



Newsletter

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Dear Families,

On Tuesday students and staff participated in an informative assembly led by our School Nurse, Mr Craig Johnson, who educated us all in what to do in the event of anaphylaxis and an acute asthma attack. Aided by some willing volunteers, we were shown how to support someone with either condition and how to use an adrenaline auto-injector (frequently referred to by a brand name as an EpiPen). This opportunity is one of a series that will help educate students to provide life saving care and support to members of the public. In coming weeks students will also have chance to familiarise themselves with defibrillators, amongst other equipment.



Also on Tuesday we welcomed Ms Beverley Martin, the Head of DCS. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase our school, celebrating significant improvements made since her last visit, whilst also discussing some of our most pressing challenges. Ms Martin commented upon the “high expectations of students and the excellent routines, systems and processes, which have been embedded in order to provide an excellent climate for learning”. Such an observation as support by our students who met Ms Martin and reported how St John’s School exceeds upon their previous school experience.

Upcoming School Events

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@modschools.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

Week Commencing 3rd February

Week 2

All Week

Individual Year 11 student and parent meetings with either the HT or DHT

Wednesday 5th February

Year 7 Midsummer Night’s Dream Performance

Netball Tournament Year 7—13 @ SJS

Thursday 6th February

SJS Coffee Morning 0800—1000 hrs

Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschools.org

Friday 7th February

GCSE Music Practical Examination



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Year 11 and 13 Parents' Afternoon

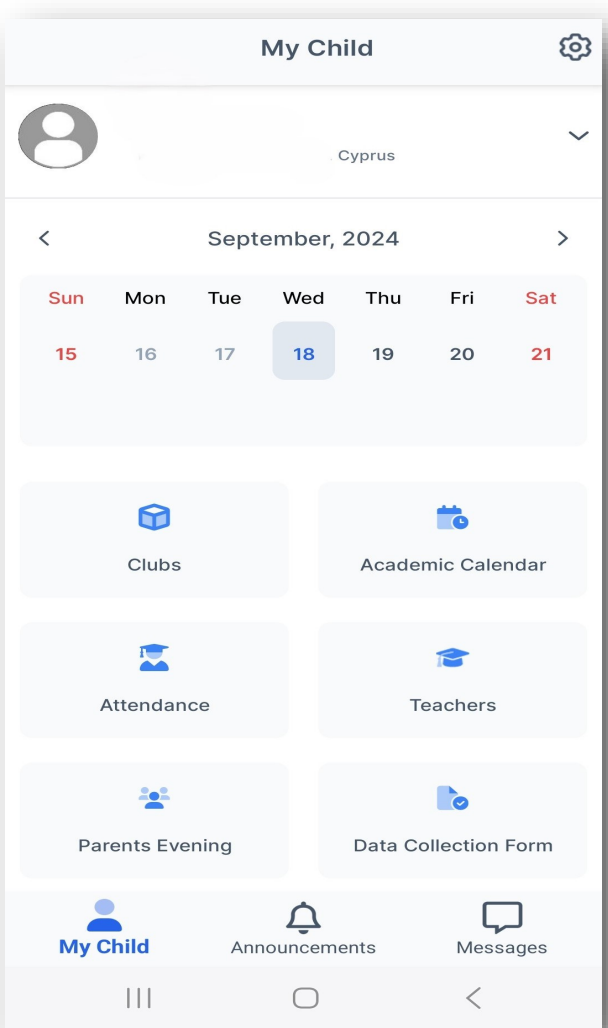
Thursday 30th January 1430—1700 hrs

We look forward to welcoming parents of our Year 11 and 13 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 recent mock examination results and next steps as they approach their final examinations which get underway in early May 2025.

Appointments must be made in advance of the Parents' Afternoon. Appointments can only be made through the My Child at School (MCAS) App. The appointment book will open on Monday 20th January at midday.

Please ensure you have registered to use the MCAS App in advance of Monday 20th January.

