

Dear Parents, Students & Friends of St John's,

As I have been putting the finishing touches to this newsletter, I have found myself pausing regularly to reflect on what an extraordinary year it has been at St John's. While these pages offer a wonderful celebration of our achievements, they represent only a snapshot of the countless activities, successes, opportunities and moments of growth that have taken place throughout the year.

Looking back through the many articles, photographs and reports contained in this edition, it has reminded me of the remarkable breadth of experiences that our students benefit from. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, through performing arts, charitable outreach, educational visits, leadership opportunities, faith development or the many clubs and enrichment activities on offer, our students have once again embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, commitment and joy. It fills me with immense pride to reflect on the wealth of opportunities we offer at our school and, more importantly, the way our young people make the very most of them.

Our success as a school community is only possible because of the dedication, care and professionalism of our staff, who continually go above and beyond to support, encourage and inspire our students. I would like to thank every member of staff for their hard work throughout the year, and to congratulate them on the many achievements celebrated within these pages. Equally, I extend my congratulations to our students, who continue to be wonderful ambassadors for our school through their achievements, resilience, kindness and commitment to our Catholic values.

At this time of year, our thoughts also turn to those students who will be receiving examination results over the summer. I would like to commend them for the dedication and perseverance they have shown in preparing for their examinations and throughout the examination period itself. Exams can be challenging, but our students approached them with maturity, determination and courage. We wish each and every one of them every success when results day arrives and hope that their hard work is richly rewarded.

For those students who are moving on to pastures new, whether that be sixth form, college, apprenticeships, university or employment, we send our very best wishes to you all for the future. As you embark on the next stage of your journey, I encourage you to take with you the values, character and faith that you have developed during your time at St John's. These qualities will serve you well wherever life may lead. While we are excited to see what the future holds for you, we will undoubtedly miss your presence in our community. Please do keep in touch and let us know about your achievements and adventures in the years ahead. You will always remain an important part of the St John's family and you will be sorely missed.

As another successful year draws to a close, I would like to thank all members of our school community, students, staff, parents, governors and parish partners, for their continued support and contribution to school life. Together, we have much to celebrate and much to be grateful for.

I wish you all a restful, happy and blessed summer break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting year at St John's in September. God bless,

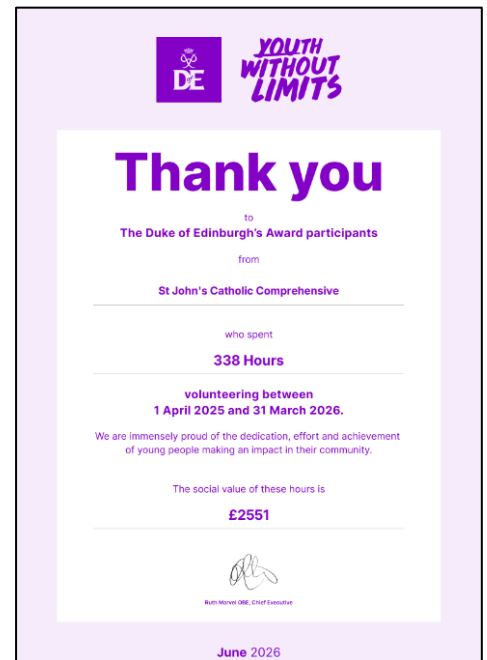
Matt Barron, Headteacher

## Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) continues to make a positive impact both within our school and across the wider community. Through volunteering, students dedicate their time to supporting local organisations, charities, and community groups, developing valuable life skills while making a real difference to others.

Participants have contributed through activities such as helping at community events, supporting younger pupils, assisting local charities, and caring for the environment. These experiences encourage responsibility, teamwork, and compassion, helping students grow into active and engaged citizens.

The DofE programme not only benefits those receiving support but also builds confidence, resilience, and leadership skills in our young people. We are incredibly proud of the commitment and enthusiasm shown by our students who undertake the DofE award and the positive contribution they continue to make to our community.



*Miss H. Thomson. Physical Education. 2<sup>nd</sup> in Department.*

## Drama Performances

Our incredibly talented KS3 Drama Club has wowed audiences with their vibrant performances of beloved Julia Donaldson stories: *Zog*, *The Snail and the Whale*, *Room on the Broom* and *The Scarecrows' Wedding*.

Students worked exceptionally hard, bringing energy, creativity and confidence to every scene—and their efforts truly paid off! The performances were a huge success, delighting two visiting nursery schools as well as an audience of proud families and staff.

