



Newsletter

29th November 2024 | Issue 90



Ministry
of Defence

Dear Families,

The term continues at a canter. I cannot believe we tip into December on Monday and that another round of mock examinations are now firmly upon us.

This week passed without incident as there was no repeat of the disruption caused by the power outage last Friday and school has continued with purpose.



Rescheduled from last Friday we have held interviews for our new Student Leadership Team, the students who applied found out today how they fared and I look forward to sharing the outcome of the interview when we unveil our new leadership team next week. Elsewhere this week our students competed with King Richard School in a series of football matches involving all year groups on Friday. Whilst on Wednesday our students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award continued to practice for their future assessed expeditions in temperatures more akin to those to be expected in the UK.

You will be aware from previous editions of our newsletter that we are reviewing our school uniform. We are very close to sharing with all students various designs in the hope of identifying a preferred uniform that we can then share with parents and other stakeholders in the new year.

Upcoming School Events

Week Commencing 2nd Dec.

Week 1

All Week

Flu Vaccines

Year 11 and 13 Mock Examinations

Thursday 5th December

Head Teachers Surgery : 0900—1000 hrs @ Akrotiri Hive

Week Commencing 9th Dec.

Week 2

All Week

Year 11 and 13 Mock Examinations

Wednesday 11th December

SGC Meeting @ 1000hrs in the Conference Room

Thursday 12th December

Christmas Jumper Day

SJS Coffee Morning 0900—1000 hrs

Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org

St John's School Christmas Concert: 1800hrs @ St Pius Church

Week Commencing 16th Dec.

Week 1

All Week

Year 11 and 13 Mock Examinations

Tuesday 17th December

Reward Trip

Wednesday 18th December

Reward Trip

Thursday 19th December

Head Teachers Surgery : 0900—1000 hrs @ Akrotiri Hive

Key Stage 3 Christmas Disco

Friday 20th December

Last Day of Term: School Closes at 1230hrs



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This week at St John's School



On Friday 22nd November students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award helped organise and deliver a community Race Night at the Snug Pool Bar. Over 80 people attended and our students took turns to deliver a short briefing about the race sponsors to guests.

A total of €2000 was raised which was an exceptional achievement.



On Thursday students from St John's School competed against teams from King Richard School in a wide range of football matches between students of all years.



Congratulations to Matt in Year 10 who won the U15 Cyprus Mountain Bike Downhill Event last weekend, a fantastic achievement that requires huge skill and bravery.



Congratulations to our student of the month who has made an outstanding start to our Sixth Form and life at St John's School. It was great to celebrate his start with Dad and his Grandmother who was visiting at the time of the award.



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Key Stage 3 Christmas Disco

KS3 students will be offered the opportunity to attend a Christmas school disco on the 19th December between 6-8pm. The event will involve a disco, games and a tuck shop. Students will also be encouraged to take part in Christmas 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 8pm promptly unless permission has been given through the QR code below for them to make their own way home. Please note there will be no access to the St Johns School gate for drop off or pick up. Parents should drop off and pick up from the Episkopi Primary car park which can be accessed from the main school gate.

The Disco will cost 2 Euro for attendance and will take place in the St John's School Hall. Students can bring money (cash only) 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 on the right prior to the event. This form will close on the 18th December. For any queries or further information please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Gardiner on the email provided below:

Katie.Gardiner@modschoools.org

Christmas Disco 19th December



Our 2024 Christmas Card Winners

Thank you to all of our students who entered our annual Christmas Card Competition. I am proud to unveil our winning entries for 2024 from Lyra in Year 7 and Charles in Year 8 and look forward to sending them on behalf of the school early next week.





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Reverse Advent 2024

We are writing to inform you about a wonderful initiative being undertaken by our LGBTQ+ Club, "The Rainbow Alliance," this year. They are organising a Reverse Advent Calendar to support The Learning Refuge, a local charity that provides essential support to families in need.

How it works:

Instead of receiving gifts during advent, the students will be collecting donations for those less fortunate. We encourage your child to bring in daily donations between 2 and 13 December; however, even just one donation will be greatly appreciated.

