



Newsletter



Ministry
of Defence

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Dear Families,

We have completed the first full week of the new school year. It has been impressive to see how our students have settled so quickly into the rhythm of the curriculum and wider school life. Lessons are underway with clear purpose and pace. The quality of student work is high, matching the standards we have set.



On Friday, we welcomed into school the Commanding Officer of PWRR along with his Welfare Team. This provided an excellent opportunity to introduce them to our school and for him to meet students of the Regiment. As a school we value our close links to the various command groups across BFC, as well as the respective welfare offices, so this was an important visit to establish this important relationship with the new regiment.

Away from school, one of our Year 10 students, Annie, was competing in the recent Qatar Airways GKA Youth Kite World Championships in Tarifa, Spain. Annie was one of 55 young athletes from across 13 nations and placed second in the U16 Girls' Twin-tip Freestyle. As a dedicated Kite surfer, Annie dedicates hours to her profession and we are extremely proud to celebrate her achievements, wishing her well for future competitions.
(Picture: A podium picture of Annie (left))



Upcoming School Events

Week Commencing 16th Sept.

Week 1

All Week

Year 7 Progress and Cognitive Ability Testing (All Week)

Thursday 19th September

Head Teachers Surgery : 0900—1000 hrs @ Akrotiri Hive

Applying to University: A parent information event 1430—1530 hrs

Friday 20th September

Sixth Form Team Building Day at MTW

Week Commencing 23rd Sept.

Week 2

Tuesday 24th September

National Reading Tests : Year 7-11

Wednesday 25th September

Meet the teachers : 1430—1530 @ SJS Courtyard

Thursday 26th September

SJS Coffee Morning 0900—1000 hrs

Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschools.org

Week Commencing 30th Sept.

Week 1

Thursday 3rd October

RAF STEM Day for Key Stage 3

Head Teachers Surgery : 0900—1000 hrs @ Akrotiri Hive



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Applying to University: A parent information event

Thursday 19th September 1430—1530 hrs

Parents of students who may have a future interest in applying for university are invited to attend an information event on Thursday 19th September, starting at 1430 hrs in the Exams Room. Primarily pitched for parents and students in Year 13, parents of students in other years are equally welcome.

The event will look to provide information on:

- courses and providers available to students
- the UCAS application process
- information regarding student finance

UCAS

Our Careers Advisor, Mrs Sam Gray, will also be present to provide additional, impartial information



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

Meet the teachers - Wednesday 25th September 1430—1530 hrs

You are cordially invited to meet our teachers at an informal event that will take place in the courtyard place on:

Wednesday 25th September 2024 between 1430 and 1530 hrs

It is hoped that this event will enable you, along with your child, to meet their teachers, as well as other parents (new and old). A selection of complimentary drinks and light snacks will be available.



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Head of Key Stage 4

At the end of the last academic year, we said a sad farewell to Ms Hayley Stonier who, in leaving, vacated the role of Head of Key Stage 4. Anticipating a smaller than usual Key Stage 5, it was initially thought the role may be covered by Mrs Kelly Bonar, however realised student numbers would not make this possible.



Fortunate to have a very experienced youth worker and loyal servant of St John's School amongst our staff body, I am delighted to announce that Mrs Ange Dakin has been appointed into the role of Head of Key Stage 4 with immediate effect. Mrs Dakin will take on this role in a non-teaching capacity ensuring she is available to both students and parents throughout the day and can be responsive to their emerging needs. Mrs Dakin is extremely well suited to this role and I am certain will provide a strong pillar of support for our Key Stage 4 students throughout this important stage of their educational career. I wish her well in her new role.

Mrs Angela Dakin

Tel: 00357 2596 8045

Email: Angela.Dakin@MODSchools.org

CAT4 Testing

Over the course of next week some students will participate in Cognitive Ability Testing, often referred to as CAT4 tests. These tests will be for all students in Year 7 to support the school in its understanding of a child's latent ability and its subsequent progress towards the national accountability measures. The tests will also be taken by students who have recently joined us. Student's do not need to do any preparation in advance of sitting these tests.

