



Newsletter

6th December 2024 | Issue 91



Ministry
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Dear Families,

Our students have been fantastic in their approach to their Mock Examinations. An exam window, usually extending over six weeks come the summer, has been condensed into a fortnight. Despite this, our students have proudly demonstrated in spades our value of Commitment. I wish them well for their final exams next week.



Elsewhere students are receiving a 'Good' curriculum diet with well planned lessons that provide both support and challenge. I am confident that this will be further evidenced next week when all of our teaching staff will pair up and have the opportunity to visit each other for a 20 minute lesson part. This professional development opportunity will be supported by myself, Mr Dixon and colleagues from DCS who will cover these 20 minute lesson parts and undertake a whole school student voice survey into their school experience and perception of the educational offer provided by St John's School. I look forward to sharing our findings in due course.

Despite being two weeks out from the Christmas Break, as you would expect, school continues with purpose, however, there are a couple of upcoming festive events over the next week including Christmas Jumper Day and our annual Christmas Concert, both of which take place on Thursday.

Upcoming School Events

Week Commencing 9th Dec.

Week 2

All Week

Year 11 and 13 Mock Examinations

Wednesday 11th December

SGC Meeting @ 1000 hrs in the Conference Room

Thursday 12th December

Christmas Jumper Day

SJS Coffee Morning 0900—1000 hrs

Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschools.org

St John's School Christmas Concert: 1800 hrs @ 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

Week Commencing 23rd Dec.

All Week

Christmas Holidays

School Closed to students and staff



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This week at St John's School



We recently had the opportunity to have a series of professional photos taken that can be used on our new school website, once launched, and for other materials that may be of use to new and prospective parents. We have included a small sample here.



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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 John's 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



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@modschoools.org TEL: 2596 3888



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Extra Curricular Activities

Understanding the current extracurricular engagement of our children in school, on the Station and in the wider community

At St John's School we are committed to promoting and signposting a wide range of opportunities to support our children's personal development, skills, and interests beyond the classroom.

To help us gather feedback, we kindly ask you to complete a short survey, which is designed to understand:

- The types of extracurricular activities (outside the typical school day/ on and off the Bases) that most interest your child(ren).
- Any barriers to participation, such as transport or associated costs.
- Any skills that you personally have that could be used to provide an extracurricular activity in school

The aim of this exercise is to track pupils' engagement in activities outside of the typical school day (lived experience). We will be working alongside Episkopi and RAF Akrotiri Stations and BFC to improve our young people's engagement in a wider range of activities and clubs.

The survey can be completed online by selecting this [link](#)

Your feedback will help us make informed decisions to ensure that every pupil has the opportunity to explore their interests, develop new skills, and thrive as part of the BFC community.

The deadline for completing the survey is 20th December 2024.

Thank you for your time and support in helping us gather the current lived experiences of our children.





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The risks surrounding social media use

Social media group chats have become a common way for students to communicate and collaborate. While they can be a convenient tool for sharing information and staying connected, they also pose significant risks that parents, students, and educators need to be aware of.

1. Cyberbullying:

Group chats can sometimes become a breeding ground for bullying. Hurtful comments, exclusion, or even ganging up on individuals can happen, often leaving victims feeling isolated and powerless.

2. Inappropriate Content:

Without proper oversight, students may share or be exposed to inappropriate language, images, or videos in group chats. This can lead to uncomfortable or even harmful situations.

3. Privacy Concerns:

Information shared in group chats is not as private as it seems. Screenshots and forwarded messages can spread personal details beyond the group, sometimes with damaging consequences. This is a particular concern within our military community, due to the potential security risks it poses.

4. Peer Pressure:

Group dynamics can sometimes pressure students to participate in conversations or activities they may be uncomfortable with, affecting their self-esteem and decision-making.

5. Academic Distractions:

While group chats can be used for educational purposes, they can also become a source of constant notifications and off-topic discussions that distract students from their studies.





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The risks surrounding social media use

How Parents and Students Can Stay Safe:

- **Review Your Child's Online Activity Regularly:** Please check whether your child is part of any private social media groups and whether unknown individuals are members of these groups. Monitor group chats regularly and ensure they are being used constructively.
- **Discuss Online Safety:** Have an open conversation with your child about online behaviour, the importance of respect, the risks of sharing personal information, and ensuring they only interact with people they know and trust.
- **Encourage Responsible Online Behaviour:** Remind your child that they should leave any group where they feel uncomfortable or where strangers are involved, and to always report any concerns to you or a trusted adult. Teach them about the consequences of sharing inappropriate content and participating in harmful behaviour.
- **Report Any Concerns:** If you become aware of any inappropriate behaviour or individuals within these groups, please report this to the school or relevant authorities immediately.
- **Discuss the future:** Remind them that their digital footprint is permanent and reflects their character.

By understanding these risks and taking proactive steps, we can help young people use social media group chats responsibly and protect their well-being.





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Home Learning

With Year 11 and 13 currently working through their mock examinations and other year groups taking end of term assessments, now is a good time to introduce our 'Examination Wrappers'.

Theses are a great way for students to reflect on their performance in examinations and assessments and ensure they know their own strengths and weaknesses so that improvements can be made in future tests. Each section of the examination wrapper focuses on different aspects of preparing for and sitting the exam. Students should try to reflect as honestly as possible.

Take a look at this Examination Wrapper and maybe use this as a foundation for discussion with your son/daughter following their examinations.

This form can be found on the students shared area under metacognition.



Exam Wrapper

Name:		Exam score:	
Exam paper:		Exam grade:	

Revision time investment

How much time did you spend revising for this exam?	
When did you start revising for this exam?	
Was this enough time?	

Revision techniques

Revision technique:	Used:	% of time:
Self-quizzing		
Rereading notes in your book		
Graphic organisers		
Flash card creation and use		
Practice questions		
Revision guides / sites		
Wider reading		
Other		

Revision environment

Revision environment:	Applied:
Attended after school study	
Created a revision timetable and stuck to it	
Revised in an environment that was quiet and away from distraction	
Worked in a study group /with a learning partner	
Other	

Reviewing your exam paper

Lost mark cause:	Where:
Not answering a question	
Not reading the question carefully	
Not knowing the content well enough	
Not applying the skill in the way needed	
Exam conditions	

What questions did I find the most challenging

Question:	Why I found it challenging:

Moving forward

Three things you will do differently for your next exam:



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St John's School Writers

With December now upon us, we will be sharing some Christmas-themed writing over the coming weeks. This week's submission was written earlier in the year and is a moving and powerful poem about the emotional challenges that Christmas time can sometimes bring.

Christmas

Christmas feels like Halloween

I'm haunted

The room is musty

The air is dusty

In your absence, everything's tense

Nothing makes sense

Are you coming back?

Am I in denial?

Or just incredibly dense?

There is a shiver

Dust in the air

Am I dumb? Yes,

but have things been

damaged beyond repair?

I stubbornly stay

stuck in a place

Not wanting to break free

Not wanting to leave the space where you used to be

Allowing your room to come back to me and make it right

But I know you're not coming back

Not after that night

Not after that fight

Christmas feels like Halloween

Jessica B (written in Y7)