Suitable donations include:

- ⇒ Non-perishable food items
e.g. canned goods, chocolate, sweets
- ⇒ Sanitary products
- ⇒ Toilet paper
- ⇒ Bedding
- ⇒ Clothing
- ⇒ Children's gifts
e.g. colouring books, toys



You could donate :

- Cans of food
- Sweets or chocolate
- Toilet paper
- Sanitary products
- Clothes
- Bedding
- Presents for kids
(i.e. colouring books)

This Christmas, spread the holiday spirit by donating any non-perishable food items you may have in your cupboards or any old clothes you no longer need as part of our reverse advent calendar.

**All donations go to
The Learning Refuge**

**Donations can be given to
Mr O'Missenden in S12**

**Last collections on
Friday the 13th of Dec**

Please can students drop off donations to Mr O'Missenden in room S12.

Your child's participation in this heart-warming project will make a significant difference in the lives of many. We thank you for your support.



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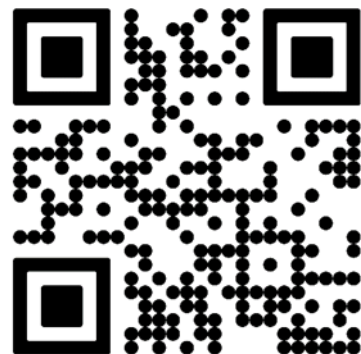
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Home Learning

Our drive to help students understand their own thinking and learning continues. This week during staff training we discussed ways in which the staff could demonstrate their own metacognitive thinking. This modelling is crucial in helping students understand the whole process of planning a piece of work, carrying out the tasks and then evaluating their own strengths and weaknesses. Very often our staff will talk through their own thought processes when dealing with examination questions, extended pieces of work, practical tasks and other activities so that students are able to learn from and do the same.

We are trying to encourage our students to ask themselves a series of questions when given a task. These are:

- ⇒ What do I know about this topic?
- ⇒ Have I done a task like this before?
- ⇒ What strategies worked last time?
- ⇒ What do I need to do first?
- ⇒ How am I doing?
- ⇒ What should I do next?
- ⇒ Should I try a different strategy?
- ⇒ Who can I ask for help?
- ⇒ How well did I do at this task?
- ⇒ What could I do differently next time?



I hope you managed to scan the QR code in the last newsletter which takes you to the graphic organisers that students are being encouraged to use. If you didn't here is the QR code again.



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Upcoming Sporting Fixtures

Date	Time	Venue	Event
28th November	1430—1615 hrs	King Richard School	Football Y7—13
15th January	1430—1615 hrs	King Richard School	Netball Y7—13
22nd January	1430—1615 hrs	St John’s School Happy Valley	Football Y7—13
5th February	1430—1615 hrs	St John’s School	Netball Y7—13
11th July	1000—1230 hrs	King Richard School	Swimming Gala Y7—10



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

ST JOHN’S SCHOOL
“A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION”
 Thursday 12 December 2024 – 6.00pm
 St Pius Church, Episkopi Garrison
ALL WELCOME – FREE ENTRANCE

Refreshments available after the concert

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

SJS_Enquiries@modschools.org TEL: 2596 3888



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HAPPY VALLEY PARKRUN PRESENTS

ho

EPISKOPI

SANTA RUN

5KM RUN / WALK

START TIME : 8.00AM

14TH DEC

FANCY DRESS

raising money for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at St John's School



CHASE SANTA

€10 ADULTS 18+
€5 KIDS / TEENS

SANTA HAT INC IN PRICE

JOIN IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

XMAS COOKIE FOR ALL FINISHERS

ENJOY DRINKS & COOKIES AFTER RACE



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE BY

RAF AKROTIRI VOLUNTARY BAND

NON-PASS HOLDERS WELCOME



<https://forms.office.com/r/9pG0TzDyx>

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

DON'T MISS OUT LIMITED PLACES CLOSING

DATE FOR ENTRIES 12 DECEMBER

who



SCAN THE QR CODE OR USE THE LINK TO REGISTER AND PAY OR PAY BY CASH AT ST JOHN'S SCHOOL THE HIVE, EPI YOUTH CENTRE



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St John's School Writers

Prior to starting their study of Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol', Year 10 completed their first English Language practice paper. For Paper 1, students must write a short story or description based on a choice of prompts. Here are two impressive examples of imaginative writing for you to enjoy!

