ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

8 SEPTEMBER 2025 WEEK B



It was a joy to celebrate the fantastic results of our Year 13 and Year 11 students at their results days in August. Our students' hard work, dedication and resilience really had paid off and we had some fantastic success stories to celebrate and share, including being in the top four sixth form colleges in County Durham for our A Level results. A huge well done once again to all of our students who we are incredibly proud of and we know will soar in their next



steps, whether that be university, the world of work, apprenticeships or our very own Sixth Form.



Over the summer, we were delighted to welcome our brand new Year 7 students into school for their Summer School, the perfect way for them to transition from primary to secondary school. Our students threw themselves into every activity- from graffiti art to jewellery making, from fruit creations to den building, and from Dragons' Den to our very own Summer Olympics, football and rounders. It was fantastic to see them living out

all of our school virtues throughout, showing great resilience, compassion, respect, creativity, kindness and determination in everything they did! We are so proud of how well our new Year 7s have transitioned into our school community throughout the Summer School and in their first week at St John's, and we cannot wait to see what amazing things they achieve.

We are once again proud to be able to offer our students an exciting and varied Enrichment Programme for this academic year, featuring over 70 clubs across lunchtime and after school. This year we are focusing on opportunities and aspirations, and we encourage all of our students to take the fantastic experiences on offer for them through enrichment. From board games to badminton, karaoke to coding- there really is something for everyone and we are loving seeing our students throw themselves into life at St John's! The Enrichment Programme for the Autumn 1 term has been sent to all parents and carers, so please join us in encouraging your child to get involved.



A WORD FROM LISA BYRON. HEADTEACHER

It was wonderful to welcome all of our students and staff back to school last week, and what a fantastic first week it was. Our students have returned with superb attitudes to learning, focus, enthusiasm and excellent engagement, and we have really set the tone for a year of great success. This year we are focusing more than ever on opportunities and aspirations, encouraging our students to make the most of all of the experiences and opportunities offered to them at St John's and to set their sights high with their aspirations. It can be disheartening to read in the news about the widening attainment gap between the North East and elsewhere, but we refuse to allow our postcode to be a ceiling for success. We will continue to encourage, nurture and guide our students to reach their full potential and be the very best versions of themselves.

It was also wonderful to officially welcome our new Year 7 students into our learning community last week, and we have all been so impressed with their work ethic, manners, organisation and resilience so far. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend an official welcome to our new Year 7 parents and carers, as well as the Year 12 parents and carers of any new students joining us for the first time in our Sixth Form. We are delighted to now have you all as part of our learning community, and we look forward to working in partnership for the benefit of our young people. Here's to another fantastic year!

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Monday 8 September- Our after school clubs begin this week. All are free to attend and most will finish at 4.30pm unless stated otherwise. Students do not need to sign-up in advance but can just turn up and get involved!

Monday 8 September- Following a successful first week, our Year 7 students will continue to be escorted to their lessons on Monday, but will then be allowed to make their own way around from Tuesday.

Here at St. John's, instrumental and vocal tuition is provided by Durham Music Service. Options available are: brass, woodwind, string, guitar, piano, voice and drum kit. If your child is interested in learning to sing or play an instrument, please email rbell@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk for more details. Spaces are limited and your child may be put on a waiting list.

LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS



ohns.bhcet.org. and Instagram out of school. If your child has Facebook at on our Headteacher, for it to be posted both in and achievements, happy are 2 students' to share with us and photo, σ share our long v and iike i $\overline{\sigma}$ to celebrate they would email please (love success oages, Me−



















ClassCharts Year 7 Top **Achievers**

Kenton T 7J Athena A 7J Annie B 7J Sophia-Marie T 7J Rhuben C 7J

Year 8 Top **Achievers**

Jenson C 8J Hannah K 8A Riley R 8J Finlay K 8J Noah R 8J

Year 9 Top **Achievers**

Brooklyn H 9A Anthony H 9Y Oli K 90 Jack S 9A Harley G 9A

Year 10 Top **Achievers**

Kobe C 10M Matthew W 10R Esther L 10J Jacob D 10J Tejaswi S 10A

Year 11 Top **Achievers**

Freddie C 11A Darci W 110 Eva N-D 11H Eden S 11J Seb G 11M

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ☐ Wednesday 17 September- Year 10 Information Evening
- ☐ Wednesday 24 September- Year 11 Information Evening
- ☐ Tuesday 30 September- Open Evening for Year 5 and Year 6 students and families
- ☐ Wednesday 1 October- Year 9 Information
- ☐ Wednesday 8 October- Year 12 Information
- ☐ Wednesday 15 October- Year 13 Information
- ☐ Wednesday 15 October- Year 8 Residential
- ☐ Wednesday 22 October- Year 8 Information Evening
- ☐ Friday 24 October- Staff Inset- school closed to students. Half term begins

🔊 1 Heard a Whisper...

At St John's we are extremely lucky to have an amazing group of staff who consistently go above and beyond to support, guide, nurture and inspire our students, families and each other. We believe this is something to celebrate, and so two years ago we set up 'I Heard a Whisper' with a dedicated email address so parents, students and colleagues can send emails of thanks to a member of staff they think deserves a special mention and a sweet treat.

We look forward to receiving many more wonderful nominations this year, so please get in touch at:

iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk

"The staff at St John's have nurtured our children and given them the skills and confidence they need for the next chapter"

"St John's staff have really supported me all the way through school including through some of my most difficult moments in my personal life'

"St John's has really help me to grow. I feel like I have become the person I an today because of the people and my experiences at St John's"

"It's obvious how much heart goes into creating a community where children can grow in character as well as learning. We feel grateful, inspired and even more confident that our daughter is in a place where she's truly seen and supported'

"The staff have gone above and beyond to support me"