From colourful characters to engaging storytelling, our young performers demonstrated fantastic teamwork and a real passion for drama. We are so proud of what they have achieved — bravo to everyone involved!

Our students are already hard at work preparing for what promises to be another magical and unforgettable production, full of music, charm and spectacular performances. Be sure to secure your seats for *Mary Poppins the Musical* — tickets will be available in September, and you won't want to miss it!



*Miss C. Comiskey. Drama Teacher.*

## Science Museum Trip

Before rollover, our year 7 Transition students embarked on an epic voyage to London.

This time, the Science Museum in Kensington was their destination. They walked to the railway station to get a train to Charing Cross, from where a brisk walk got them to the Embankment tube station. It was a busy time on the Underground so most discovered the joys of standing up on the train. Our well-behaved students all arrived safely at the museum. Geography skills used in real life!

Our visit was intended to enhance their academic learning as well as developing their life and social skills. It certainly did all we anticipated. Everybody found something of interest.

Some discovered how medicine had developed over time: useful if they go on to do History GCSE in Year 9! Others were intrigued by common household items and what they once were like. Space exploration grabbed some others. The museum was especially good at showing how women were heavily involved in the space race. Almost all liked finding out about people through the interactive exhibits and, obviously, all liked the gift shop! Gliders and pens seemed particular popular.

The students thoroughly enjoyed their day out; their smiles made it all worthwhile for the very tired staff. (Thank you Mrs Ong, Mrs Burgess and Mrs Gladwell.)

*Mr P. Coode. Head of Transition.*

## Houses of Parliament Trip

Well done to Zuzia & Ade, our Head Girl & Head Boy, for representing St John's so well at our recent trip to the Houses of Parliament on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April. Ade & Zuzia, accompanied by Mr Barron, got the wonderful opportunity of shadowing our local MP Dr Lauren Sullivan for the day, where they were able to watch Prime Minister's Question Time in the House of Commons Public Gallery, observe a meeting of the Committee for Science & Technology, and get a full tour of Westminster. What an absolutely fantastic experience! A huge thank you to Dr Sullivan and her team for making us feel so welcome.



*Mr Barron. Headteacher.*

### **St John's Gymnastics Squad – National Finals.**



On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026, our St John's Gymnastics Squad represented the South East Region at the National Finals of the BSGA Team Floor and Vault competition in Stoke-on-Trent. The team performed exceptionally well, and achieved bronze medal position; we are incredibly proud of their amazing achievement! They also contributed to the South East Region achieving first place position, outperforming all other regions in Great Britain at this event.



*Mrs L. Weller. Assistant Headteacher (Teaching and Learning).*

### **Under 19 Football**

This season the U19 Football team came narrowly close to winning the two competitions they took part in. In the East Kent League Division 1 St John's only lost 1 game and it all came down to the final match at Homewood School where we needed to win by three goals to win the league outright. We went 1-0 ahead after 15 minutes but frustratingly couldn't add to our tally and agonisingly lost on goal difference.

In the Elliot Holmes Memorial Trophy, St John's beat St George's comfortably to reach the final for the first time against GGS at Ebbsfleet FC. Unfortunately we suffered a 3-1 defeat to finish without silverware.

I'd like to thank the boys leaving the team for University or Apprenticeships in providing so much success at the U19 level.

### **Kent Schools Darts Championships**

St John's again seems to be the pioneering school for new sports as we hosted the inaugural Kent Schools Darts Championships. We had four schools compete with 24 players playing a league and knockout format over five hours. St John's managed to get Solly B and Ethan R into the semi finals but unfortunately they came up against two top players from Borden Grammar School who made the final. We are looking to extend the competition with ten schools showing an interest in next year's competition already.

*Mr S. Ward. Physical Education Teacher.*

## District Athletics

We had some outstanding performances from our St John's athletes in the District Athletics Championships 2026, held at the Central Park Track & Field Stadium, Dartford. Our Gold Medallists came from Richard A Y10 Boys 100m, George B Y9 Boys 800m and Ezikiel, Armani, Kye C and Daniel K Y8 Boys 4x100m Relay Team!

Silver medallists were: Kye C Y8 Boys Long Jump, Millie S Y8 Girls Javelin, Zemire Y9 Girls 200m and Zemire, Allison, Jessica and Melissa B Y9 Girls 4x100m Relay. Finally, Ronan L Y10 Boys 1500m.

Bronze medallists were Alexandra J Y7 Girls Long Jump, Aleks K Y7 Boys Long Jump, AJ R Y9 Boys 1500m, Stan C Y9 Boys 300m, Zemire Y9 Girls 100m, Charlie H Y9 Boys Javelin, Zac I Y10 Boys 800m and Rhoda Y10 Girls 100m.

