St Johns School Newsletter

17th July 2025 | Issue 156

INTEGRITY • COMMITMENT • RESPECT

A welcome from the Headteacher



Dear Families,

Today is the last day of this academic year and sadly we say goodbye to so many of our students and their families. It has been a busy and, yes, back in March, a particularly eventful academic year. Consequently, I am in debt to the hard work and support afforded by everyone associated with our school. On behalf of us all here at school I wish all of those leaving this summer the very best in their future schooling and upcoming postings. It has been a privilege to contribute to your child's education and I hope they reflect fondly upon their time with us.In addition to our student goodbyes, we also say farewell to a small number of staff. This year we say goodbye to Ms Fox, Mr Duvarciyan, Mr Shaw, Mrs Twyford and Mrs McDowell. Together they have contributed much to our school and I wish them well as they embark upon new endeavours.Now that the summer holidays are upon us, we wish everyone associated with our school a restful Summer Holiday, hoping that you all manage to squeeze out some leave between work and relocation.

New Year Arrangements

For students returning to St John's School at the beginning of the new academic year, the new year begins:

- for students in Year 7 and 11 on Thursday 3rd September at 0800 hrs
- for all other students on Friday 4th September at 0800 hrs

Should you be arriving to Cyprus and have a child starting at St John's School in September, you are cordially invited to attend our new arrivals briefing on Thursday 27th August at 1000 hrs.

Important Dates and Events

Thursday 16th July

End of year reports issued

Friday 17th July

Last day of term, school ends at 1230 hrs.

20th July—3rd September

School Closed to staff and students

Summer Holidays

Key Dates:

• A-Level and BTEC Results Published at 1000hrs Thursday 13th August

• GCSE Results Published at 1000hrs Thursday 20th August

• Open Morning for new students (all years) at 1000hrs Thursday 27th August

Monday 31st August

Bank Holiday—School Closed to staff and students

Tuesday 1st September

Staff Training (INSET Day) school closed to students

Wednesday 2nd September

Staff Training (INSET Day) school closed to students

Thursday 3rd September

School open to Year 7 and Year 11 Only

Friday 4th September

School open to all year groups

Leaving Staff

Ms Kimberley Fox



Kimberley (Kim) sadly leaves us having been at St John's School for the past four years as our Head of Mathematics.Aided by her team, Kim has lead significant improvements in

Mathematics that have supported students to achieve some outstanding examination results at GCSE.Kim's impact extended beyond the mathematics department with the Year 8 Aspire Programme and enrichment programme that saw students participate in a wide range of activities allowing them to learn Greek, practice public speaking and visit universities in and around the City of York. It was also Kim's vision that saw 10 students participate in an expedition in the jungles of Southeast Asia with further students joining from King Richard School.

Mr Alen Duvarciyan



Alen has been a very popular teacher of English for much of the year. An accomplished teacher and experienced school leader, Alen has had an extremely positive impact in the classroom and beyond.During his year at St John's School, Alen has supported individual and small groups of students with timely intervention ahead of exams. Alen has also led whole school staff training and shared his leadership experience with our senior team.We wish Alen well and are pleased that he will remain in Cyprus with his wife and young family.

Mrs Paloma Adorisio



Paloma has been an asset to us at St John's School. As an experienced teacher Paloma has provided us with huge versatility, not only teaching Science, but at different intervals throughout the year teaching subjects that have also included PSHE and PE.Paloma remains in Cyprus and I am hopeful will continue to be a presence in school, hopefully providing continuity when teachers are absent . However, her time will be shared with her long standing support for England's female national football teams as she continues her work with the Football Association.

Mr Graham Shaw



We managed to coax Graham out of retirement for the past academic year. Graham worked with Paloma to teach Key Stage 3 Science. As a passionate and experienced teacher of Science, Graham inspired our students to love his subject. Capturing their interest through regular experiments, he showed great creativity, even if it did culminate in my murder, which students subsequently needed to employ their CSI skills to unpick my killer!Graham finally gets to enjoy his retirement, remaining in Cyprus. I am sure he will maintain a connection with our schools and has expressed a keen interest to offer extra curricular opportunities to students in both the primary and secondary school, something we would be keen to take him up on.

Mrs Hayley Twyford



Sadly Hayley leaves us this summer as she returns to London with the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.Hayley has had a transformative impact upon many of our administrative processes and systems, including Bromcom. Hayley oversaw the rollout of the My Child at School App and the Bromcom Student App. Many of you will have had the opportunity to liaise with Hayley as she also played the primary admissions role in supporting your child's enrolment into St John's over the past two years.Hayley returns to London to take on a promoted position as the Senior School Administrative Officer.

Mrs Louisa McDowell



Louisa has expressed many imaginative ways to stay at St John's School. Louisa would have many willing Sixth Form accomplices to help her realise this ambition too.Over the past two years Louisa has formally undertaken the role of Sixth Form Mentor, however she is often described by our Sixth Formers as 'our school mum' and she will be sorely missed with our students composing a personal book of thanks, which, having read through it, captures how highly Louisa is regarded.Louisa returns with her family to Scotland this summer and testament to her professional standing to the job she left before moving to Cyprus.

Role Changes

Head of Sixth Form

Mr O'Missenden has spent much of this academic year acting into the role of Head of Sixth Form during the absence of Mrs Bonar. Mr O'Missenden has done a great job providing continued stewardship and stability for our students, whilst responding to their feedback in order to make improvements that will continue beyond his tenure.As this academic year comes to an end, Mr O'Missenden hands back to Mrs Bonar who, having returned to school in recent weeks, has used her time to meet with students and parents alike to review this academic year and plan for the next. Mrs Bonar is looking forward to the new academic year and utilising her vast experience in this role to support students achieve the grades required to reach their Post 18 ambitions.

