, attention and effort. Its real test often comes when progress is slow, circumstances are difficult or our original plan no longer works.

Within our Learning Circle, Commitment is demonstrated through:

- **Positive Attitude**—believing that effort, support and a willingness to learn can help us improve.
- **Engagement**—participating, listening, questioning and taking an active role in learning.
- **Resilience**—responding constructively to difficulty and being willing to try again.

In June 2026, American pupil Aaron Phelps graduated from Rodriguez High School in California following an extraordinary journey through education.

Aaron was born with Type 1 spinal muscular atrophy, a condition that causes progressive muscle weakness and has left him without physical mobility. Respiratory illnesses can be extremely dangerous for him, making ordinary attendance at school unsafe.

However, Aaron remained determined to participate in education. From kindergarten onwards, he attended lessons through a telepresence robot—a computer screen mounted on wheels that allowed him to see and hear his teachers and classmates, contribute to lessons and remain part of his school community while physically at home.

Learning in this way must sometimes have felt frustrating and isolating. Technology could not remove every barrier, but Aaron continued to participate year after year. He later made a documentary about his experience and expressed his wish for children and teenagers with disabilities to feel fully included in their schools and communities.

Following his graduation, Aaron made plans to continue studying online at Arizona State University. He hopes eventually to work as a disability advocate and help other young people feel seen and included.

Aaron's story also reminds us that commitment does not mean doing everything alone. His achievement was supported by his family, teachers, classmates, medical professionals and technology. Resilience is not about struggling silently or refusing help. It can mean recognising a barrier, accepting support and finding a different route forward.



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Our Learning Circle: Commitment

Finding a way forward when the usual route is not possible cont...

At St John's, commitment is demonstrated in the everyday decisions we make. We show it when we arrive prepared, participate fully, ask questions, practise a difficult skill, act upon feedback and return to a task after an unsuccessful attempt.

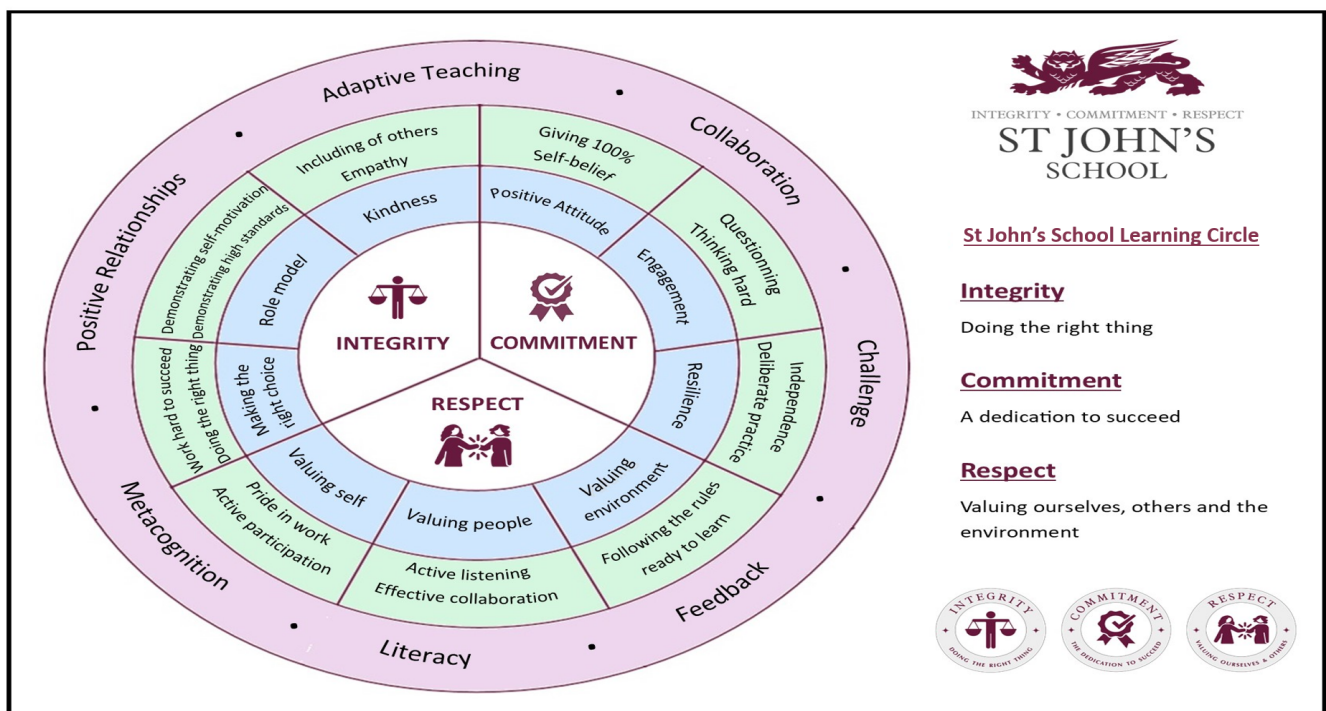
A positive attitude does not mean pretending that everything is easy. It means believing that our response can make a difference.