For further information, please visit: www.g1-assessment.co.uk/assessments/cat4/

My Child at School App

We have been mandated to use the My Child at School App to facilitate future communication with parents. This App is to replace our previous use of EPraise.

Further information will follow next week regarding its adoption, however, you are encouraged to download the application from the Apple Store or Google Play.



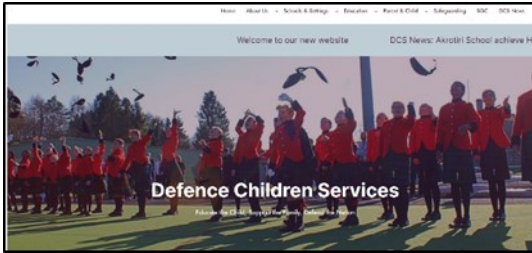


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Department for Children's Services (DCS) Website



Defence Children Services is delighted to announce the launch of our brand-new website. Our website can be found at: www.dcs.school and has been carefully designed to support current and new parents, SGC members, friends and Commands with a 'one stop shop' of information and support in a way that has not been possible before.

We hope that you find that our new website has a fresh, clean look that is easy to navigate and includes the information you may need to help you and your child during the time that you are posted overseas in a DCS School, Setting or part of the Virtual School (MODVS).

Our website development is in two phases. Phase 1 is the development of the site that you will find if you click the link above or search for **dcs.school**

At the present time, the Schools & Settings page of the website links to existing school websites. However, as we move through the academic year and into Phase 2 we will be building individual school and settings pages. Once created we will transfer information to the new site with the aim that that by July 2025 all schools and settings will be linked and united in web presence under the same umbrella. We hope this will make it easier for you to navigate. It will also mean that you have access to a wider range of support materials and provide you with uniformed information.



Individual school and settings pages will eventually include localised information, local policy, procedures and up to date news items including galleries of educational provision and individual calendars of events. Our School and Setting leaders will keep you updated on this phase and inform you once their pages have a 'go live' date.

The main dcs.school site supports a majority of the statutory elements of school websites as well as a range of information from our Specialist Support Services (SSS). At a glance this includes:

- Safeguarding,
- Mobility,
- Admissions,
- The MASO process, (including flowcharts, leaflets and appeals processes),
- Educational Excellence (including Learning, Teaching and Curriculum),
- Educational Welfare Service and
- DCS Parent - an area dedicated to supporting parents.
- DCS Child – an area to support children moving to new locations.