Acting SENDCO

I am grateful for the support Miss Dunmore has provided over the past twelve months, acting up into the role of SENDCO whilst our substantive SENDCO was absent due to illness. Miss Dunmore has extensive experience in special educational needs and drew upon this to lead the SEND Department, meeting with many parents to ensure continuity of provision. The role also requires the SENDCO to contribute to the whole school leadership and I am personally grateful for how she has supported me in this endeavour. Miss Dunmore returns to her substantive role as a teacher of Design and Technology, however, I look forward to her continued wider contributions to school life.

Head of Mathematics and Computing

As Ms Fox leaves St John's School this summer, Ms Robertshaw will act in to provide leadership for the Mathematics and Computing department over the coming year, until a longer term, more sustainable solution can be found. Ms Robertshaw currently leads our Science Department and is an accomplished and very experienced middle leader. I am confident that she will be able to provide the necessary support and guidance to the department and wish her well in taking on this new expanded role.

Head of Key Stage 4

Mrs Hayes has led Key Stage 4 throughout this academic year and I am delighted she will continue to do so as we move into the new year. The arrangement remains in an acting capacity and it is hoped that the role can be advertised over the next 12 months to ensure permanence once approval from Army TLB can be obtained.

New Academic Year Arrangements

The school will close on Friday 17th July for students with only a skeleton number of staff in school throughout the holiday period. Should you need to contact the school during this period, please email sjs.enquiries@modschools.org ,however, please note there may be a delay in response, particularly over the Cypriot summer holiday period.

The table below details when the school will be open throughout the summer period, as well as the start of term arrangements.

Thursday 13th August 2026	1000—1200	A-Level Examination Results Published
Thursday 20th August 2026	1000—1200	GCSE Examination Results Published
Thursday 28th August 2026	**0900**	**New Student/Parent Induction Briefing** Meet the Head Teacher School Tour
Tuesday 1st September 2026	All day	Staff Inset Day
Wednesday 2nd September 2026	All day	Staff Inset Day
Thursday 4th September 2026	0800-1400	School opens to Y7 and Y11 only
Friday 5th September 2026	0800-1400	School Opens for all students

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

School Buses



Students who were in attendance at St John's School will continue to ride their allocated bus to school come September. For new students, parents will have received a letter notifying them of the number of the school bus their child(ren) have been allocated for the next academic year.

On the first Thursday and Friday of the new school year, students travelling from Akrotiri will be met by senior staff at the respective bus stops and be allocated their seat. Students can make changes to their allocated seating by visiting the Pastoral Hub in the Autumn Term.

If you are expecting your child to travel to school from Akrotiri by bus and have not registered and/or received a letter your child can still travel upon the bus. On their respective first day your child will need to make their way to either the Chaplaincy or

Chelona, previously known as Wateringhole on the first day of term. They will be met by a senior member of staff who will allocate them a seat, which maybe changed at a later date.

Preparing for the New Academic Year

Piercings

Should your child be considering a piercing this summer, they are encouraged to get this done at the start of the holidays. Students are permitted studs in either ear and we will permit a single nose stud, reflecting this change in policy over the summer. All other piercings will need to be removed. All piercings must be removed when participating in PE.

Fashion Accessories

Students are reminded that all acrylic or gel nails must be removed prior to the first day of school. We will permit subtle nail varnish colours and will reflect this change in policy over the summer. Please also note that hair colours not deemed as natural are also not permitted.

Equipment

It is essential that students arrive to school equipped to learn. They are required to have the essential items shown and these will be checked daily by their tutor.



Uniform Changes from September 2026



A reminder that our school uniform is changing. As initially communicated in September 2025, and at intervals throughout this academic year, we are making changes to our school uniform which will begin to come into effect from September 2026.

We have timed the change to ensure students arriving in September 2026 can procure new items of uniform that will last the duration of their time with us. We will phase in the uniform changes over two years to ensure parents are able to get good value for money out of the items already purchased and being worn. For students already enrolled at St John's School, they will be able to continue to wear existing items of uniform up to July 2027. The key changes are as follows:

· Students identifying to any gender will be required to wear black tailored shorts. The shorts must be mid-thigh in length. Shorts must not be tightfitting and/or of a stretchy material.

· All students are required to wear a white polo shirt, however there is no requirement to wear a polo shirt with a school logo, which will no longer be restocked and is being discontinued.

· For PE, students must wear black sports shorts, which are not compression shorts. Students are required to wear a white t-shirt with a single small logo no larger than a £2 or €2 coin. There will no longer be a requirement for students to wear a PE t-shirt that features the house of Poseidon or Apollo. Responding to parent feedback, plain white Dri-Fit t-shirts can be purchased from the school.

· Students will be able to wear our school hoodie, which will be available to purchase from school. No other jumper or hoodie will be permitted to be worn. The school blazer, which has long proved unpopular with students will no longer be restocked and is being discontinued.



Black tailored shorts suitable for school must be be mid-thigh in length. Shorts must not be tight fitting and/or of a stretchy material. Parents can purchase shorts adhering to these rules either from school uniform providers or adult retail providers such as Next. Students have flexibility in style as long as the shorts remain mid-thigh in length and not tight fitting or made from a stretchy material.

Parents are encouraged to purchase generic uniform items including shorts (either child or adult sizes/styles) and polo shirts from instore or online retails here in Cyprus or in the UK. We have been in store and online and found suitable items in the following retailers:



Year 5 RAF Akrotiri Primary School Art Work

Year 5 continued their schooling at St John's School ear-lier this year when families were temporarily displaced. During this time they studied the work of Vincent Van Gogh. In his style students painted the view from our school looking south towards the Mediterranean Sea and you can view their work below.


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BFC Youth Service Akrotiri Summer Programme

