



# Newsletter

10th January 2025 | Issue 94



Ministry  
of Defence

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! On behalf of us all here at St John's we wish everyone associated with our school a happy and healthy 2025.



We have now completed our first full week of the new term and it has been great to welcome our students back. This term is short with two halves of six weeks. For our students in Year 11 and 13 this means that their final exams are fast approaching with GCSE option subjects now having less than 40 lessons left. On Friday 24th January students in Year 11 and 13 will receive the grades they achieved in their December Mock Examinations which will help to inform them as to what needs to be done over the remaining 14 weeks before the first exam begins.

Elsewhere, lessons continue with purpose with colleagues and I having opportunity to get into many lessons as part of our ongoing quality assurance process, which subsequently informs our approach to further improving our educational offer and quality of teaching and learning.

## Upcoming School Events

### 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

Headteacher's Surgery : 0900—1000 hrs @ Akrotiri Hive

### Week Commencing 20th January

Week 2

Tuesday 21st January

Year 11 GCSE PE Practical Assessments (All Day)

Wednesday 22nd January

SJS Vs. KRS Football Tournament (All Years) : 1300 hrs

Thursday 23rd January

SJS Coffee Morning 0800—1000 hrs

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

Friday 24th January

Year 11 and 13 Examination Results Published @ 1330 hrs in School Hall

### Week Commencing 27th January

Week 1

Wednesday 29th January

Royal Navy STEM Day (selected students)

Thursday 30th January

Headteacher's Surgery : 0900—1000 hrs @ Akrotiri Hive

Year 11 and 13 Parent Afternoon : 1430—1700 hrs



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## This week at St John's School

This week saw our annual Netball transition tournament to support those students who will be coming to St John's School in the next couple of years with the jump to secondary school. We had fantastic attendance with every DCS school in Cyprus providing a team to represent them for this event. The games were supported and umpired by St John's School students who worked hard throughout the event to ensure the rules were followed and a high standard of play was maintained. Special thanks must go to the following SJS students for their excellent integrity throughout the event:

- Sienna
- Millie
- Ava
- Lara
- Lilly
- Emelia
- Daisy
- Isla



It was an incredibly close competition with nearly 50 goals scored all together, but the winners out right were King Richard School with a fantastic 24 points. The runners up were the St John's School Team 3 with 21 points. All schools and pupils had demonstrated outstanding sportspersonship and were a credit to watch perform. I look forward to the next competition.





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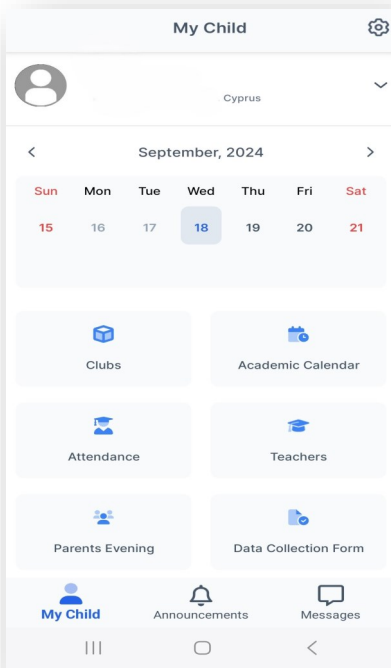
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## Year 10 and 12 Parents' Afternoon

Tuesday 14th January 1430—1700 hrs



Have you made your appointments? Appointments must be made in advance of the Parent Afternoon. Appoints can only be made through My Child at School (MCAS) App.

### Trouble Registering?

Should you encounter difficulties it is possible the email address we have for you is out of date. To update your email address or to notify us of difficulties please email Mrs Twyford who will gladly assist you in logging on. Mrs Twyford's email is [Hayley.Twyford@modschools.org](mailto:Hayley.Twyford@modschools.org)

## Headteacher's Surgery - Akrotiri Hive

On Thursday 16th January 0900—1000 hrs, parents and/or members of the BFC community are welcome to drop into the Akrotiri Hive, without appointment, to meet the Headteacher, Colin Guyton, to discuss any ideas or issues concerning St John's School.

This approach draws similarities from the MP Local Constituency Surgeries you may be familiar with in the UK and it is hoped that it will prove a useful opportunity to share ideas that help improve the provision we provide to the young people in our care.

## Sweet Boxes

If you have been able to save any of this type of sweets containers from Christmas time, we would be very grateful to have them sent in to school with your child. They make great containers for those who may forget a container for their cooking.







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## Reward Trip for Outstanding Behaviour.