Engagement is more than simply being present. It means thinking, contributing and taking responsibility for our part in learning.

Resilience means recognising difficulty, finding appropriate support and taking the next sensible step.

Aaron's graduation was not created by one dramatic decision. It was built through thousands of decisions to remain connected to his education. His story reminds us that progress may look different for different people—and that when one route is closed, commitment can help us find another.

Our challenge this week is to ask: When something becomes difficult, what is the next positive step I can take?





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Our Curriculum

Each year 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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Home / Curriculum / English & Drama

English & Drama



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

Search Site ...

Search

Επιλογή γλώσσας ▾ Με την υποστήριξη της Google Μετάφραση

Sixth Form

Options

Curriculum Intent

PSHE

Psychology

Art

Business Studies

Computer Science

Food Technology

Design & Technology Product Design

English & Drama

Geography

History

Modern Foreign Languages

Mathematics

Music

Religious Education

Physical Education

Science



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Year 7 Curriculum - TERM 1

 Art Exploring 20th century artists. This includes Van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Roy Lichtenstein and Bridget Riley. Learn vocabulary to describe the Art including composition, use of colour, pattern, texture and perspective.	 Computer Science Learn computational thinking, algorithms, and stay safe online through digital citizenship.	 Design & Technology Students design a game using research, drawing, and manufacturing skills with wood, polymers, and workshop tools.	 Drama Introduction to dramatic techniques and the style of physical theatre. • Teamwork • Working with a stimulus • Verbal and non-verbal acting skills • Characterisation • Performance standards
English  'Oliver Twist' An introduction to the Victorian novel, including characterisation and key historical context. Students will be introduced to language analysis and structures of writing about a text.	Food Technology  - learn food hygiene basics - cook with meat, eggs, and dairy, - develop safe controlled kitchen skills - time management.	Geography  • Geography types, • Data collection, • Map reading, • Compass's use, • ICT tools, • Data analysis, choropleth maps, and scale interpretation.	History  History Skills Sources, evidence, anachronism, chronology, Interpretation/hypothesis Cypriot Prehistory + the Neolithic revolution - Hunter gatherers - The move to farming - Differences between prehistoric sites - Local Study Khirkotia
Mathematics  • Place value, arithmetic properties, negative numbers • Order of operations • Algebraic expressions, equations and inequalities. • Balance & relationships	Modern Languages  Students will learn to: • Give their name, age and birthday, • Describe themselves and others in their family • Talk about relationships.	Music  Students learn musical notation, rhythm, beat, note values, time signatures, and perform using instruments through reading, writing, and listening.	Physical Education Introduction to skills and activity basics: covering H&S, rules and warmups. • Swimming • Athletics • Football
Religious Education Introduces the why and how people follow religious ideas. Students are introduced to the diversity of belief and shared values in society.	Science  Introduction to Science Develop scientific skills Matter 1 Study atoms, elements, compounds and mixtures. Organisms 1 Explore plant and animal cells. Understand how the skeleton and muscles, enable movement.	PSHE Transition and Safety Transition to secondary school and personal safety in and outside school, including first aid. This topic helps students manage secondary school transition, boosting confidence, wellbeing, and independence.	Careers Developing skills and Aspirations.  Careers, teamwork and enterprise skills, and raising aspirations. The topic aims to help students understand the world of work, and explore different careers paths.



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Year 8 Curriculum - TERM 1

Art



Students explore logos, branding, and advertising, creating relevant designs while learning about research, context, and the purpose of effective design.

Computer Science



Students learn Python programming basics, including variables, flow control, logic, debugging, and creating simple games and applications.

Design & Technology



Students design a nightlight developing practical workshops skills with timbers, supported by CAD/CAM, and learn basic circuit functionality.

