



# Newsletter



Ministry  
of Defence

13th December 2024 | Issue 92

Dear Families,

We enter the final week of this term and the Christmas Holiday will very soon be upon us. For Year 11 and 13 it will come as welcome relief as their two weeks of Mock Examinations come to an end, except for those required to catch up on exams missed. Our students will receive their results on the 24th January with a Parent Afternoon following their release on Friday 30th January 2025.



On Thursday of this week we hosted our annual Christmas Concert at St Pius Church, Episkopi Garrison. As a community event it was great to welcome so many parents and wider members of the community to this year's concert which showcased some extremely talented individual students who were supported by the DCS orchestra and the Achord Community Choir.

Looking ahead to next week, I want to reassure families that normal lessons will take place up to and including Period 2 (1015 hrs) on the final day of this term. I ask that students continue to attend school right up to and including the last day of term. Our school attendance has been excellent up until now and exceeds our target of 96% and I hope that we can sustain this percentage as we end this term.

## Upcoming School Events

### Week Commencing 16th Dec.

### Week 1

**Monday 16th December**

**Reward Trip**

**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 1230 hrs**

### Week Commencing 23rd Dec.

**All Week**

**Christmas Holidays—School Closed to students and staff**

### Week Commencing 30th Dec.

**All Week**

**Christmas Holidays—School Closed to students and staff**

### Week Commencing 6th January

### Week 2

**All Week**

**Year 11 and 13 Mock Examination Catch Up**

**Monday 6th January**

**Inset Day—School Closed for Students**

**Tuesday 7th January**

**School Opens for students in all years at 0750hrs**

**Thursday 9th January**

**SJS Coffee Morning 0900—1000 hrs**

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

**Year 6 Vs 7 Interschool Netball Tournament @ St John's School : 1300hrs**



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## This week at St John's School



It was Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday with students modelling a wide variety of festive themed jumpers.



On Thursday evening, St John's School was able to showcase an exceptional range of talent through our annual Christmas Concert. Extremely well attended, our third annual Christmas Concert was the best yet and provided a fantastic introduction to the festive period.





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## Leaving our mark

During the final week of this term we are inviting students to leave their mark on St John's School.



On the wall adjacent to the ramp that leads students and visitors into school we are asking each member of our school community to dip their hand in paint and press their handprint onto the wall.

Each handprint in either red or blue will sit alongside a reminder of our British Values and act in a way as a pledge to their adherence whilst allowing students to leave their mark on their school. It is

expected that we will be able to build upon the number of handprints over the coming years as new students join our school, with each student also writing their name next to their print.

The paint is not harmful and can easily wash off without a trace upon the skin, however should you not wish for your child to participate please notify us no later than Wednesday 18th December 2024 by emailing [SJS.Enquiries@modschoools.org](mailto:SJS.Enquiries@modschoools.org)

## Key Stage 3 Christmas Disco

KS3 students will be offered the opportunity to attend a Christmas School Disco on the 19<sup>th</sup> December between 6-8 pm. 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.

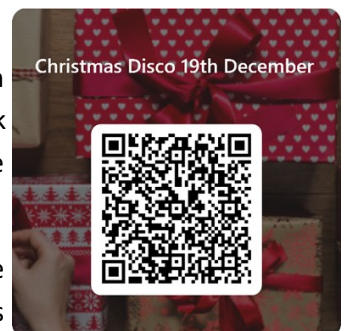
Students can be dropped off at Episkopi Primary School car park but will need to be collected from the St John's School Hall at 8 pm promptly unless permission has been given through the QR code below for them to make their own way home.

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 above prior to the event. This form will close on the 18<sup>th</sup> December. For any queries or further information please contact Mrs Gardiner on the email provided below:

[Katie.Gardiner@modschoools.org](mailto:Katie.Gardiner@modschoools.org)





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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 pupil's 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 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

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





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## **School Governance Committee (SGC)**

School Governance Committee (SGC) members are interested members of the community, including parents of children at St John's School

We work with the Head Teacher and school staff to assist in making key decisions vital to the successful running of the school, contribute to decisions directly affecting the education and wellbeing of pupils, assist in improving standards throughout the school and monitor the school budget.