Description of a beautiful place

Strung in the sky like a mesmerising centrepiece was the sun, its beams were hot wax dripping down onto the vibrant vegetation below. Light blues and turquoises swirled into tone another, casting their beauty as though it were a blanket to be draped over the world. A tingling warmth caressed my skin; an illuminating yellow that spread down my arms and legs, intertwining my body with the incandescent glow of daylight. Billowing plumes of pearly white touched at this precise canvas of a sky like an unthreatening signal of safety.

Surreal sanctuaries seemed to exist beside me; roots that traced the land beneath my feet and rested under the hearty earth. Twisting higher and higher until the top of their branches stretched up into the surrounding atmosphere which hung unfazed by the constant tranquillity that possessed the world. Luscious green flecks of life were dotted around the horizon, all desperate to toast their emerald shine that lay beneath the droplets of water that renewed their very being.

My hands had grown used to the violent harshness of the outside world, my body aware of the constant ache it had to endure. Life itself was never easy, never simple and pain-free as intended. However, in a realm of pure warmth and enchantment, thoughts of discomfort and bitter memories of a gruesome time seemed to dissipate almost instantly. Peace. An inner peace that crept up your spine and engulfed your soul without you even knowing that your years of hurt had been relinquished. My gaze hovered over the creatures that survived here: birds, beetles and boars surrounded me, their utter brilliance gluing my occasional glance to them, like a magnificent flame bursting into thousands of colours. A colony flew overhead, stooping as low as possible. The image of joy.

Reflections bounced from the pool of water showing the world above. A cascading waterfall emitted glints of a cool spray of water, but then aligned itself before it reached my clothes. It dispersed in such a calm manner that the only sound to teach my ears was the near silent splash as it descended. Even in such a small form on the horizon, beneath all the ink-like clouds of deep aquamarine blue, there was magnificent life that had formed. A reminder of what inhabited beneath the surface.

Towering above the surface, the mountains ahead were giants. Rolling images of a never ending symphony, each not sure when it started or began. Ivy grew around any stone structures; suffocating any flecks of grey that were eager to emerge into such a place. The view was immaculate, as though everything had been organised to blend into one another in harmony. No cruel, uninviting people had traipsed over here; no one could stifle such a place.

I am suddenly snapped out of my curiosity, for once I turn my head, I see an intruder. Beside him, people stand scattered, unsure whether to carry out their feverish tasks. Perhaps peace isn't allowed to exist inside me...

Heidi (Year 10)



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St John's School Writers

A short story inspired by the following image:



On a cold, midwinter's night, it was quiet as a mouse. There lay a girl with hair of a milky silver mix, like tinsel. Her dress was beautiful like that of a leopard's fur, shimmering in the light of day. She had glasses like two of Saturn's rings around each of her eyes, glass that reflected her impurities. She was holding a snow globe.

On the inside of the snow globe was a snowman. This snowman had a luxurious suit, black on white. On its left chest pocket was a red rose; its petals were like soft blankets on a washing line on a windy day, swaying in the wind.

The snow globe was shimmering in the night. Each ray of sun passing through and reflecting in harmony with each other ray. The snowflakes emitted a purple polished plastic reflective tone, bright as the moon on a dark night.

Suddenly, the room's lights flickered out. It was a blackout. The girl was dazed. She began to search for the exit when, out of nowhere, the snow globe cast a golden light of the gods. Then the globe shattered into a million tiny pebbles, each one flying out in their own direction and one nearly hitting her ear.

Amongst the confusion, she felt a par on her back. She checked behind her but there was nothing. As she swung her head back around, she saw it. It was six feet tall. It had a top hat, a suit and shiny, polished black shoes.

It stood there looking down onto the girl. The girl then realised. That was the snowman from the snow globe! The girl took its hand; the snowman led her by the half-broken snow globe, and it emitted the golden light again, but this time the light swallowed the room whole.

Once the glow had departed, all the girl could see was white, but then it hit her – the chilling gusts of wind slamming. But all she could see was an endless snowy tundra spanning the entirety of the world, the snow globe hitting her face like staring into the sun. It was extremely foggy, and she couldn't see further than six metres in front. Each snowy flake landed on her silky-smooth hair.

However, the snowman was gone, and she was scared in this wasteland. In the fog, she could see a faint glow, but the glow was getting fainter. She tried running after it, but it was no use. She gave up chasing.

Archie (Y10)