Once registered, to make your appointments, please visit the Parents Evening tab via the MCAS homepage after midday on Monday 20th 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



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Important Message About 'Kegging' – A Dangerous Practice

It has come to our attention that away from school some of our students are participating in a concerning practice known as "kegging", or sometimes known as 'Pantsing'. On occasions it has been reported that some of our students are 'Kegging' much younger children on the MUGA/Astro. We feel it is important to raise your awareness towards this practice to allow us to work together to ensure the safety and well-being of our children.

What is Kegging?

Kegging refers to a behaviour where individuals forcibly pull down another person's pants (and sometimes their underwear) as a prank or to cause embarrassment. While it may be intended as a joke, this act can cause humiliation, harm, and serious emotional distress. In some cases, it may even lead to physical injury or breaches of personal boundaries.

Why this is Serious

- Being targeted can leave children feeling embarrassed, anxious, or bullied.
- It can damage friendships, erode trust, and create an unsafe environment.
- Kegging can be used as a form of bullying and is technically the crime of assault and, in some cases, individuals have been charged with sexual assault.
- Incidents of kegging may result in significant consequences, including disciplinary measures under our school's anti-bullying policy or police involvement.

How We Can Work Together

We encourage you to talk to your child about the importance of respecting others' personal space and the potential consequences of kegging. Please emphasize the importance of empathy and understanding how actions intended as jokes can have serious repercussions for others.

At school, we are actively addressing this issue by:

Reinforcing our commitment to fostering a respectful environment.

Delivering a PSHE session on 'Kegging' and the impact this has on both victim and perpetrator.

Speaking to students about appropriate behaviour and personal boundaries.

Monitoring and responding promptly to any reported incidents.

If you have any concerns or need further advice, please feel free to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead Kate Parkinson at Kate.Parkinson@MODSchools.org



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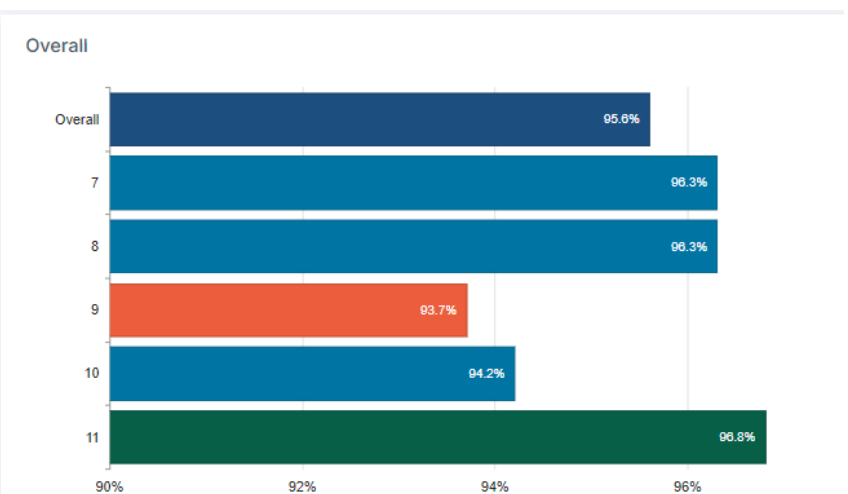
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School Attendance

The importance of good school attendance is well understood. As a school we are very near to our target of 96%, with attendance currently standing at 95.6%.

School Day Appointments

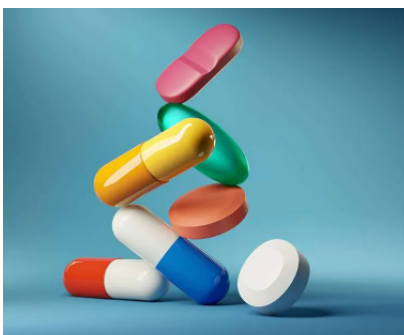
It is recognised that appointments must often be made during school hours and code this in accordance with statutory requirements. However, we would like to ask where possible if parents could provide the school with notice of appointments in advance of collecting students from school. Ideally, evidence of appointments should be presented and again, where it is possible to do this, we would be very grateful.