The SGC meets once a term as a whole committee to review and discuss school business, and represent the views of parents.

### **Main Roles**

#### **Provide a strategic overview**

- focusing on the key issues of raising standards of achievement, establishing high expectations and promoting effective teaching and learning

#### **Act as a Critical Friend**

- providing the Head Teacher and Staff with support and advice using members' knowledge and experience

#### **Ensure Accountability**

- questioning and openly discussing with the Head Teacher the school's performance and other issues, whilst respecting both the professional roles of the Head Teacher and school staff and their responsibilities for the management of the school

## **Are you interested in joining our SGC?**

We currently have a number of vacancies upon our School Governance, should you be interested we welcome a short expression of interest detailing your suitability by email to:

[Penny.Demetriou@modschoools.org](mailto:Penny.Demetriou@modschoools.org)



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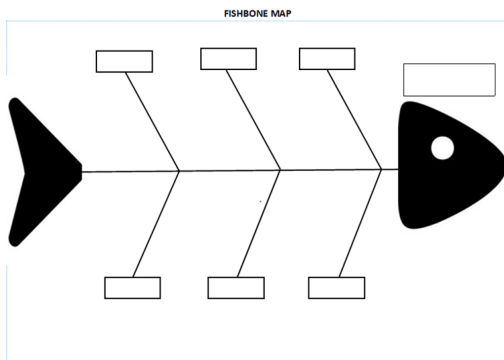


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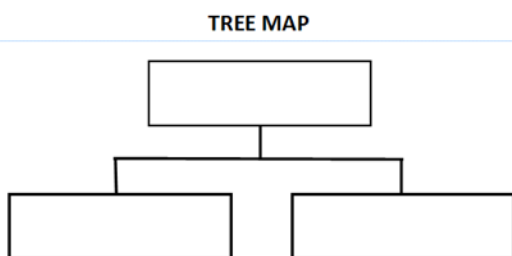
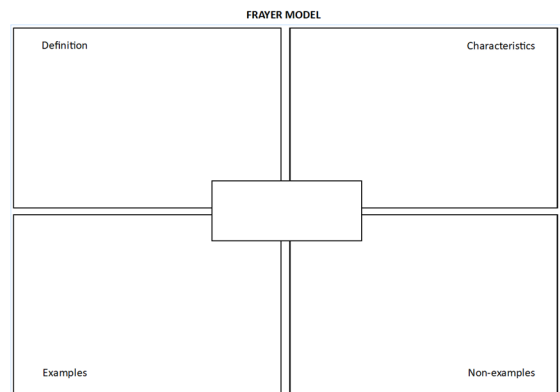
## Home Learning

This week all students in Key Stage 3 and 4 have been shown how to use three more of our graphic organisers. Graphic organisers are designed to organize information and ideas visually, making them easier to comprehend and internalise. By integrating text and visuals, graphic organizers illustrate relationships and connections between concepts, terms, and facts, providing a clear and structured way to present complex information.



Firstly, the **fishbone diagram** can help you consider cause and effect with opportunity to consider large numbers of causes. The problem to be considered is placed in the box by the fish head and then the fish bones are used to describe and explain all the different causes that need to be considered.

Secondly, the Frayer Model is a graphic organizer that promotes critical thinking and helps deepen students' understanding of key vocabulary. When using this strategy, students determine and clarify the meaning of targeted vocabulary words encountered while studying key concepts or big ideas. By providing students with a structure to examine these words, focused primarily on contextual meaning and not simply definition, this strategy is effective in helping students come to understand vocabulary at a level beyond defining words. The focus on characteristics, examples, and non-examples pushes learners to build a more concrete understanding of the meaning of the words.



Finally, the tree map is used to classify things which are related but also have special characteristic. It is very useful for breaking down topics into individual components

Staff will support students using these graphic organisers in lessons throughout the school. Students should aim to use the organisers to prepare for examinations and complete individual study at





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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.

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.

# YOU



# HELP TOO!

**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.**

### You could donate :

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

**All donations go to The Learning Refuge**

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

**Last collections on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of Dec**



[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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## St John's School Writers

Over the past week, Year 11 have been using the poem 'Little Tree' by E.E. Cummings as inspiration for their own Christmas tree monologues. Enjoy the imaginative extracts that follow!



