



# Newsletter

20th December 2024 | Issue 93



Ministry  
of Defence

Dear Families,

We have reached the end of another busy, yet extremely successful term and end 2024 with confirmation that St John’s School would place in the **Top 12% of schools nationally** as the 775th best performing school out of 5861 schools. St John’s School surpassed for the second consecutive year the national average in every government measure at GCSE. Over the past two years students achieved half a grade higher than they were predicted at the start of their secondary school education. Our academic outcomes, combined with excellent student attendance and a good educational offer, continues to aid us in our moral purpose to eliminate educational disadvantage caused by mobility. I am extremely grateful to everyone who has and continues to help our community in school in this important endeavour.



As we break up for the Christmas holidays I would like to take the opportunity to wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2025. Thank you for all of the support you have extended to all of us at St John’s School. We look forward to welcoming our students back to school on Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 0800 hrs



## Upcoming School Events

**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 0750 hrs

**Thursday 9th January**

SJS Coffee Morning 0900—1000 hrs

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

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

**Week Commencing 13th Jan.**

Week 1

**Tuesday 14th January**

Year 10 and 12 Parent Afternoon : 1430—1700 hrs

**Wednesday 15th January**

SJS Vs. KRS Netball Tournament (all years) : 1300 hrs

**Thursday 16th January**

Head Teachers Surgery : 0900—1000 hrs @ Akrotiri Hive



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## This week at St John's School



Students (left) who had the best behaviour records from this term enjoyed their reward trip to My Mall for some Christmas shopping during the early part of this week.

On Sunday our Year 11 Business Studies students (right) participated in the RAF Akrotiri Christmas Markets, raising over €130 in profit.



On Thursday students across Year 7 and 8 presented some outstanding proposals for the Snack Shack. They made their pitches having been put forward by the respective classes. Together with the Station Commander and his wife Karen we considered ideas ranging from Fruit Pots, to meal deals and loyalty cards. The winning proposal was the loyalty card and I look forward to meeting with the winning team (pictured) to realise their proposal and launch a Snack Shack Loyalty Card in the New Year.

Students had great fun leaving their mark on St John's School as they learnt about our British Values and placed their hand as a pledge to our collective adherence to them.



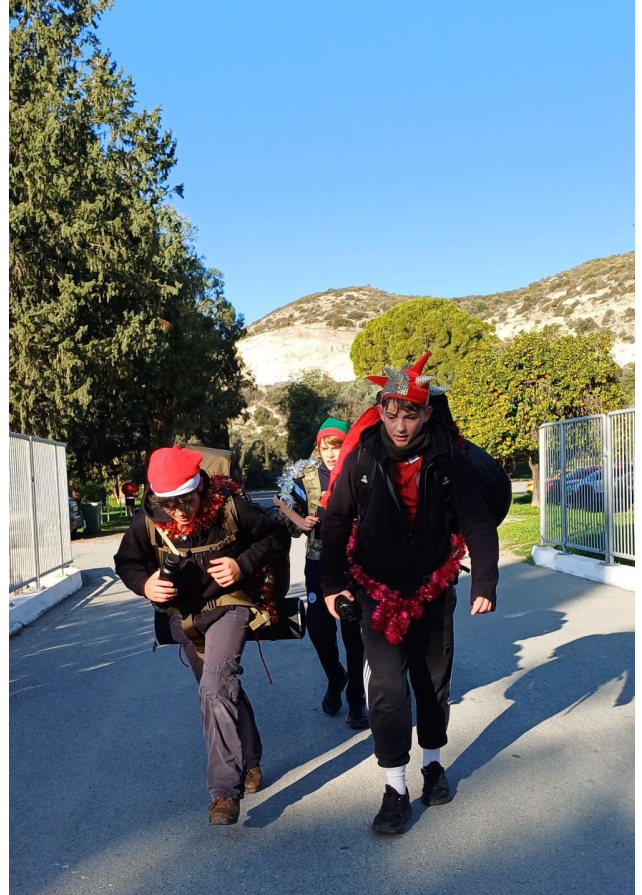




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## This week at St John's School



Our students participating in this years Duke of Edinburgh Award camped out in Happy Valley last weekend.

On Saturday they involved themselves in this years Santa Run.

The students also baked cakes for the Santa Run, raising €287 from selling them.