At St John's School we strive to create an environment where positive behaviour is recognised and celebrated. As part of this effort, we are pleased to announce our next Behaviour Reward Trip will take place week commencing 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The trip is designed to acknowledge students who consistently demonstrate outstanding behaviour, through our whole school values of Integrity, Commitment and Respect.

To be eligible to attend the trip, students must end the term with zero behaviour points. To ensure fairness, the period measured will commence on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

We kindly encourage you to discuss the criteria with your child, emphasising the importance of consistent effort and positive behaviour.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us create a school culture that values Integrity, Commitment and Respect.



## Head of Defence Children's Services



I look forward to welcoming the Head of Defence Children's Services to St John's School on Tuesday 14th January. The visit of Ms Beverley Martin provides opportunity to showcase our school and the progress we continue to make. During the visit Ms Martin will have opportunity to speak to staff and students, whilst also finding opportunity to drop into lessons. Ms Martin will also have the chance to visit our Sixth Form Suite for the first time since she funded its refurbishment.



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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.

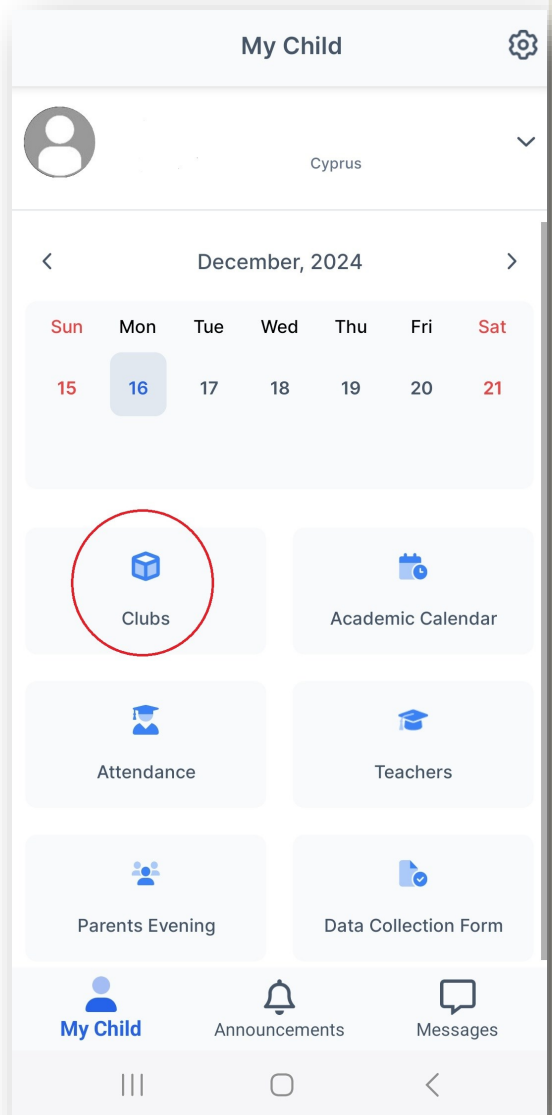
To attend an extra curricular activity, students must enrol onto their chosen activities. A register will be taken to confirm their attendance to each enrichment activity and a message (via the MCAS App) sent to parents in the event their child was expected but does not attend.

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)



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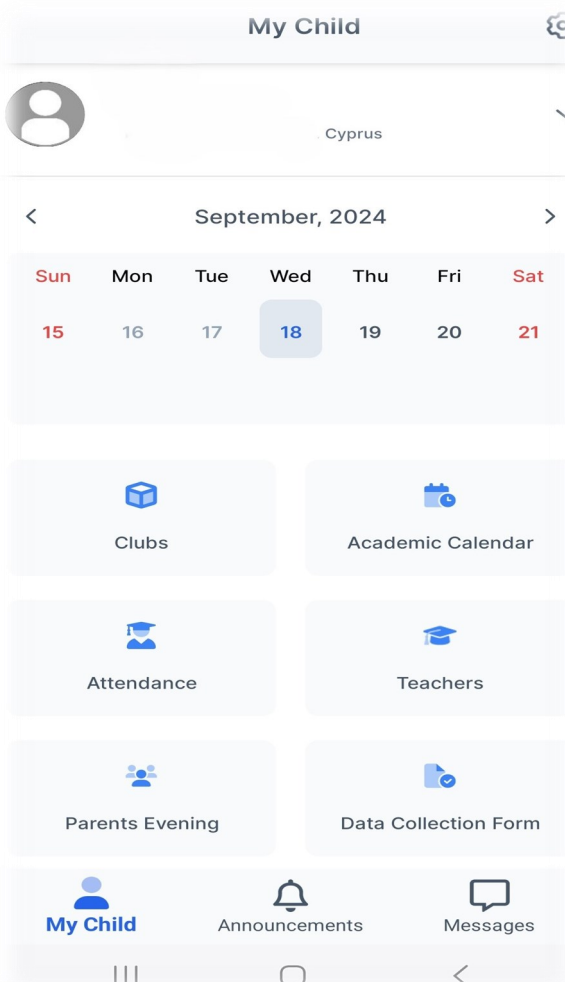


