# ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

2 OCTOBER 2023 WEEK A



On Thursday we held our Open Evening and were proud to welcome Year 5 and 6 students into school to experience what life at St John's is really like. From Gothic Literature in English to Trampolining in PE, treasure hunting in Maths and an Addams Family medley in Performing Arts, it was a busy and exciting evening and we loved showing what it means to be part of our learning community.



Well done to our students

and their parents/carers for their enthusiasm, support and expertise in the KS3 Photography Competition. The Art Department have received an overwhelming number of stunning images from almost 150 participants. The difficult task of selecting the internal winners within school is now underway and entries will then be submitted for the Trust-wide competition. Winners and entrants for the Trust-wide competition will be announced next week.

### A WORD FROM LISA BYRON. HEADTEACHER

This week we have been focusing on road safety and talking to our students about the importance of being alert and careful when walking to school or getting off the school bus. Year 7 also had a visit and talk from The Road Safety Team at Durham County Council and listened carefully to the important messages delivered. St John's is situated on a busy road with a lot of traffic, and so we want our students to be extra vigilant on their journey to and from school. Please take the time to chat to your child(ren) about this and explain the importance of avoiding distractions such as mobile phones and earphones which may prevent them from hearing oncoming traffic. This is especially prevalent as the mornings and evenings become darker.

## SPORTING NEWS

On Friday, students competed in a multi-skills event hosted at King James School. Well done to all who took part and in particular to the medal winners in badminton, Max Abbott, Harvey Marsh and Jake Oswin, and football where the Year 8 girls placed first and the Year 8 boys came in fifth place.







Last academic year, the Year 7, 8 and 10/12 combined teams all won the South West Durham Netball School League consisting of 12 secondary schools. They were all unbeaten and the Year 9 team were runners-up only narrowly missing out to Sedgefield, the only team to beat them (and by only 3 goals). This was a fantastic achievement by all of the teams and we enjoyed celebrating their success last week with a photo shoot.



# → COMING UP THIS WEEK

Monday 2- In a bid to promote punctuality and good attendance, we are introducing a new morning system for student lateness. If a student arrives to school after 8.50am which is when the day officially starts, they will receive a late negative on ClassCharts. Three negatives for lateness will trigger a meeting with their tutor or Head of Year to discuss the issues with getting to school. Five lateness negatives will result in an after-school detention. Please note, this will not apply to those students who may be late due to their school bus being late.

Wednesday 4- School Production 'Launch', 3.20-4.20pm in the Main Hall. Any students wishing to be involved in this year's summer production should come along to find out more about which show we are doing, the audition process and how to be involved, as well as a little sing-a-long. After the success of last year's Addams Family, we cannot wait to get started on this year's exciting show! Friday 6- Staff Retreat. A group of our staff members are heading to the Emmaus Village after school on Friday for a staff retreat where they will spend time together reflecting and taking some time-out from their busy lives. Saturday 7- The Butterfly Performance, 7pm in Bishop Auckland Market Place. The Butterfly is a free outdoor light installation and performance for all the family, with live and recorded music and large-scale puppets, produced by local community arts organisation, Daisy Arts. St John's Choir are performing at this event and it would be wonderful to see people coming along to support.



## LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS









## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Thursday 12 October- Sixth Form Open Evening, 5.30-6.30pm
- Friday 13 October- Year 12 Retreat
- Thursday 19 October- SEND Parent Info Session- Autism, 4-5.30pm
- Friday 20 October- School Closed to students for INSET. Half Term begins
- Monday 30 October- School reopens after Half Term
- Monday 30 October- Year 11 Mocks
- Friday 3 November- Lourdes Family Ouiz
- Friday 24 November Disaggregated INSET Day, school closed.
- □ Thursday 30 November- Year 11 **Progress Eve**

## I Heard a Whisper...

We had another week of celebrating our wonderful staff and sharing the amazing ways they've been going above and beyond recently.

Well done this week to Mr Quigley (Head of Art), Susie our Parent Support Advisor, Miss Batty (Head of Social Sciences)



and Mrs Thompson (Head of Sixth Form) who have all received lovely nominations and received a sweet treat in their pigeon holes. Thank you to all who take the time to send us these nominations, it really does mean a great deal. If you would like to nominate a member of staff for any reason, drop us an email at iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk

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