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## Year 10 and 12 Parents' Afternoon

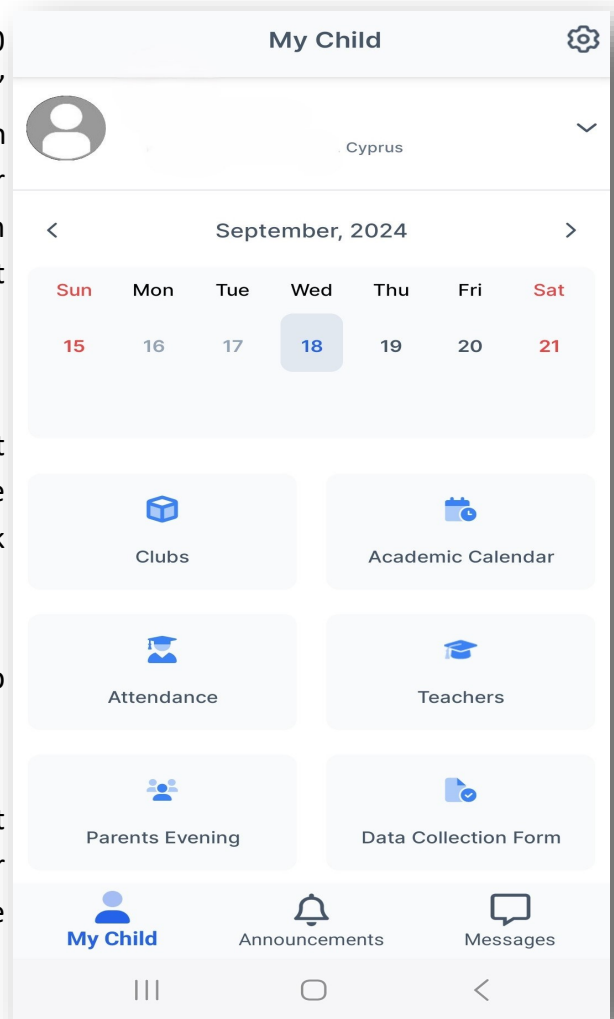
Tuesday 14th January 1430—1700 hrs

We look forward to welcoming parents of our Year 10 and 12 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 start to this academic year.

Appointments must be made in advance of the Parent Afternoon. Appointments can only be made through the My Child at School (MCAS) App. The appointment book will open on Monday 6th January at midday.

Please ensure you have registered to use the MCAS App in advance of Monday 6th January.

Once registered, to make your appointments, please visit the Parents Evening tab via the MCAS homepage after Midday on Monday 6th January. 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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## Term 2 Enrichment Opportunities

Using the MCAS App you will now be able to find next term's extra curricular enrichment opportunities for students.

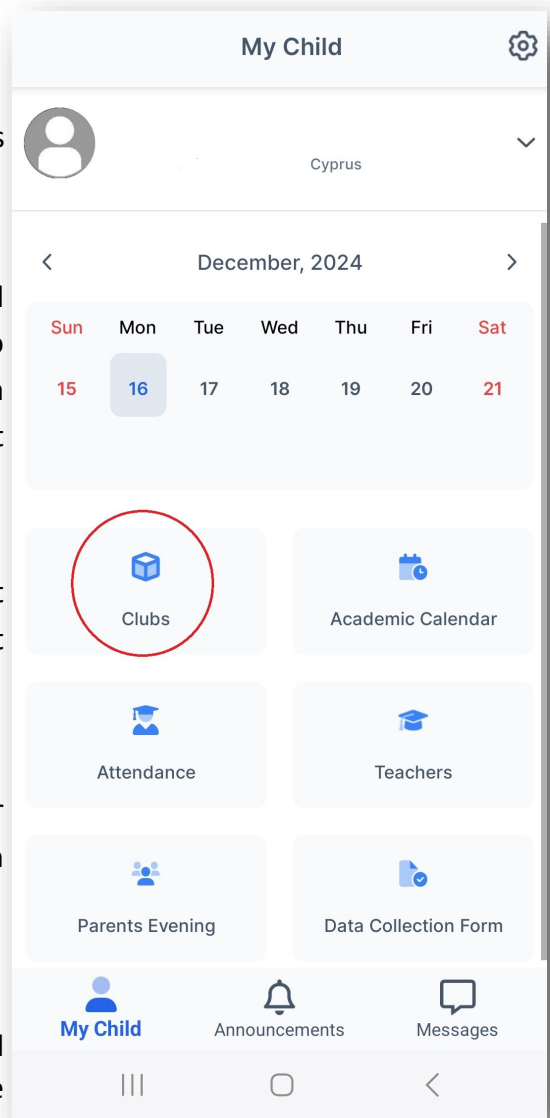
To attend an extra curricular activity, students must enrol onto their chosen activities. A register will be taken to confirm their attendance to each enrichment activity and a message (via the MCAS App) sent to parents in the event their child was expected but does not attend.

Students who have registered for the Bromcom Student Portal can also enrol themselves into any of the enrichment activities.

Further enrichment activities, particularly revision classes for Y11 and 13 will appear once mock examinations have been marked.