Well done to all other athletes that did not receive a medal but gave 100% effort and represented St John's so remarkably well!

*Miss H. Hawes. Physical Education Teacher.*



## Lewisham Hospital Work Experience

Special thanks to all the businesses who generously supported our students with their work experience placements. Lewisham Hospital kindly shared photographs of our Year 12 students during their work experience with them.

We are sure they have learned a lot from you, and they will use this knowledge to explore future opportunities and build on the skills they've gained.

Your support and guidance have been greatly appreciated.

We are looking forward for your support in the upcoming years for more of our students' work experience.



*Mr M. Athikesavan. Operations Support Officer.*

## Chess Competition

A huge well done and thank you to everyone who took part in our school-wide Chess Competition this term. It has been fantastic to see so many passionate, strategic and sharp-minded students take to the board, showcasing their impressive talent and skill throughout each round.

Congratulations to our year champions listed below, and an extra-special commendation to our overall winner Jake S who deservedly beat Mr Barron in the final to be crowned a very worthy champion of St John's. Your hard work, focus and sportsmanship have truly stood out!

On behalf of Rhys T (Year 12 Organiser) and Mrs Taylor, we want to extend our appreciation to every student who stepped forward to compete. Your courage, determination and willingness to challenge yourselves prove that with qualities like these, there are no losers only high achievers.

Year 7 – Yannis P  
Year 8 – Manav F  
Year 9 – Jake S  
Year 10 – George P  
Year 11 – Torran P  
Year 12 – Eman A  
Year 13 - Daniel O  
Staff - Mr M Barron



*Mrs S. Taylor. Mathematics Teacher and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Department.*

## Draughts Competition.

All of the Y7 & Y8 students (400 students in total) entered into the annual St John's draughts competition. Competition was fierce and students have learnt valuable lessons of strategy and sportsmanship. The results are in!

Congratulations to the new **KS3 and Y8 year champion Liana M**

- **Y7 year champion David M**

### Year 8 class champions

Leo H-Y  
Jamie W  
Alfie I  
Tommy B  
Freddie H  
Ikechukwu N  
Leo C

### Year 7 class champions

Amira R  
Jack G  
Yannis P  
Oliver S-S  
Damirs A  
Caylen B  
Lennon C

*Mr Q. Smith. Mathematics Teacher.*

This July, over 40 of our Cricket Club students had the fantastic experience of a Rewards Trip to Kent County Cricket Club in Canterbury to see Kent vs Surrey play a T20 game. Students had an absolutely wonderful time at the venue – getting to see a whole host of England internationals such as Jason Roy, Reece Topley, Sam Billings and Zak Crawley.



### Arts Showcase Celebrates Creativity Across the School

Last week, our school showcased the incredible talents of our students in our Arts Showcase. The evening showcased the talented work of our Music, Dance, Drama, Art, Photography and Media students.

Alongside the performances, displays of artwork, photography and media projects showcased the breadth of talent within our school.

The showcase was a wonderful celebration of the arts and the many opportunities available to our students. It was fantastic to see so many families, friends and members of the school community come together to support and celebrate the hard work of our young artists and performers.



A huge thank you and congratulations goes to all of the students who performed or exhibited their work, as well as the staff who supported rehearsals, preparations and the organisation of the event.



## Geography Trips

Year 12 A Level Geography students visited Canterbury and Hayling Island, Hampshire, in Term 5 to complete 2 days of fieldwork. On both days data was collected in relation to a posed hypothesis which allowed the students to test these hypotheses, as well as applying their learning from the classroom to the real world. Students will use the skills that they gained on these fieldtrips to plan their own investigation which they will undertake during the summer holidays. The subsequent analysis and write up of their results will count for 20% of their final grade.

*Mr B. Thilthorpe. Head of Geography.*

## KS3 PGL Paris Adventure



A group of our Key Stage 3 students recently returned from an unforgettable four-day adventure to PGL Château de Grande Romaine in France, combining exciting outdoor activities with a magical visit to Disneyland Paris.

Despite experiencing exceptionally hot weather throughout the trip, our students embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, resilience and excellent humour. They took part in a wide range of challenging and enjoyable activities including buggy building, disc golf, axe throwing and swimming, demonstrating fantastic

teamwork, determination and support for one another.

