INTEGRITY • COMMITMENT • RESPECT

Newsletter

16th October 2026| Issue 163

Ministry of Defence

Dear Families,



This week our school has participated in a whole school review of our inclusion practices. Visited by an inclusion specialist, our policies and practices were scrutinised alongside an evaluation of how these translate to what happens in the classroom. In due course we will receive a detailed report, which I look forward to sharing with parents. The review involved lesson visits, student focus groups and parental engagement meetings. Thank you to both students and parents who were identified to be more heavily involved in the process.

Along with other MOD Cyprus Schools, we are proud to be working with Northumbria University, Forces Children Scotland and The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust. This work will look at developing a new wellbeing and resilience programme for our students and Forces children nationally. I am once again grateful to parents who have already involved themselves over the past fortnight. This work will continue well into next year as the programme takes shape and I am pleased to be part of it.

Next week is the final week of this half term with the term finishing at 1400 hrs on Friday 23rd October.

Upcoming School Events

Week Commencing 19th Oct.	**Week 2**
Thursday 22nd October	**Year 10 School Trip (details shared separately)**
Friday 23rd October	**SJS Coffee Morning 0900—1000 hrs** **Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschools.org** **Last Day of the Half Term** **Settling In Reports Issued to Year 7, 10 and 12.**
Week Commencing 26th Oct.	**Half Term** **School closed to students and staff**
Week Commencing 2nd Nov.	**Week 1**
All Week	**GCSE Retake Examinations – English and Mathematics**
Monday 2nd November	**INSET Day, school closed to students**
Tuesday 3rd November	**School open to all year groups**
Wednesday 4th November	**School Photos** **Headteacher's Surgery: 0900—1000 hrs @ Akrotiri Hive**
Thursday 5th November	**School Photos** **Year 11 Drama Performance Examination**

Newsletter

16th October 2026| Issue 163

Ministry of Defence

This week at St John's School





Congratulations to our 2026 National Poetry Day competition winners

Year 8 students represented St John's School at the Episkopi Health Fair, putting their PSHE learning about social media and mental health into action.

Having explored the impact of social media on wellbeing, students designed and delivered an interactive activity entitled "Can You Beat the Algorithm?" Visitors were invited to discover how social media algorithms influence the content we see online and how repeated exposure to certain posts can affect our thoughts, feelings and self-esteem.

Through the activity, students encouraged visitors to think critically about their online experiences and explore practical ways to take greater control of their social media feeds.

Students demonstrated impressive confidence and maturity when engaging with adults, explaining complex ideas clearly, asking thoughtful questions and encouraging meaningful discussions about mental health and responsible social media use.





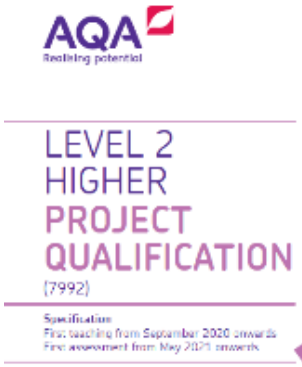
Newsletter

16th October 2026| Issue 163

Ministry of Defence

Year 10 and 11 High Project Qualification Opportunity

Are you in Year 10 or 11? Do you have a topic you're passionate about, a question you've always wanted to answer, or a skill you'd love to develop?



The Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) could be perfect for you!

The HPQ is your chance to take control of your learning, explore something that genuinely interests you and gain an extra Level 2 qualification along the way!



Why choose the HPQ?

- Your project, your choice! Research a topic that fascinates you, from sport, science and psychology to music, technology or current affairs.
- Develop valuable skills – Build your confidence in research, problem-solving, organisation and presenting your ideas.
- Stand out from the crowd – Show sixth forms, colleges and future employers your independence, curiosity and commitment.
- Gain an extra qualification – Achieve a nationally recognised Level 2 qualification alongside your GCSEs.
- Challenge yourself – Discover what you're capable of while working on something YOU care about!

What could you explore?