Illness at school

Regarding student attendance we would also be grateful if parents insist upon their child reporting to reception when they fall unwell. With greater frequency we are seeing students contacting parents requesting to be collected from school when unwell, leaving the school unaware. It goes without saying that students who fall unwell will be permitted to go home and parents will be contacted by reception. However, we are keen to support students who fall unwell at school in an effort to help them complete the school day and return to lessons where possible.

Medication in school



By way of a reminder please can we ask that students do not bring into school and carry upon them medication whether prescription or otherwise (for instance paracetamol).

Should a child require access to medication at school, it should be stored securely at our School Reception.



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Road Safety – Be Seen in The Dark!!

We have been made aware of a few near misses on both camps where drivers are unable to see children on their bikes or scooters due to them having no lights fitted and in dark clothing. We are very lucky in Cyprus to have long light days, but the dark can creep in very quickly. Please see some tips below to stay safe and be seen at night.

Light the way

- Make sure you have one front white light attached to your cycle, one rear red light, a red reflector at the back and four amber pedal reflectors.
- You'll need lights for cycling in the dark but it's also a good idea to turn them on if it's foggy or particularly dark during the daytime.
- Consider putting your rear light where it can always be seen, like attaching a permanent LED light to your pannier rack.
- It may also be worth keeping a backup set of lights at work and a spare set of batteries.
- Depending on where you're cycling, you might also need your lights to help you see where you're going.
- Make sure they're bright enough to light up the way, and gently angle the beam downwards at the road ahead, at an angle of around 3.5 degrees. This means you can see where you're going but won't blind oncoming traffic.
- The beam on the road also helps oncoming traffic see how far away you are, in contrast to a horizontal light which is harder to gauge.

Be Bright and Stand Out

Wearing brightly coloured reflective clothing is a good way to stand out on dark, rainy, or foggy days. You can get reflective jackets to ensure you're seen in the dark, or reflective accessories to attach to yourself or your bag.





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Senior Student Leadership Team

During the 2022-23 academic year we established our Student Leadership Team and just before Christmas we were successful in appointing our third Student Leadership Team who will now lead the student body for the next 12 months. Working closely with our School Leadership Team our student leaders are compiling their own Action Plan that will guide their work. Each Wednesday they will attend the Senior Leadership Team meeting with myself to discuss issues that are pertinent to the student body. Over the past two years I have been impressed by the work of the past two respective Student Leadership Teams and look forward to the impact of our newly appointed team.



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



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St John's School Writers

This term, Key Stage 3 students will be exploring the power of William Shakespeare's plays, with Year 7 studying 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', Year 8 studying 'The Tempest' and Year 9 studying 'Romeo and Juliet'. Ethan B in Year 7 has produced a fantastic fact sheet about The Bard!

William Shakespeare



Birth and Parents

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, where he was baptised on 26 April 1564. His date of birth is unknown but is traditionally observed on 23 April, Saint George's Day. Williams father was a successful glove maker while his mother was the daughter of an affluent landowning family.

School Life

William Shakespeare went to King's New School in Stratford which was about a quarter-mile (400 m) from his home. His school was a grammar school and the school would have provided an intensive education in grammar based upon Latin classical authors.

Family Life

At the age of 18 William Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway who at the time was 26 six months after the marriage Anne gave birth to a daughter, Susanna, baptised 26 May 1583. Twins, son Hamnet and daughter Judith, followed almost two years later and were baptised 2 February 1585.



The Beginning of Plays

It is not known definitively when Shakespeare began writing, but contemporary allusions and records of performances show that several of his plays were on the London stage by 1592. By then, he was sufficiently known in London to be attacked in print by the playwright Robert Greene in his Groat's-Worth of Wit from that year.

Shakespeare's Plays

All of Shakespeare's plays were histories, comedies, and tragedies. Some of his famous plays like Romeo and Juliet is a tragedies play while others like A Midsummer Night's Dream is a comedy play and Henry IV is a historical play.



Later Years And Death

Shakespeare died on 23 April 1616, at the age of 52. He died within a month of signing his will, a document which he begins by describing himself as being in 'perfect health'.