The highlight for many was undoubtedly our day at Disneyland Paris. Students enjoyed unusually short queue times, allowing them to experience many of the park's most popular attractions throughout the day. The visit

concluded with the spectacular evening lights and fireworks show, providing a truly magical end to an unforgettable experience.

Throughout the visit, our students were exceptional ambassadors for St John's. Their exemplary behaviour, kindness and positive attitudes were a credit to themselves, their families and our school community. We would also like to thank the staff who generously gave up their time to make this fantastic opportunity possible. It is safe to say that the trip created wonderful memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.



**Mr S. Khan. Assistant Headteacher (KS3 Leader).**

### **Staff vs 6<sup>th</sup> Form Charity Netball**

Congratulations to Lilly O (Year 12) who came up with the brilliant idea of organising a Staff vs 6<sup>th</sup> Form Netball game to raise money for the Ellenor Hospice, a wonderful local charity close to both Lilly's heart as well as to St John's. The accompanying photo shows Lilly presenting the funds raised to Ellenor. Well done Lilly, we are very proud of all that you have achieved, and the staff at Ellenor took a great interest in your fantastic idea!

Staff thoroughly enjoyed playing netball against a very competitive 6<sup>th</sup> Form team, whilst our 6<sup>th</sup> formers quickly found out that their teachers weren't quite as old and immobile as they sometimes looked! The game was so much fun that a rematch was quickly organised as were future fixtures in the new academic year. By all accounts, the 6<sup>th</sup> formers want to keep on playing their teachers until they finally win a game!

**Mr Barron. Headteacher**



## Year 7

Top Good Comments in Year 7: Congratulations!

| Form Class | Form class total | Top Girl        | Top Boy            |
|------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 7AJC       | 8499             | Willow - 654    | Harry - 341        |
| 7AOA       | 8070             | Alya – 414      | Massimiliano – 678 |
| 7CHA       | 7189             | Ohana – 598     | Jack – 437         |
| 7HBC       | 8710             | Poppy – 455     | Lachlan – 560      |
| 7OCP       | 8300             | Blossom – 614   | Franciszek – 539   |
| 7PAP       | 5418             | Alexandra – 277 | Max – 482          |
| 7PCM       | 7268             | Grace – 467     | George – 445       |

A huge well done to two of our Year 7 students, Massi and Willow, who have now set a new school record for the highest number of good comments ever achieved with 654 and 678 good comments respectively. This fantastic accomplishment reflects their hard work, positive attitude and commitment to meeting the school values of Excellence for All, Service to Others and Inspired by Christ.

We are also incredibly proud of the whole Year 7 cohort. It has been fantastic to see so many students collecting good comments this year through their effort, kindness and positive attitudes. Year 7 have made a brilliant start to secondary school and have consistently shown what it means to strive for excellence every day.'

*Miss R. Mair. Deputy Year Leader KS3.*



## Year 8

Top Good Comments in Year 8. Congratulations!

| Form Class | Form class total | Top Girl      | Top Boy         |
|------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 8JAC       | 3513             | Isla – 208    | Russell – 364   |
| 8KMA       | 3867             | Evie - 281    | Max – 451       |
| 8LSP       | 5420             | Katie – 600   | Carlyle – 673   |
| 8MBA       | 4138             | Ruby - 327    | Manav – 277     |
| 8SGM       | 4742             | Imogen – 384  | Ikechukwu – 392 |
| 8SWC       | 2824             | Natalie – 216 | Leo – 494       |
| 8WWP       | 5478             | Iris – 360    | Teyte – 589     |

## Year 9

Top Good Comments in Year 9. Congratulations!

| Form Class | Form class total | Top Girl     | Top Boy       |
|------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 9DJP       | 2990             | Ite – 227    | Stan – 215    |
| 9EMC       | 2752             | Sophie – 391 | George – 305  |
| 9LBM       | 2815             | Ava – 219    | Lucas – 161   |
| 9OLC       | 3229             | Zara – 456   | Riley – 291   |
| 9RCA       | 3442             | Ava – 218    | Charlie – 341 |
| 9RMA       | 3457             | Mariam – 396 | Nico - 221    |
| 9SGP       | 2431             | Keisha – 211 | Pavlo – 345   |

## Year 10

Top Good Comments in Year 10. Congratulations!

| Form Class | Form class total | Top Girl        | Top Boy       |
|------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 10AST      | 1702             | Mia - 150       | Hassan – 113  |
| 10BRN      | 1460             | Elizabeth – 103 | Tinaye – 127  |
| 10DST      | 1179             | Kelsey – 122    | Taras – 150   |
| 10EHD      | 944              | Aleena – 79     | Max – 146     |
| 10HNM      | 1475             | Sofia – 206     | Damian – 232  |
| 10LSS      | 1258             | Chetna – 114    | Tyler – 86    |
| 10SNJ      | 1560             | Evelyn – 94     | Michael – 159 |