- *Could AI change the world?*
- *Why do we dream?*
- *How does social media affect teenagers?*
- *What makes an elite athlete successful?*

The HPQ isn't just another qualification – it's an opportunity to develop skills for your future, discover new interests and create something you can be proud of.

Ready to take on the challenge?

Email Mr Lopez (John.Lopez@modschools.org) to express your interest in taking part.

Newsletter

16th October 2026| Issue 163

Ministry of Defence

Our Learning Circle: Respect

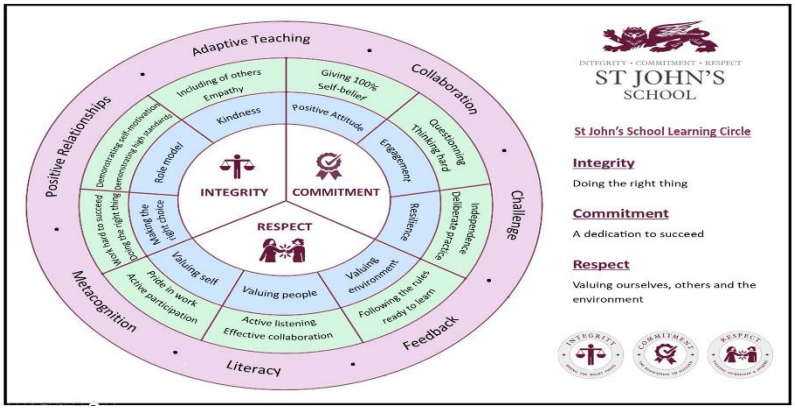
Recognising the value in every person

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

Respect is more than being polite or following rules. It can be seen in the way we speak, listen and respond to differences and in whether our behaviour communicates that other people matter.

Within our Learning Circle, Respect is demonstrated through:

- **Valuing Self** - recognising our worth, caring for our wellbeing and taking pride in our actions and work.
- **Valuing People** - treating others with kindness, fairness and dignity.
- **Valuing Learning** - using opportunities well and recognising that we can learn from others.



A remarkable Australian project shows what can happen when people of very different ages are given an opportunity to learn together.

The Herd Intergenerational Learning Centre shares a building with a residential home for older people. Young children regularly spend time with the residents, whom they affectionately call their "grandfriends." They create art, sing, eat, play games and share stories together.

The centre was created by sisters and former teachers Anna and Fiona Glumac. Their idea grew from visiting their grandmother after she moved into residential care. They saw some of her former energy fading but knew how much she came alive around young children. They imagined a place that would bring the youngest and oldest members of a community together.

The relationships at The Herd are not based on one group helping another. Both generations contribute and both benefit. The children bring curiosity, energy and affection. Their grandfriends share stories, songs, knowledge and life experience.

At St John's, we value ourselves by taking pride in our behaviour and work, making safe choices and asking for help when needed. We value people by listening, using considerate language, including others and showing patience when somebody communicates or works differently. We value learning by participating purposefully, considering feedback and allowing everyone to contribute.

Respect does not mean always agreeing. We can question an idea or challenge something that is wrong while still treating people with dignity.

Listening carefully can help someone feel visible. Showing patience can allow another person time to contribute. Taking a genuine interest in someone can open an unexpected opportunity for us both to learn.

Our challenge this week is to ask: Do my words and actions help other people feel seen, heard and valued?

INTEGRITY • COMMITMENT • RESPECT

Newsletter

16th October 2026| Issue 163

Ministry of Defence

Student Leavers

Aware that there are families whose posting will end midway through the academic year, we are keen to support students in a smooth transition to their new school. To this end, or if you know you will be leaving us during the next half term or shortly after the Christmas Holidays, we would welcome notification at the earliest opportunity.



The student departure form can be found on our website via this link: Leaving Us - St John's School Cyprus

If you have any queries regarding your child's transition to their new school, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs McIntyre on 00357 2596 8003 or alternatively you can email at Claire.Mcintyre@modschools.org.

SJS Coffee Mornings

On Thursday 22nd October 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@modschools.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.