Isolated. Imprisoned. Forgotten. Those three words depict the essence of my life. Alone I stand, deconstructed in my tattered old box. The darkness has become my only light in my pathetic life. Enveloped in dust, I yearn for the time of my release.

I hear my freedom calling through the sound of sweet Christmas music. The footsteps clambering around the tightly-packed attic thunder near me. As I descend down the stairs, being paraded around, they set me down and give me my long-awaited freedom. The light hits me like a breath of fresh air.

For the next month or so, I get to stand there in the colour of the room, admired and acknowledged. Under my beautifully-decorated branches hide a sea of wrapped presents that, like me, were eager to escape. Like the sun sets to end the day, so must my time on the pedestal.

There I am, back in my box reminiscing on the past times. So much joy; so much love and so many memories. Once again, I stand there back in my box. Isolated. Imprisoned. Forgotten.

Joshua L (Y11)

Every Christmas, it is an honour to fulfil my duty. They dress me up in medals and tinsel, as I am standing at attention. I adorn my hat of gold, and I wait at my post, ready to be recruited for the month that awaits me. They rush towards me, their eyes filled with brightness that I only see once a year. Each sparkle reflects why I do what I do. Every glint of light makes the time I serve worth it.

Annually, I guard the presents that they have entrusted me with, every delicately wrapped gift filled with the essence of their joy. I've got a job to do. The abundance of light that hangs from my arms, shields them from the darkness that corrupts their Christmas spirit. My duty is essential to maintaining the festivity.

Once the day of reckoning concludes, I know my day of armistice is near. I watch them celebrate with Christmas cheer, knowing I've claimed victory. I can now be put to rest, my medals placed neatly away, along with my hat and tinsel. I've been undressed of my garments and responsibilities. I lay idly in my box, waiting for the next round of the battle to commence next year.

Kyra A and Summer H (Y11)





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In a solemn box, far from the world, I waited for the day that I would shine.

I stood tall in my hypnotising uniform, illuminating the small festive room and stood to attention, performing my duty. My shimmering garments hung on my muscly branches reflecting the snow that was once attached to me like wives to their children.

A small portly being innocently waddled into my festive palace. A menacing glare overtook my pride and killed my inner soldier. Its owner left the room allowing time for it to drop to their post and slowly crawl to me. The junior climber pulled itself onto the unusual mechanical setting device. Eye to eye. We met, my stars enticing it. I could see the desire to jump. Suddenly the weight of a year's snowfall overcame me. I twirled and danced around trying to park still. I plummeted to the ground, losing my glory.

Losing my purpose.

Chloe T (Y11)

My lights bring joy to the joyless and exile sadness. They give hope to the hopeless and give them the strength to carry on. My life may be short, my needles will fall and my bark will turn black, but this is a good life. I am a symbol of all the wishes of the people around me, all their hopes and dreams and desires. Beautiful. That is what they all are.

I will live as I have lived, and I will die as any would. While I live, my luminosity will help others. A life well lived is worth more than anything else and my gift is this life. Remember me, keep me in your hearts and remember the glimmer of hope that is ever present in life. Just as my brothers and sisters are evergreen, we all live forever in the memories of others.

Socrates C (Y11)

Gripping lights, tying me from left to right, attaching balls of ever so apparent light. Finally out of that accursed box, I'm left here with just me and my flourishing pot. However, all is not so bright, as one day there will come a fright; struggle and grasping hands of terror will bring me down into slim pieces of tender. Shoved away into a tight corner; back in my coffin with no honour. However, this time will come once again but, until then, I rest upon this abandoned den.

Stef M (Y11)

That time of year again, my time to shine. It's strange isn't it, only being out one month a year, but when I'm out, everyone knows. Towering above the children, as they argue who will have the honour of blessing me with the angel. Although I'm out once a year, I'm mesmerising. My branches dazzled in snow; my branches accessorised with precious jewel; my branches telling a story of years in the past and years to come. I could be a family heirloom. I could be a decoration. I could be an old tree sitting in a box, but no matter what I am always known and will always be known.

Sophia B (Y11)