## Year 11

Top Good Comments in Year 11. Congratulations!

| Form Class | Form class total | Top Girl      | Top Boy       |
|------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 11DDM      | 1150             | Skylar – 121  | Bradley – 124 |
| 11ECH      | 1052             | Amie – 194    | Daniel – 158  |
| 11HTH      | 1138             | Pretty – 89   | Tejas – 117   |
| 11JGD      | 1027             | Emily – 84    | Rohan – 105   |
| 11QSM      | 1359             | Zara – 169    | Aaron – 226   |
| 11SCO      | 891              | Victoria - 38 | Jayden – 204  |
| 11STA      | 1031             | Saphira – 103 | Aiden - 130   |

**GOODBYE YEAR 11!**

After a tough and challenging academic year, Year 11 threw themselves enthusiastically into celebrations to mark the end of their examination period before they officially departed for a well-earned break. It is always a bittersweet occasion saying farewell to our leavers after all the hard work that Year 11 entails. Needless to say, we are immensely proud of them all for their conscientious efforts and dedication throughout this year; the students have been a real credit to St John's.

Our leavers were sent off in true St John's style; students were invited to a Leavers' Mass and celebratory BBQ on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June, and of course the highlight was the Year 11 Prom held two days later at Redlibbets Golf Club.

Mass is an important occasion for students to give thanks and reflect together on their personal journey through St John's. The celebration assembly, which followed Mass, was an emotional one but it also gave the opportunity for staff to show their appreciation to Year 11 for the commitment to their studies, and to wish them well in their future adventures via the well-received staff video. Students then headed outside in the sunshine to participate in the ritual 'shirt signing' and for a BBQ with staff; it was a glorious afternoon and one which was enjoyed by all!



Prom 2026..... Year 11 students looked amazing in their new attire, and the staff didn't look too bad either! It was a lovely occasion to mark the students' time at St John's with a plenty of shapes thrown on the dancefloor! We would like to thank our students for a wonderful evening and their exemplary behaviour.

thank all of our Year 11 students for their hard work and determination this year; we very much hope that this is reflected when their results are released in the Summer and we look forward to sharing their successes with them to recognise all that they have worked so hard to achieve.

We wish them the best of luck in their future pathways and look forward to welcoming very many of them back to the Sixth Form next year.

We would like to take this opportunity to



Finally, always remember as you move into the 'big wide world' that you will always be part of a much bigger community - the St John's community.

*The Year 11 Team.*

### **St John's 2026 Ski Trip - Jay Peak and New York, USA**

Our Easter Ski Trip to Jay Peak, Vermont, followed by two unforgettable nights in New York City, was an incredible experience for everyone involved.

The week at Jay Peak was packed with adventure, both on and off the slopes. Evenings were filled with fun activities including two visits to the Pump House Indoor Water Park, a fiercely competitive quiz night, and our annual bingo evening, where pupils and staff enjoyed plenty of laughs together.



On the mountain, it was wonderful to watch the progress made by every student. Some pupils arrived having never clipped into a pair of skis before, yet by the end of the week they were confidently riding the chairlift and tackling blue runs. Meanwhile, our more experienced skiers challenged themselves on Jay Peak's famous tree runs and more demanding terrain. There were plenty of memorable moments along the way - including Mr Kyle demonstrating that trees are, in fact, less forgiving than they look!

After a fantastic week in Vermont, we travelled to New York City for two action-packed days of sightseeing. Students experienced the bright lights of Times Square, reflected at the 9/11 Memorial and Ground Zero, enjoyed dinner together at the iconic Hard Rock Cafe, and took in breathtaking panoramic views from the Top of the Rock observation deck. We also explored the beauty of Central Park, admired the Statue of Liberty from the harbour, and walked across the world-famous Brooklyn Bridge, taking in the spectacular skyline along the way.

The trip provided far more than just skiing. It was an opportunity for pupils to build confidence, develop resilience, support one another, and create lifelong memories. We are incredibly proud of how they represented our school throughout the trip, showing kindness, enthusiasm and impeccable behaviour at every stage of the journey. Thank you to all the staff who gave up their Easter break to make this amazing experience possible - we're already looking forward to the next adventure!





