



Newsletter

28th February 2025 | Issue 100



Ministry
of Defence

Dear Families,

This edition of our weekly newsletter is our one hundredth and marks one hundred school weeks since I began the role of Headteacher here at St John's School. This personal milestone has provided an further opportunity for reflection and gratitude for the support afforded to me personally, and the school more widely, from everyone associated with our WSBA Secondary School. Together we have achieved a huge amount and I look forward to our future accomplishments over the coming one hundred weeks and beyond.



It has been a cold start to this half term, however it has been great to welcome the students back to school following the half term break. As expected, we squeezed a lot into this week with students benefitting from the expertise of the Chef to CBF who supported students in preparing for the Food exams that took place on Wednesday and Thursday. We welcomed parents of Year 7 students to school on Tuesday and saw off our Duke of Edinburgh Silver expedition on Thursday. Next week continues at this tempo with World Book Day being celebrated on Thursday and two school trips taking place, including one to the UK for Year 12 and one here in Cyprus for a large number of Year 11's as they undertake a wide range of Geography fieldwork activities.

Upcoming School Events

Week Commencing 3rd March

Week 1

All Week

National Careers Week 2025

Year 12 Design My Future Trip

Wednesday 5th March

Year 11 Geography Fieldwork

Aspire Programme Launch: Year 7 Parent Information Event @ 1500 hrs

Thursday 6th March

World Book Day

Year 11 Geography Fieldwork

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

Friday 7th March

Year 11 Geography Fieldwork

Week Commencing 10th March

Wednesday 12th March

DCS Peer Review of St John's School

Thursday 13th March

Parent Information Event: Year 9 Options Afternoon @ 1430 hrs

Friday 14th March

Comic Relief Non School Uniform Day €1 donation to Comic Relief

Week Commencing 17th March

Week 2

Monday 17th March

Year 11 Core Mock Examinations

Tuesday 18th March

Year 11 Core Mock Examinations

Thursday 20th March

SJS Coffee Morning 0800—1000 hrs

Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org

Post 16 Options : A Parent Information Event @ 1500 hrs

Friday 21st March

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition



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This week at St John's School



On Monday Cpl Jackson, the chef to the Commander of British Forces Cyprus visited St John's School to help train our Year 11 students studying Food Preparation at GCSE. Together they explored the different techniques that led to the fancy preparation and display of some staple vegetables.



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Our School Improvement Priorities



INTEGRITY • COMMITMENT • RESPECT

ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

SAFEGUARDING PROVISION

Safeguarding provision is **'exemplary'** and supports other MOD Schools in improving their provision.

EDUCATIONAL OFFER

The educational offer is consistently **'Good'** ensuring St John's School ranks in the **Top 5%** of schools nationally for student progress.

Eliminating educational disadvantage caused by mobility

ATTENDANCE

Student attendance is **above 96%**, exceeding the national average.

INCLUSION

The learning needs of our varied and diverse student community are effectively met through well planned lessons that provide **support and challenge**, underpinned by a caring pastoral ethos.

STUDENT MOBILITY

St John's School is a centre of best practice; eliminating educational disadvantage caused by mobility. **Student progress exceeds 0.38**

STAFF WELLBEING

Staff at St John's School feel valued and motivated by a shared moral purpose. There is a collective sense of achievement. **Employee turnover is less than 5%**

STUDENT SATISFACTION

Students are **highly satisfied** at St John's School, possessing an attitude towards their learning that exceeds that of all other students nationally.

COMMUNITY PRIDE

The community is **proud** of St John's School, celebrating the strengths and successes of a school which exceeds their child's previous school experience.



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Borneo Fundraising Meeting

Students are invited to attend the first group fundraising meeting to help them raise money for the upcoming expedition to Borneo. This meeting will take place on Monday 3rd March at 1400hrs in S13.

The meeting will enable students to ask any questions about their personal fundraising journey, as well as starting to plan the first group fundraising event. If you have any questions, please contact Miss Fox by email at Kimberley.Fox@MODSchools.org

Aspire Programme

Students in Year 7 were invited to an assembly earlier today introducing them to an exciting programme that is to be launched in September 2025. A supporting pamphlet is being brought home by students today and parents are cordially invited to a follow up presentation on Wednesday 5th March 2025 at 1500hrs in our Exams Room.



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

Leavers - Year 7 to 12

Sadly this academic year will see a significant number of students leave St John's School. We are aware that a number of you are starting to receive details of your next posting.

If you know you will be leaving us before the new academic year, please can you inform the School Office as soon as possible by completing a [Departure Form](#). This will help us ensure that your child has a smooth transition to their new school and that all the information required is prepared and ready to send across to them. This also includes children in Year 11. If you are unsure of exact dates, or currently do not have a school confirmed, please still complete the form as these details can be added at a later time.

If you have any queries regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Parkinson on 00357 2596 3888 or alternatively you can email at Kate.Parkinson@modschoools.org.





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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

Through their study of 'The Tempest', Year 8 explore the complexities of colonialism and imperialism through the relationship between Prospero and his slave, Caliban.

What follows is a highly -accomplished soliloquy, written by Sophiella, which explores Caliban's deep frustration at the hands of Prospero.

Caliban's Soliloquy

For all the cold carried by the wind, on Prospero fall and make his bones give into a painful stillness of winter in high altitude and spare him of no agony, so that when he should descend to reside within the smallest circle of hell, the torture shall be all the more maddening.

His spirits hear me and yet I must still curse.

But they'll not impale my fingertips with nails, knock me down upon the ground with splintered planks, tie me to place until day becomes night so the birds may prey at my skin and, if the birds so not mar my flesh enough, tear pieces from my skin in aching portions.

But for every trifle they set upon me; sometimes like phantoms, they visit me in the dark and, like a waking nightmare, whisper incessant macabre in my ears so I lay sleepless until daybreak; the horror amplified by the repeating compressions of my ribcage so all my innards squirm for freedom and nearly greet death.

When day does show itself, they do not allow me sustenance and my eyes hardly open as the spirits pry my eyes open throughout my resting nights, making it so that my eyes dry excruciatingly and have no strength to stay vigilant and avoid their tirade of attacks.