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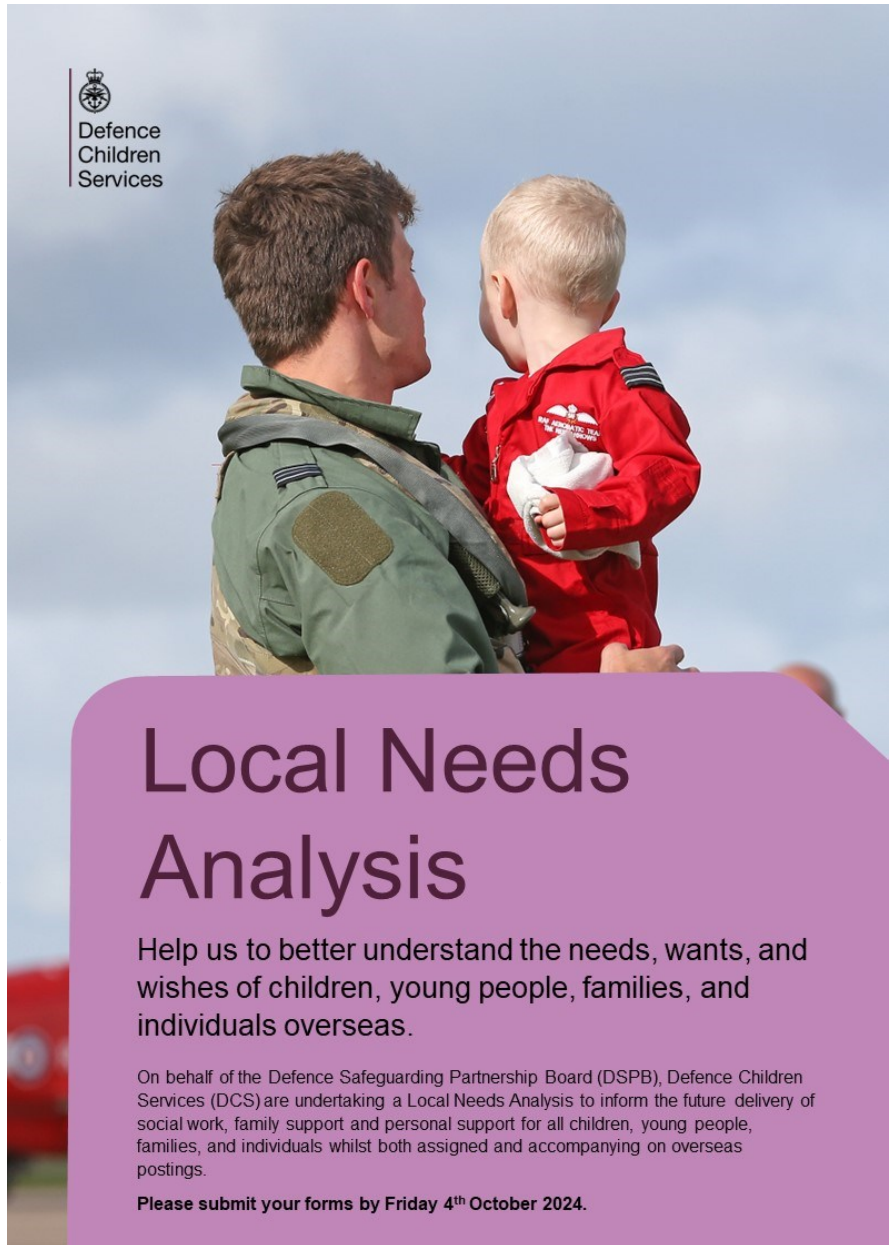
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Local Needs Analysis

Service families help us to better understand the needs, wants, and wishes of children, young people, families and individuals overseas!

On behalf of the Defence Safeguarding Partnership Board (DSPB), Defence Children Services (DCS) are undertaking a Local Needs Analysis to inform the future delivery of social work, family support and personal support for all children, young people, families and individuals whilst both assigned and accompanying on overseas posting.

We want to ensure that no child, young person, family member or individual is disadvantaged by working overseas, by seeking to replicate early intervention, prevention and support available in the UK. The future services aim to be inclusive, community focused, accessible to all and provide the support you need, when you need it.



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Please submit your forms by Friday 4th October 2024.

To help DCS consider what the support service needs to look like, we need the help of those who we seek to support.

By completing the [Local Needs Analysis Feedback Form](#), which should take no longer than 7 minutes, you can help to shape the future of social care, family support and personal support for you, your family and any entitled individuals overseas.

Please submit your forms by Friday 4th October 2024



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Attendance Guidance and Support.

We hope everyone has had an enjoyable and restful summer holiday. As the new academic year for 2024/2025 commences we are writing to share with you the DCS commitment in ensuring your children gain the most out of their learning opportunities.

Being in school is crucially important to your child's academic achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. The evidence shows that regular school attendance is a key mechanism to supporting children and young people's educational, economic, and social outcomes in adulthood.

Schools can facilitate positive peer relationships, which contributes to better mental health and wellbeing. Research shows that those students with the highest attendance throughout their school years go on to achieve their potential at GCSE. When a student is absent from school, they have missed out on a large range of opportunities your school has to offer.

Your efforts, working in partnership with the school, will ensure that your children have the best chance to achieve their academic potential and have the opportunities in further education and the world of work. It will enable your children to have access to the lessons needed to achieve their expected grades, maintain friendships, and develop new ones whilst developing work habits such as good punctuality which are essential to thrive in the world of employment.

In partnership with our families, we are launching a DCS school attendance charter, and we are requesting that our MOD families agree their commitment to this so that we are all aware of our responsibilities in relation to improving school attendance.

If you are worried about your child/children's attendance the first port of call is to discuss your concerns with school directly. Please do speak to your Headteacher in the first instance.