If you're interested in attending the 2028 Ski Trip to Jay Peak and New York, please email [skitrip@stj.kent.sch.uk](mailto:skitrip@stj.kent.sch.uk) and Mrs Bishop will send you the information.

### **Where Can Kids Eat for Free (or for £1) This Summer?**

The summer holidays are a wonderful opportunity to spend time together as a family, but they can also be expensive. To help stretch your budget a little further, we've put together a list of family-friendly offers available at many popular restaurants and cafés throughout the holidays.

Please remember that offers can change and may be subject to terms and conditions, dates, or app requirements. It's always worth checking with the restaurant before you visit.

#### **Offer of the Summer**

Morrisons – FREE Breakfast for the Whole Family

One of the best-value offers we've found!

Simply ask for a 'Kellogg's Breakfast' at the café and receive:

- A bowl of Kellogg's cereal
- A piece of fruit

No purchase is required, and the offer is available to both adults and children (one breakfast per person, per day).

#### **Offers for Children Under 16**

- ASDA – Kids eat for £1 every day (no adult spend required).
- Bella Italia – Children eat FREE Sunday–Thursday.
- Beefeater & Brewers Fayre – 2 children eat FREE breakfast with one paying adult.
- Dobbies Garden Centres – Kids eat for £1 with an adult meal purchase.
- Hungry Horse – Kids eat for 88p throughout the summer holidays.
- Morrisons Café – Kids eat FREE all day with a £5 adult spend.
- Pausa Café (Dunelm) – Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend.
- Premier Inn – 2 children eat FREE breakfast with one adult breakfast.
- Table Table – 2 children eat FREE breakfast with one paying adult.
- Tesco Café – Kids eat FREE every day this summer with a £5 spend.
- Travelodge – 2 children eat for £1 with one adult breakfast.
- Whitbread Inns – 2 children eat FREE breakfast with one adult breakfast.

## Offers for Children Under 12

- ASK Italian – 2 children eat FREE every day until 6 September 2026.
- BrewDog – 1 child eats FREE with one paying adult (19 July–31 August).
- Café Rouge – Kids eat FREE every day, 12pm–4pm.
- Chiquito – Kids eat FREE during all school holidays.
- Farmhouse Inns – 2 children eat FREE during the summer holidays.
- Flaming Grill Pubs – Kids eat for 88p during the summer holidays.
- Frankie & Benny's – Kids eat FREE during school holidays.
- Franco Manca – Kids eat FREE Monday–Thursday during school holidays.
- IKEA – Children's meals from 95p every day from 11am.
- Las Iguanas – Children under 12 eat FREE via the app.
- Marco Pierre White – Children under 12 eat FREE daily with an adult spend.
- Pizza Hut – Kids eat FREE every day after 3pm.
- Prezzo – Children up to age 12 eat for £1 during half terms.
- SA Brains Pubs – Kids eat for £1 every Wednesday.
- Sizzling Pubs – Kids eat for £1, Monday–Friday, 3pm–7pm.
- TGI Fridays – Kids eat FREE until 6 September (via the app).
- The Real Greek – Children under 12 eat FREE on Sundays with a £10 spend.
- Toby Carvery – Kids eat for £1 every day until 1 September 2026.
- Village Hotels – Kids eat FREE from 20 July–4 September (via the Village app).
- YO! Sushi – Kids eat FREE all day on weekdays during the school holidays.
- Zizzi – Kids eat FREE via the app during school holidays.

*Mrs C. Bishop. English Teacher.*

## **KS4 GCSE & Level 2 BTEC /Vocational Exam Results 2026** **Thursday 20th August 2026**

For collecting results, students should enter via the Service Yard (before the MUGA) and enter the Sports Hall by the fire exit door on the service road.

From 9.00am to 11.00am: Yr11 GCSEs & L2 BTEC/Vocational

### **Sixth Form Enrolment 9.00am to 1.00pm**

From 10.30am to 12.00pm: Yr10 GCSEs & L2 BTEC/Vocational



## **Yr13 A Levels & L3 BTEC/Vocational Exam Results 2026**

### **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2026**

For collecting results, students should enter via the main front doors of the school to sign in, and collect exam results from the Upper Canteen area.

From 9.00am to 12.00pm: Yr13 A Levels & L3 BTEC/Vocational results.

From 10.30am to 12.00pm: Yr12 A/AS Levels & L3 BTEC Vocational results.

## **Safeguarding**

### **Social Media Ban and Online Safety Measures**

As we are all probably aware by now, the UK government announced a social media ban for under 16s, to come into force from Spring 2027. Whilst many are applauding this, many more are not. Part of the problem is that there are very few hard facts: what does this actually mean in practice, which platforms, what does it mean for families and much more. Internet Matters have put a big article together exploring these questions and more which I think many parents will find useful.

