



# Newsletter

27th September 2024 | Issue 82



Ministry  
of Defence

Dear Families,

It was great to meet so many of you on Wednesday as we welcomed you to school for our informal ‘meet the teacher’ event. Having such an opportunity gave chance for many of us to put faces to names and reflect upon the positive start that our students have made to this new academic year. There will be further, more formal parents’ afternoons throughout this year with each year group benefitting from two opportunities. The dates for each parents’ afternoon can be found on the [school calendar](#) and Year 11 and 13 have their first on Thursday 10th October.



On Wednesday I also had the opportunity to take Year 9 out of school to visit HMS Duncan, which is in port following recent regional operations. It was an excellent opportunity to tour the ship, attempt to plug a leak, use water cannons and intercept incoming missiles in the Ops Room. Students found out about life aboard the warship and how the ship acts as a deterrent in order to support peace in the region. The students were outstanding ambassadors of our school and enjoyed this unique opportunity.



## Upcoming School Events

### Week Commencing 30th Sept.

Week 1

Thursday 3rd October

RAF STEM Day for Key Stage 3

Head Teachers Surgery : 0900—1000 hrs @ Akrotiri Hive

### Week Commencing 7th October

Week 2

Thursday 10th October

St John’s School Swimming Gala

SJS Coffee Morning 0900—1000 hrs

Bookings required via [SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org](mailto:SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org)

Year 11 and 13 Parent Afternoon : 1430 — 1700hrs @ School Hall

### Week Commencing 14th October

Week 1

Monday 14 October

Promotional photos being taken of St John’s School

Thursday 17th October

Head Teachers Surgery : 0900—1000 hrs @ Akrotiri Hive

Friday 18th October

‘Settling in Report’ published for Year 10 and 12



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## This week at St John's School



### Community Police visit to St John's School

Students enjoyed the opportunity to utilise a variety of police personal protective equipment at breaktime on Tuesday.

Each week students informally meet and engage with members of the police force (CJPU), giving opportunity to ask questions and share concerns that may be impacting upon them in our community.

### Meet the Teachers

It was great to facilitate an opportunity for parents to meet with teachers on Wednesday afternoon.



### Year 9 visit to HMS Duncan



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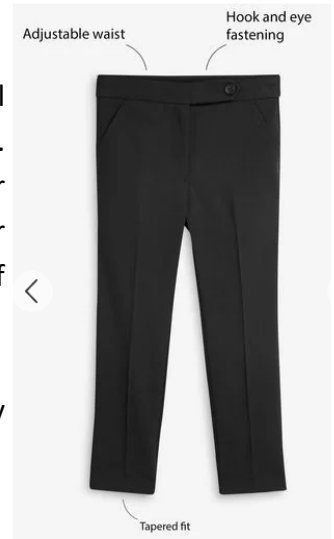


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## School Trousers

As per our uniform policy students are permitted to wear tailored school trousers to school. We request that these are either grey or black in colour. Students are not permitted to wear trousers that are of a stretchy and/or tight fitting material. Trousers should have a straight leg/tapered fit. Trousers material should be of a quality that does not provide any degree of transparency.

The school will strictly enforce this aspect of its uniform policy from Monday 30th September 2024.



## School Photos



Parents recently received a letter regarding this year's school photographs. School photos, both group and individual photos, will be taken during the week of Monday 4 November, starting on Tuesday when the students return from the half term. The cost for the photographs will be €10, which will include 1 large and 2 small individual photographs, as well as a form tutor group photograph.

As payment is required upfront, we need to ensure sufficient interest to make class photographs feasible. To help us plan accordingly, please confirm your intention for your child to have a school photograph by completing the attached proforma and returning it to the school, along with the €10 or €14 payment by Friday 27th September.

## Maternity Leave

Students will be aware that Mrs Lea is looking forward to the birth of twins later this year. Mrs Lea had hoped to go on maternity leave during the October half term, however decided earlier this week that she is to go earlier than planned. We are very fortunate to have Mrs Mackellar who has kindly stepped in to cover Mrs Lea's maternity cover. Mrs Mackellar is an experienced teacher of a wide range of practical subjects, including food technology, design technology and art, having also been Head of Department.

Mrs Dunmore, will take temporary charge of the Creative Faculty.



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## Year 9 Classes

Our student numbers have now largely settled for this academic year. We currently have 278 students on role and expect a further 13 to join us in the coming 4 weeks. This academic year the majority of our students (165) now travel up from RAF Akrotiri, which is a marked change from last year.

The timetable structure accommodates well to the students we have on roll. However Year 9 is much smaller than we had otherwise been expecting. The year group has 34 students within it and we had planned for more which is why we have Year 9 spread over three classes. We do not expect Year 9 to grow significantly and in light of this have taken the decision to collapse Year 9 from three classes to two from Monday 7th October 2024. The two classes will number seventeen, significantly below what could be expected in schools in England. Undertaking this change will provide me with additional staff capacity to support elsewhere across the curriculum. This will include the redeployment of staff to create intervention classes for our new Year 11 students who joined us this year, additional classes for students in Year 12 and 13 and opportunities to undertake bespoke individual student catch up support where required.