## My Child At School App

We have been mandated to use the My Child At School App to facilitate future communication with parents. This App is to replace our previous use of EPraise.

My Child At School (MCAS) is an online parent portal that allows parents to monitor their child’s progress and wellbeing at school with real-time information and instant updates. It can be accessed via any web browser or an app (available on iOS and Android devices) which offers parents the same features.

MCAS offers parents a wide range of capabilities, including the ability to monitor attendance and behaviour, book parents’ evening slots, see reports, and other important documents, receive communications from the school, make payments, and update any changes in details. And with the parent portal app, all these features can be accessed from a personal device, like a smartphone.



### Using the MCAS App

- ✓ You will be emailed an invitation that will include a link to download the MCAS App. Once the App is opened you will be asked to enter your email address and create a password. You will then be asked to enter a 5 digit pin and tick to confirm to be presented with your child’s dashboard.

### Trouble registering?

Should you encounter difficulties it is possible the email address we have for you is out of date. To update your email address or to notify us of difficulties please email Mrs Twyford who will gladly assist you in logging on. Mrs Twyford’s email is [Hayley.Twyford@modschoools.org](mailto:Hayley.Twyford@modschoools.org).

### Further Information

Further guides for parents on MCAS can be found at [MyChildAtSchool \(MCAS\) Parent Guides – Bromcom – Documentation Centre](#). Here you will find comprehensive information on what MCAS can do to support you.



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## St John's School Writers

Happy New Year! At the end of last term, Year 7 were learning about how to write successful short stories. The following story is an excellent example of a student writing with a confident voice and drawing inspiration from previous learning (the study of 'Oliver Twist', in this case).

### A Short Story

The sea was calm. Gentle waves were slowly tumbling. A soft spray of sea foam was washing aboard the deck of the ship leading Jack (a young, ambitious pickpocket) to his peril. Destination: the dreaded land of 'down under' at the most secure prison owned by the British government. You may ask who deserves such punishment? The answer: anyone brave enough to defy our majesty Queen Victoria.

Jack, sick of only stealing handkerchiefs and hungry for the wealth and riches he believed he deserved, decided one day that he was as stealthy as a tiger and as skilled as the legendary thieves he had only read in stories. With this skill and stealth, he thought it was a revolutionary idea to steal the crown jewels.

Jack was abruptly stopped and shipped as soon as he stepped foot on the palace floors.

Filled with regret for the crime he had committed, he could only wait for what was beyond the deck of the boat...

Arriving at the prison with endless days of work ahead of him, Jack was already plotting his escape. Hours of tiring labour passed throughout the day but Jack was only counting down the seconds until nightfall. 3...2...1... A mighty siren sounded. Everyone was sentenced back to their cells; Jack avoided the crowd of prisoners. Navigating through the pitch-black halls of the prison, Jack could only hope that he didn't get caught. The walls of the prison crumbled at his every turn, opening more opportunity to escape. His legs were about to give way at every dead end. Jack was soon intimidated by this maze of a prison, stopping to think if his idea wasn't so great after all.

Slowly walking back to his cell, a sense of motivation came over him, saying he had to carry on. The night consisted of endless running and narrow escapes, leading up to his long-awaited freedom. As the sun rose into the sky turning the brown tundra into a glittery gold and orange, Jack made his way over the barbed wire fence and onto the dry floors of the outback.

Miles and miles of land stretched before his eyes. Miles and miles of dry, unforgiving floors filled with venomous creatures with enough poison to kill 100 fully grown men. During his first steps, he was met with a 50-foot snake that he only just escaped. Jack, scared of what else threatened his life on his new-found journey, decided to turn back. As he turned, he felt a needle-like sting in the back of his leg. It only took a couple of seconds until he dropped to the floor, screaming from the agonising pain throbbing in his shin. The pain was short-lived as a sharp bang silenced the screaming and ended the life of our protagonist.

*Alisa (Y7)*