School Trousers

As the weather changes, students are beginning to attend school in trousers. Students are permitted to wear tailored trousers in black or grey. We ask that students do not attend school wearing trousers made from a stretchy material, leggings or in trousers that flare at the ankle.



Newsletter

16th October 2026| Issue 163

Ministry of Defence

Meet Bentley – Our Newest Member of Staff!

We are delighted to announce that St John's School is about to welcome a very special new member of our school community – Bentley, our School Support Dog!

Bentley is a beautiful, friendly Golden Retriever who loves being around people, and we are really looking forward to introducing him to our students.



Bentley will initially be joining us three days a week – Monday, Wednesday and Friday. He will spend much of his time in our Nurture Hub, where he will help provide a calm, reassuring presence for students who might benefit from a little extra emotional support, some quiet time or simply a friendly companion to brighten their day.

We know that sometimes a few minutes of calm companionship can make a real difference, and we hope Bentley will become a much-loved part of school life.

Of course, Bentley's wellbeing and the safety and comfort of our students will always come first. We will be introducing him gradually and helping students understand how to interact with him safely and respectfully.

A separate letter will be sent to all parents and carers this Friday, explaining Bentley's role in more detail, the arrangements we have put in place and how to let us know if your child has an allergy, is nervous around dogs or if you would prefer them not to have contact with Bentley.

We are very excited to welcome Bentley to St John's and hope he will soon become a familiar (and rather furry!) face around school.

Welcome to the team, Bentley!

School Trips

We have an extensive programme of school trips planned for this academic year, which build upon the success of previous opportunities offered to students. Each trip aims to promote a child's Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development, whilst giving students to explore our host nation. This year we have plans near and far with students visiting Ancient Kourion and the Troodos Observatory to name just two.

The school will communicate details of school trips as they arise.

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

16th October 2026| Issue 163

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 represent the views of parents.

Main Roles

Provide a strategic overview

- focusing 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 Head Teacher 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 several vacancies upon our School Governance Committee, should you be interested we welcome a short expression of interest detailing your suitability by email to:

Sophia.Demetriou@modschools.org

We have the following vacancies:

- Station HQ Representative
- Parent Representative
- Community Representative

INTEGRITY • COMMITMENT • RESPECT

Newsletter

16th October 2026| Issue 163

Ministry of Defence

National Poetry Day – Winning Entries

Year 7 Winner

Welcome to the World, They Say

Welcome to the world, they say,
They say with no smile on their face.
The world with greenhouse gasses,
And disasters of great masses.
Flash floods, drought and wildfires,
Don't worry, they say, the great big liars.

What about health risks and air quality,
Or the rising level of the sea?
What about the glaciers and the melting ice,
Or the polar bears we risk losing without thinking twice?
Hurricanes, deforestation and pollution,
We really need to find a solution.

What about the colours of the sunset,
Or the chirping of birds in their nest?
What about the stars that brighten up the night,
Or the sunflowers that turn to the light?
What about bees that buzz and bumble,
Will you stand by and watch the world crumble?

Year 8 Winner

The Sea's Silent Cry

The ocean is the heartbeat of our planet's frame,
Adjusting global temperature, a vast and complex game.
It acts as a giant carbon sink,
absorbing heat and gas,
To buffer and protect the world,
beneath its liquid glass.

But, as the world grows warmer now, the water starts to rise,
And thermal expansion happens right before our eyes.
The fragile coral reefs below are bleaching into white,
As rising acid strips away their colour and their light.

We notice how the currents shift,
we question what we see,
Can science and our human hands restore the changing sea?
We must imagine cleaner waves,
and cool the rising deep,
To save the wonders of the bule,
and the promises we keep.

Year 9 Winner

Wonder Walks in Ruins

Wonder walks in ruins
soft-footed through the dust of
forgotten halls.

It curls around broken arches,
tracing cold stone
like a memory that refuses to die.

A single candle shivers,
its flame bending toward the dark
as if listening
to something ancient
breathing behind the walls.

And in that hush —
that velvet silence —
wonder rises,
a pale ghost
lifting its face
to greet the moon.