Students in Year 9 will be spoken to next week and the new classes shared with them. However, should you have any concerns that you would like to discuss please do not hesitate to email me at [Colin.Guyton@MODSchools.org](mailto:Colin.Guyton@MODSchools.org) and I will be more than happy to give you a call or arrange to meet with you in person to discuss your concerns.

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## Card Payments can be made in the Snack Shack

Students can now pay by card when purchasing items from the Snack Shack. Cash will also continue to be accepted, however with most students now having a payment card such as Revolut we hope that proving this option maybe more convenient to both students and parents and avoid any last minute rushes to a cash machine.



**WE ACCEPT  
CARD PAYMENTS**



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## Year 11 and 13 Parents' Afternoon

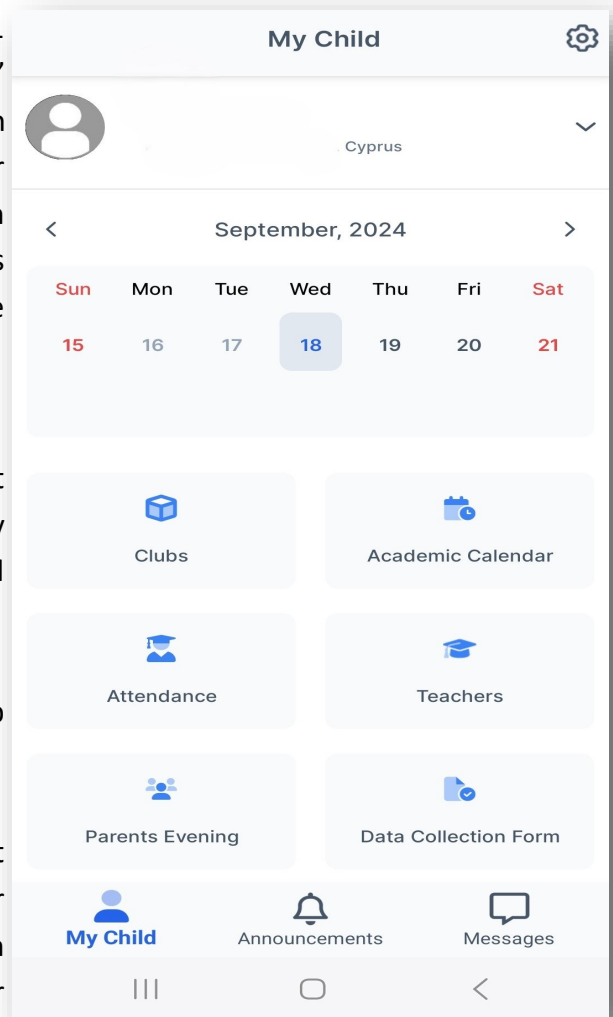
Thursday 10th October 1430—1700 hrs

We look forward to welcoming parents of our Year 11 and 13 students into school for their upcoming Parents' Afternoon. The Parents' Afternoon will give you an opportunity, along with your child, to meet their teachers in a series of 1:1 meetings. During each meeting you will be able to reflect upon your child's performance in their recent mock examinations and the next steps ahead of the December mock examinations.

Appointments must be made in advance of the Parent Afternoon. Appointments can only be made through My Child at School (MCAS) App. The appointment book will open on Monday 30th September at midday.

Please ensure you have registered to use the MCAS App in advance of Monday 30th September..

Once registered, to make your appointments, please visit the Parents Evening tab via the MCAS homepage after Midday on Monday 30th September. You can then follow the prompts to make appointments for your child's teachers.



### Having difficulties?

Should you encounter difficulties please email Mrs Twyford who will gladly support you in logging in for the first time and/or making an appointment. Mrs Twyford's email is [Hayley.Twyford@MODSchools.org](mailto:Hayley.Twyford@MODSchools.org)



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## Extra Curricular Activities

Outlined in the table below are the different extra curricular activities students can participate in. Unless specified, students do not need to register in advance and are required to simply turn up. For students living in RAF Akrotiri we have a later bus departing at 1500 hrs each day to allow students to participate.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1235 – 1300hrs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Break	D&T KS4 Catch up session  KS3 Book Club -	Lego Club - HUB	Creative Club – HUB	Board Game Club - HUB	Friday Treat - HUB
After School Enrichment 1400 – 1500hrs	MAMMA MIA Rehearsals (Hall)  Trampolining club (Gym)  KS3 D&T Club W5, please sign up Theme: Remembrance	Staff Training	Year 11 RE Intervention and Revision (W12)  Swimming (School Pool)  Netball (Starts 16/10/2024) (South Playground)  MAMMA MIA Rehearsals (Hall)  Duke Of Edinburgh Award – Bronze Silver (TBC) (Gym)  Year 12 & 13 Psychology, Sociology & EPQ Revision/Intervention (W13)  Year 11 D&T NEA Catch up  KS3 Cooking Club W19	MAMMA MIA Rehearsals (Hall)  Rugby Training (contact) (Happy Valley)	MAMMA MIA Rehearsals (Hall)



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## Our Curriculum

Over the past year we have 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](http://www.stjohnsschoolcyprus.com/curriculum)



[www.facebook.com/stjohnsschoolcyprus](http://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



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## Home Learning

In the absence of specific home learning tasks being set, the expectation is that students should take responsibility for their own independent learning and develop their personal understanding of what is required to succeed ([EEF. 2024](#)). Students can be supported by parents to reflect upon what they have been taught in lessons to consolidate learning and expand their understanding through wider reading and associated study techniques.