Drama



Students explore non-verbal acting through **silent movies**, melodramatic style, props, and staging, then develop script skills '**Woman in Black**', focusing on characterisation, proxemics and tension.

English

Prose:
'The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes'
Analytical writing using complex topic sentences, linking paragraphs, embedding quotes, exploring meanings, and applying literary terms with contextual analysis.

Food Technology



Students learn about global cuisines, regional UK foods, sustainability, food miles, packaging, and environmental impact in relation to food choices.

Geography

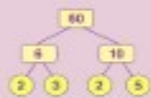
Students explore global development indicators, employment sectors, globalisation, and strategies to reduce development gaps River processes, landforms, flooding, and flood management techniques.

History

Tudors

- Life Culture and difference
- Henry VII and VIII impact on Modern Britain/world
- Elizabeth
- Spanish Armada

Mathematics



- Prime factorisation
- Fractions: comparison & calculations.
- Ratios and proportions (scaling & proportional reasoning)

Modern Languages



Students learn to describe meals, clothing, and activities in different weather, using accurate food, colour, and gendered vocabulary.

Music



Students learn folk music from the British Isles, explore rhythms and notations, compose musical phrases, write lyrics, and create group songs.

Physical Education



- Swimming
- Athletics
- Football

Religious Education

Students explore Western philosophy, the existence of God, and diverse worldviews, encouraging deep thinking and understanding of global beliefs and practices.

Science

Energy1

- Chemical energy storage
- Energy in food and fuels
- Electricity generation and efficiency
- Energy transfer, conservation

Ecosystems1

- Food chains, species competition
- Plant reproduction, pollination.

PSHE

Identity & Relationships

Identity & Relationships
Gender identity, Sexual orientation, Consent, 'sexting', and an introduction to contraception.
This topic is a vital part of supporting young people's personal development and safety.

Careers

Equality of opportunity in careers and life choices, and different types and patterns of work.



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Year 9 Curriculum - TERM 1

Art



Students design a personal project using 3-line composition, exploring their interests, identity, and popular culture. They experiment with materials, media and techniques to develop a dynamic final piece.

Computer Science



- Further Programming with Python by writing programs that use arithmetic expression.
- 'Living Online' unit equips students with essential digital citizenship skills.

Design & Technology

Design Ventura:

Students collaborate in groups to design a £10 product, meet deadlines, and compete in a national competition. This year, the project has been updated to V&A innovate, where students collaborate to design a product with the focus on people and sustainability, meet deadlines, and compete in a national design competition.

Drama



Devising:

Devising from a stimulus, working with dramatic techniques and directing performance

Konstantin Stanislavski: Naturalistic style performance through script work and characterisation.

English

GOthic FICTION

Reading a range of 19th-21st century non fiction; using models to plan, structure and write letter, articles and essays.

Food Technology

Students research global dishes, analyse nutrition and fat content, follow healthy eating guidelines, and evaluate meals using sensory analysis and peer feedback.

Geography

Fiery Earth

- Structure of the Earth
- Theory of Plate Tectonics
- Primary & Secondary effects of Earthquakes, in a LIC and HIC.
- responses to earthquakes in a LIC and HIC

History



- The world in 1900 and World War One.
- Challenges in 1900
- The causes of WWI
- People reactions to the start of the war.
- Life of the Western Front.
- The end of WWI

Mathematics



- Ratio review
- Direct and inverse proportion
- Univariate and bivariate data
- Fractions, decimals and percentages

Modern Languages

- Learn how to describe their town, activities they have done and activities they plan to do.
- Learn vocabulary relating to places in a town and description of a town.

Music



Students explore Rock 'n' Roll history, key figures, musical features, 12-Bar Blues, and ensemble performance, focusing on listening, improvisation, and performance skills.

Physical Education

- Swimming
- Athletics
- Football

Evaluation of Performance and increased Leadership opportunities.

Religious Education



- Is pacifism possible?
- Who is to blame for evil and suffering?

Science



Genes 2: Genetics, inheritance, diversity, evolution.
Reactions 2: Mass conservation, combustion, decomposition, bond changes, energy diagrams.
Forces 2: Motion, acceleration, pressure, fluids, solids, sinking, floating.

PSHE

Intimate Relationships

Relationships and sex education including consent, contraception, the risks of STIs, and attitudes to pornography.

Careers

Learning strengths, career options and goal setting as part of the GCSE options process.

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