Link: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/uk-social-media-ban-and-new-online-safety-measures/>

**TikTok guidance:** This short, jargon-free video shows parents how to set up safety controls on TikTok – a platform parents tell us they find unfamiliar and worrying.

Link: <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/how-set-tiktok-family-pairing>

### **WhatsApp for Under 13s:**

With the exception of YouTube, WhatsApp has always been one of the most popular messaging apps, including for children under 13. This has always been a concern for a lot of different reasons, but out of the blue it seems that Meta have now created a parent-managed service which looks really good.

Similar to other parent-managed accounts, a parent will pair their device/account to the child's device/account which then gives a lot of flexibility such as:

- No 'view once' messages
- No location sharing
- Messages and group invites from unknown contacts sent to the parent for approval.
- Parent notifications, such as new contact added.



Link:

[https://faq.whatsapp.com/899820539143195/?helpref=faq\\_content&cms\\_platform=webhttps://faq.whatsapp.com/899820539143195/?helpref=faq\\_content&cms\\_platform=web](https://faq.whatsapp.com/899820539143195/?helpref=faq_content&cms_platform=webhttps://faq.whatsapp.com/899820539143195/?helpref=faq_content&cms_platform=web)

Link: [https://faq.whatsapp.com/875902238256170/?cms\\_platform=android](https://faq.whatsapp.com/875902238256170/?cms_platform=android)

### **A Practical Toolkit for Families**

The Molly Rose Foundation has some wonderful resources for parents including guides and other resources. One of these guides helps families understand who and what may be shaping a child's online world and how these influences can affect mood, confidence and safety. To download this guide and check some of the other resources please see the link below.

Link: <https://mollyrosefoundation.org/resource/concerned-about-online-influences/>

### **Is your child prepared for their first phone?**

It is a question that many parents struggle with, balancing the positives, the negatives, the need, cost and so much more. The problem with such a question is that there is no one-size fits-all answer.

Darren Laur has written a really useful article for parents, within the article he uses the acronym PREPARED which takes away the complexity and allows parents to make decisions based on their own circumstances:

P – Purpose

R – Responsibility

E – Empathy and respect

P – Perception of risk

A – Adaptability and resilience

R – Regulation

E – Executive functioning

D – Digital discernment

The article is a really good read.

Link: <https://www.thewhitehatter.ca/post/is-your-child-p-r-e-p-a-r-e-d-for-their-first-cellphone>

### **How to talk to children if they see Traumatic Events:**



Many children will have seen or heard some of the horrific events that have been happening recently. Whether that is on the news, someone discussing it, or perhaps online, children can be traumatised by what they are seeing and hearing. The article from The Conversation discusses the issue and gives some really good advice.

Link: <https://theconversation.com/how-to-talk-to-children-when-terrorist-attacks-and-violence-dominate-the-news-281879>

### **Supporting Young People to Stay Well This Summer**

Changes in routine, more free time, and the pressures of social media or isolation can all have an impact on how young people feel over the holidays. To help with this The Emotional Wellbeing Team have created a “Keeping Well This Summer” Sway – a simple, engaging resource designed especially for young people. It’s full of practical tips, ideas and signposts to help them look after their wellbeing during the summer break.

Link: <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/oTqF7c6ulhPYesAK?ref=Link>

What’s included?

The Sway covers:

- Easy ways to look after mental health and wellbeing
- Ideas for staying active and connected
- Tips for managing low mood, anxiety, or boredom
- Links to trusted support services if extra help is needed

### **Moving up Resources**

Schools can signpost parents to the Togetherness ‘moving up’ resources, which offer short videos and practical guidance to support children through key transitions, including starting primary and secondary school. The content focuses on emotional wellbeing, helping children manage worries, build confidence and feel positive about change, with advice from experts and real experiences from families.

Link: <https://togetherness.co.uk/moving-up/>

Dear Parents/Carers,

St John’s Catholic Comprehensive school have signed up to be a ‘White Ribbon’ school.

White Ribbon UK is the leading charity in England and Wales working to prevent men’s violence against women and girls. The charity will work with the school to challenge the attitudes and behaviours that make violence possible and build the allyship that stops it.

We will be launching this in September with all the pupils.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the 'Wellbeing Ambassador' champions for all their hard work over the last year in helping to promote mental health and various other topics across the year.