We understand this can be confusing and the Education Welfare Team is also here to support and help navigate you as a family through your child's learning journey with all attendance related matters and can offer both formal and informal support and advice. We are a targeted service and form part of the MOD early help offer.

We can be contacted on RC-DCS-HQ-WSW@mod.gov.uk.

We wish you and your child/children all the best for the new academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Kelly

Ms Jane Kelly
Education Welfare Officer (ROW)
DCS | Bldg 183 | Trenchard Lines
SN9 6BE

Bekki Miller

Ms Rebekka Miller
Education Welfare Officer (BFC)
Episkopi Station | BFPO 53



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St John's School Writers

Welcome back to our returning students at St John's School and a warm welcome to anyone who is just joining the school community. In the English and Drama Faculty, we have been impressed with the focus and attitude of students on their return to school and we are excited to share further pieces of writing during this academic year.

If you are a student and would like to submit a piece of writing for inclusion in the weekly newsletter, please email Miss Harper at: harper@stjohnsschoolcyprus.com

Year 11 are currently delivering a series of presentations as part of the Non-Exam Assessed component of their GCSE English Language. This week's writing is from Phoebe, who has chosen to present on the topic of communism and Marxism.

How is communism successful in theory but flawed in practice?

Communism. A perfect society where everyone is equal in pay, land, business. No person owns too much and no one owns too little. The practice that hopes for equality and a peaceful way of life. Sounds good right? But it's not all that easy.

There are two 'types' of communism: Marxism and communism itself. Communism is a type of government where everyone is equal and everyone has the same. A single person does not own land, factories or machinery but it is instead owned by or shared by the government. Marxism is different to communism as it promotes the belief that the exploitation of the oppressed will only end if they take control of the government.

Let's have a close look into Marxism. The definition of Marxism is the struggle between the workers – the proletariat – and those in charge – the bourgeoisie. It eliminates social class order to eliminate the exploitation caused in a capitalist society. It helps workers to be treated more fairly and appreciated for their efforts as they do the most in the community and nation. Marxism is only a theory, however, and even though it gets compared to communism, communist governments largely disapprove of the theory.

In my opinion, I think Marxism is better than communism because the people who actually work the hardest would get the recognition they deserve for the effort they put in, instead of there being one person with too much power forcing everyone else to have equal power.

Communism is actually quite different from Marxism. It may sound good but it is extremely hard to pull off successfully as it goes against human nature. Humans crave and want profit and appreciation for the work that they do, otherwise they see no point in it. People also don't like sharing their hard-earned money with people who put in minimal effort and, in reality, only poor people benefit from it, which results in rich people fighting against it because they don't want to lose hard-earned businesses or money.



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St John's School Writers cont...

Most of Eastern Europe used to be communist; the biggest and most powerful being the USSR. It lasted from 1922 to 1991 for no other reason than fear or opposing it and facing consequences such as getting murdered, imprisoned or killed. A better example of a long-lasting communist country which still exists today is China. It is one of the last communist countries to exist, and the arrival of communism that was actually accepted was in 1949, yet the first revolution of communism was in 1911.

The CCP (Chinese Communist Party) believes in the Marxist ideology which is quite unusual for a communist government. However, it is still quite a harsh government. The CCP silences and restricts the rights and freedoms of Chinese citizens. In the past, it has even managed to control the population's growth through the one child policy. In recent years, it has forced censorship, labour, violations of religious freedom and internet censorship onto its population through propaganda, threats that could be through arrest and liable lawsuits. Even though China has been a long-lasting communist country, the rules enforced on its people are harsh and unfair. Although China could be a good example of a long-lasting communist country, it isn't a good example of a successful communist country, and proves that communism is difficult to achieve without forcing strict rules and policies onto people.



Overall, I believe the written theory of communism (Marxism) is good and theoretically should be good in practice. However, real life communism is harsh and a hard practice to force people into without threats becoming prominent and more frequent as people rebel against it. This society shows that it isn't a perfect society, but more like a twisted dystopian dictatorship where the choice is either to live an unhappy life or be killed for trying to live how you want to live.

Phoebe L-S (Y11)