Informed by [Tom Sherrington and Oliver Caviglioli's Students and Parent Walkthru's](#) students are encouraged to reflect upon their classroom learning by considering the 'big picture' and practice the examples and actions detailed below.

## The Big Picture



Survey the whole  
content



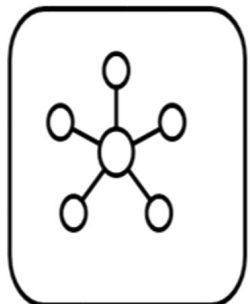
Connect to other  
areas of study –  
Zoom Out



Survey the topic  
breakdown –  
Zoom in



Identify key  
themes/ideas and  
concepts



Keep track as you  
explore the detail

### Examples or actions

1. Key questions: *What's it all about? What are the main ideas, themes, concepts?*
2. Where does this fit in? - *Zooming out and link learning to other topics – What is the main idea? How does it connect to previous learning and other topics I've already learnt?*
3. Where does this fit in? - *Zooming in and chunk it down. How does the main idea/theme/concept link to subtopics within this unit - how does it connect to previous learning?*
4. Key themes/ideas/concepts - *What are the main ideas? How do you know? What does it mean? Why are these main ideas being explored? What's an alternative? What's an example of the main idea/ concept/ theme? Where can this be found?*
5. Record learning: Create a visual of the Big Picture – mind-map, flashcards, lists/bullet-points, tables, time-lines, branching trees





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## Halloween Disco



Key Stage 3 students will be offered the opportunity to attend a Halloween school disco on 24 October 2024 between 1800-2000 hrs.

The event will involve a disco, games and a tuck shop. Students will also be encouraged to take part in Halloween fancy dress on the night.

Students can be dropped at Episkopi Primary School car park but will need to be collected from the St John's School Hall at 2000 hrs promptly unless permission has been given through the QR code below for them to make their own way home.

The Disco will cost €2 for attendance and will take place in the St John's School Hall. Students can bring money to buy snacks and drinks from the tuck shop and to take part in games.

In order to confirm attendance, parents must complete the permission form via the QR code

(right) prior to the event. This form will close on 23 October.

For any queries or further information please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Gardiner on the email provided below.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Gardiner  
Head of KS3  
Teacher of Physical Education  
[Katie.Gardiner@modschoools.org](mailto:Katie.Gardiner@modschoools.org)

Halloween Disco 24th October  
2024





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## St John's School Writers

Next week, on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, we will be celebrating National Poetry Day 2024! In preparation, we have asked KS3 students to devise their own poetry, using this year's theme: counting.

All KS3 students are encouraged to participate and we will be publishing a further selection of counting poems next week.

### **\*///TOTAL///\***

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **DIGITS IN RECEIPT**

Moments fade, but memories last. £9.99

One, the sun wakes up the sky, £6.99

Numbers weave through night and day, 35p

Two, the clouds drift softly by. £10.00

Marking time in their own way. £12.50

Three, the birds begin to sing, £1.99

Yet between each count we find, £10.99

Four, the trees feel winds that swing. 50p

Life's the rhythm, soul's the rhyme. £2.49

Five, the flowers start to bloom, £7.49

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**\*//Please retain receipt for your records//\***

Six, the bees hum their sweet tune. £4.80

**Ethan B (Y7)**

Seven, raindrops kiss the ground, £9.99

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Eight, the rivers run unbound. £1.90

Nine, the stars will blink tonight, £2.85

Ten, the moon reflects their light. £8.99

Count the hours, slow or fast, 90p



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## St John's School Writers

### Counting Down

Counting down Until the time comes  
Ten...nine...eight  
It is my birthday I can't wait

Waiting patiently for the day to come  
Seven...six...five  
It is my birthday now it is time to come alive

I have waited all year for this day to come  
Four...three  
I wonder how many presents there will be

I hope mum has made a cake chocolate is my fav  
Two...one  
It is nearly time for birthday fun

I will invite my friends to come to mine  
I will make a massive birthday sign

Zero  
I can't sleep I have been up all night  
I have closed my eyes and shut them tight  
Counting down it not much fun  
I just want my birthday to come

Freya H (Y7)

### In a universe full of numbers...

In a universe full of numbers,I find calmness Each chapter in  
life leads from a page to a number,  
Each number has a meaning it's not just a word, counting has  
love and carefulness,  
Counting makes you want to dance,so I count 234,I count the  
stars in the sky that give the brightness shining down onto the  
earths ground,they lead you in a way of sensitivity,guiding you  
to another path,so keep counting the amount of steps it takes  
even if the path goes on forever,for counting can be our happy  
place.take a step Back sit down near a tree.think,relax and count  
to three.

Mia P (Y8)