### **Summer Holidays, Activities and Food.**

Please find below the Gravesham summer 'Holidays, Activities & Food' (HAF) timetable.

These are lots of fun activities for children aged 4-16 that are eligible for benefit-related free school meals. Food is provided for the young people for all activities.

Booking is required for all activities and it is on a first come, first served basis.

You will need your child's HAF code to book onto the sessions. Should you need to do this, please follow this KCC link: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-haf>

I do hope that you have a restful summer.

Kind regards

*Mrs O. Kelham. Senior Assistant Headteacher. (Safeguarding and Child Protection).*

### **Chaplaincy**

#### **May 2026**

Year 9 pupils visited the Imperial War Museum and Southwark Cathedral for their Year 9 Retreat Day. Pupils took part in the Holocaust Workshop. Before exploring the Museum. They were encouraged to reflect on Catholic Social Teaching, with the emphasis on dignity of the human person and peace.





### **June 2026. The Life of Christ Play, Wintershall. Years 7 and 8.**

45 pupils from Years 7 and 8 travelled to Wintershall, Guildford to see the Life of Christ play.

Pupils were immersed in the life of Jesus as they walked with Him from his birth, to His Crucifixion and then to His Resurrection. With a cast of 200 players and various animals, pupils were able to experience the New Testament coming to life before their very eyes.

### **June 18<sup>th</sup>. St Justas Pilgrimage.**

Brave Year 9, 10 and 12 pupils walked in the footsteps of St Justas, the first bishop of Rochester. The route took the group from Aylesford Priory ending at Rochester Cathedral. The day started with the group visiting the sapling of the Sycamore Gap Tree, ending with a special pilgrim blessing from Canon Chris Dench. All funds raised were donated to the Saint Vincent De Paul Society (SVP).



### **11<sup>th</sup> July 2026- TEA WITH THE SVP.**

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July the school's SVP group hosted a coffee and cake morning at St John's Catholic Parish hall. Pupils served tea, coffee, cake and kindness to parishioners following the 10am Mass.

### **Year 13 SVP Summer Sleep-Out -23<sup>rd</sup> July 2026**

On the final evening of the school year, over 50 Year 13 students gave up the comfort of their own beds to take part in our annual SVP Summer Sleep-Out in support of Sanctuary Gravesend. Spending the night sleeping on cardboard helped raise both funds and awareness for people experiencing homelessness in our local community, putting our school values of being Inspired by Christ and in Service to Others into action.

We are incredibly proud of our students for their compassion, generosity and willingness to make a difference. Their commitment reminds us that even the smallest acts of kindness can have a lasting impact.



### **Chaplain's Corner**

As another academic year draws to a close, I find myself looking around our school and realising just how much has grown over the past twelve months.

Not just the tomato plants in my garden (if only the rest of the plants would grow in the same way), but the young people entrusted to our care.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower. He speaks about seeds falling onto different types of ground. Some never grow, some struggle, whilst others take root and bear wonderful fruit.

It made me think about St John's.

Every September we welcome children through our doors carrying hopes, dreams, worries, talents and sometimes a few nerves. They all arrive with the potential to flourish. Throughout the year we try to nurture those seeds through learning, encouragement, friendship, prayer and the occasional reminder to tuck shirts in and wear the correct uniform!



As staff, parents and carers, we often don't notice the growth because we see our children every day. Yet when we stop and reflect, we realise just how much has changed.

Confidence has grown. Friendships have blossomed. Challenges have been overcome. Kindness has been shown. Dreams have begun to take shape.

For our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils, the summer brings another important milestone as they collect their examination results. Naturally, there will be excitement and perhaps a few anxious moments.

I hope every young person remembers one important truth.

An examination result tells you what you achieved on a particular day. It can never tell you who you are.

Each one of you is a unique masterpiece, wonderfully created and deeply loved by God. No envelope, no certificate and no grade could ever increase or diminish that truth.

To those moving on to college, university, apprenticeships, employment or new schools, thank you for the part you have played in the story of St John's. You leave with our love, our prayers and every good wish for the future. We hope you continue to bear fruit wherever life takes you.

For those returning in September, enjoy every moment of your summer. Rest well. Laugh often. Spend time with family and friends. Put the revision guides away (yes, really! – that's my advice to you) and recharge ready for the adventures that await.

And perhaps, as you enjoy the sunshine, take a moment to notice the flowers, the trees or even the vegetables growing in the garden. They are a gentle reminder that the best things in life take time.

May this summer be filled with God's peace, joy and blessing.

God Bless.

Susanne Gibbons – Chaplain