### 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)



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

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





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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)



## Sweet Boxes

As you devour plenty of sweets and chocolate treats this Christmas, should you be able to save any containers and have them sent with your child to school we would be really grateful. They make great containers for those who may forget a container for their cooking.





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## 2025—2026 Term Dates

### DCS Schools Cyprus Calendar 2025-26

September 2025							20
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30						

October 2025							18
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			

November 2025							20
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
					1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2025							15
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31					

January 2026							19
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
		1	2	3	4		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31		

February 2026							15
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28		

March 2026							20
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

April 2026							13
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30				

May 2026							15
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
			1	2	3		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2026							22
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30						

July 2026							13
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			

School term
Staff Development Days (up to 5x)
School Holiday
Bank Holiday

Pupil Total Days = 190
Staff Total Days = 195 (4 Training Days + 2 x 3hr Training twilight)

Aut 1 - 7wks 3days	Spr 1 - 5 wks 4days	Sum 1 - 5wks 3days
Aut 2 - 7 wks	Spr 2 - 5 wks	Sum 2 - 7 wks



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## Nut Free School

As you will likely be aware, a significant number of our staff, students and visitors have a severe allergic reaction to nuts and peanuts. Severe allergic reactions result in anaphylaxis.

Nuts and Peanuts can cause severe allergic reactions in a wide range of ways. A person with an allergy does not have to eat nuts or peanuts to have a severe reaction, this can be caused by surface contact and airborne particles. This allergy affects approximately 1/50 children and adults.

In recent years we have seen a sharp increase in snacks containing peanuts and a rise in the use of peanut butter in sandwiches.

As a school we have a responsibility to keep our students, staff and visitors safe and to reduce risk of harm. As you can imagine in a busy school environment this can be a challenge and following consideration, we feel the only way to protect those students is by removing the allergens from the school.

### What this will mean?

- Peanut and nut based products will no longer be sold in the canteen.
- Students, staff and visitors **will not** be able to bring products containing nuts or peanuts into school.

Items that are found to break this rule will be confiscated and disposed of safely.

### What products will not be allowed in school?

- Peanuts and nuts and products containing peanuts or nuts.
- Peanut butter or peanut based chocolate snacks (Snickers/ Reece's pieces etc).
- Items where peanuts or nuts are listed as main ingredients.
- Nut or peanut based oils or products.

### What products are allowed?

- Items that "may contain nuts" and "may contain traces of nuts" or "made in factories that use nuts" These present a low risk and are not direct ingredients in the products.







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## St John's School Writers

The English and Drama Faculty wish you and your families a restful Christmas and New Year. Enjoy the following odes to the Christmas tree below!

### The Lone Lumber

The pine-scented candles and the shimmers of day.

I shall rise once again, just for today...

The lines of lights and the balls of shimmer,

All looking fancy, even when dimmer

However, I find it hard to stay bright

When I know there will come a day, come a night.

Light will be stripped and my glistening jewels robbed,

Just to be lobbed into a room full of sobs.

Where I shall, once again, return to my eternal slumber,

Or as the others refer to it as a pile of lifeless lumber.

Stef

The candles are out, the tinsel is shining,  
an old tree wrapped with old silver lining.

The branches are fluffed,

The stockings are stuffed.

Yet Santa working all night

to make the children chuffed.

The Christmas spirit bliss wrapped in a kiss,  
The bitter cold simplified by the tree dazzled in gold.

The mince pies set above the snow

All I can think of is the old Christmas glow.

Yet Santa is working all night and day

Here he comes in his magical sleigh.

Sophia



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## St John's School Writers

The English and Drama Faculty wish you and your families a restful Christmas and New Year. Enjoy the following odes to the Christmas tree below!

### Evergreen

Standing in the cold, a soldier in a field  
My brothers ever present.  
One by one the people come  
And chop my brothers clean.

Now it's me in the field  
When people come,  
They saw.  
They chop.

Standing in the warm, a part of the house  
My brothers never present.  
One by one the people come  
And receive those gifts beneath me.

I am there when they eat.  
I am there when they sing.  
I am there till I'm not.  
It is quite a sad thing.

### Bonus Stanza

Heart gone cold like Palmer,  
But I'm not ready to go.  
They take my chippy chips  
And hide them in the snow.

Noah

### Their Lives

The snow embraces me.  
Many eyes follow my lush branches  
As they glitter for all to see.  
The verdant green of the vines  
Distracts them from their troubles.

Us pines,  
We speak, we live, we struggle.  
Just like them.  
Yet while we stand, everlasting  
Us pines, evergreen, we don't change.

Their young admire us,  
Some curse us,  
But all know us.  
We don't know them,  
they fade quickly,  
But they persist.

A strange inspiration.  
We all die.  
But only they truly live.

Socrates

