ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

22 SEPTEMBER 2025 WEEK B



Last week we held a special reward breakfast for 85 of our Year 11 students who achieved five or more GCSEs, including English and Maths, in their mock exams, the currency needed to get into our Sixth Form. This was a fantastic achievement for our students in



their first round of mock exams back in June, and is extremely promising for their outcomes in the summer as they continue to work hard and make excellent progress. Students enjoyed pastries and fruit in the Sixth Form Bistro and chatted to current Sixth Form students about life post-GCSEs. We look forward to continuing to work with our students to support their next steps, as well as offering more rewards in the coming months for progress, improvement and attainment.

On Thursday, some of our Liturgy Leaders had the privilege of attending a Recommissioning Mass for school chaplains across our diocese at St Mary's Cathedral. Bishop Stephen celebrated Mass, recognising the vital role chaplains play in the life of our schools. We especially gave thanks for our wonderful chaplain, Emma, whose dedication, compassion, and faith continue to inspire our whole school community. Our students were brilliant representatives for St John's, and a

special mention to Matthew who read so well during the Mass.

On Wednesday, 65 of our Year 11 students visited Beamish, where they explored the 1900s town through an immersive investigation into the death of Eva Smith from An Inspector Calls. The trip, the first of its kind for any school to take part in, deepened their understanding of the historical context for their



GCSE text and helped them engage with the themes and ideas behind the play. Our students were exceptional throughout the day and were fantastic ambassadors for St John's, with Beamish staff commenting on their engagement, manners and behaviour.



It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Henry Barber, son of teacher, colleague and friend Mr Barber. Henry died peacefully with his parents holding his hands, following a



brave battle with neuroblastoma. His infectious curiosity, love of stories and beautiful smile will live on in all who knew him. As a staff we began the new school year with a liturgy dedicated to Henry's memory, and we continue to keep Henry, Mr Barber and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

Last Week's Attendance Figures:

Year 7: 96.2%, Year 8: 93.5% Year 9: 90.9%, Year 10: 93% Year 11: 91.8%

We have noticed a decline in our attendance on a Friday. It can be difficult to adjust to the school term and the demands of a school week, but missing each Friday will accumulate to a fifth of the school year, and that means missing a fifth of all learning. Even missing just two days a month adds up to nearly 20 days a year; that's a month of missed learning. Our Friday lunchtime Karaoke Club is a great way to wind down at the end of the week and have fun with friends, and all are welcome to attend.



We had two great opening matches for two of our sports' teams last week. The Year 9 Rugby team played some great games in the Cleveland Schools' Competition, winning two of their three matches. Meanwhile, our Year 8 Football team started their TUC Cup campaign in style with a 6-7 win on penalties against a tough Hermitage Academy side. We are extremely proud of both of these excellent teams who have made great starts.



TOMING UP THIS WEEK

Monday 22 September- Students in Years 7-9 will require outdoor PE kit and footwear suitable for the field for all of their lessons this week.

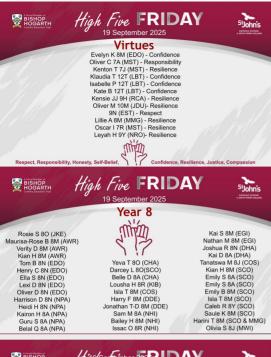
Wednesday 24 September- Year 11 Information Evening, 5pm. Parents and carers of Year 11 students are warmly invited to attend our Information Evening focused on revision, exams, next steps and key dates for the upcoming year, as well as a chance to speak to the Head of Year and external support services.

Friday 26 September- Year 12 Chemistry Project with Durham University. Students are embarking on their first practical part of their Tuberculosis Drug design on Friday. We wish them the best of luck with this important scientific work.

LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS



and Instagram iohns.bhcet. out of school. If your child has Facebook at on our Headteacher, for it to be posted both in and achievements, are happy to Mrs students' to share with us and photo, σ and share our long \ like t $\overline{\sigma}$ بـــ to celebrate they would I email please love success Me−











ClassCharts Year 7 Top **Achievers**

Betsy W 7N Jack R 7A Dinny A7M Harry S 7H Lainey-May J 7R

Year 8 Top **Achievers**

Ethan-James O 8R Ella S 8N Issac O 8R Harrison D 8N Joshua R 8N

Year 9 Top **Achievers**

Summer B 9H Kelly-Ann C 9Y Ellie-Rose F 9J Constance C 9N Sienna N 9A

Year 10 Top **Achievers**

Trevor B 10J Thomas K 10R Chloe W 10O Thailia A 10M Thomas T 10A

Year 11 Top **Achievers**

Chloe H 11A Kristian W 11R Nadia R 11M Chloe D 11A Tianna D 11Y

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ☐ Tuesday 30 September- Open Evening for Year 5 and Year 6 students and families, 5.30-7.30pm (Headteacher talks at 5.30pm and 6.30pm)
- ☐ Wednesday 1 October- Year 9 Information Evening, 5pm
- ☐ Wednesday 8 October- Year 12 Information Evening, 5pm
- ☐ Thursday 9 October- Sixth Form Open Evening, 5.30-7.30pm
- ☐ Wednesday 15 October- Year 13 Information Evening, 5pm
- ☐ Wednesday 15 October- Year 8 Residential Retreat
- ☐ Wednesday 22 October- Year 8 Information Evening, 5pm
- ☐ Friday 24 October- Staff Inset- school closed to students. Half term begins

🖔 I Heard a Whisper...

A school's greatest asset is the people within it, and time and time again students, parents and visitors comment on the warm and supportive atmosphere within St John's. It is why so many former students come back to visit and why many of our staff are actually former students of St John's. It is wonderful to read so many emails and comments which evidence this and thank staff for their hard work, commitment and nurturing, and we love sharing some of these each week. Well done this week to Mrs Noon (SENDCo), Mrs Robertson (Science) and Miss Giblin (LSA) who all received a sweet treat. If you would like to thank a member of staff and earn them a sweet treat in the process, email us at: iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk



Artist of the Week



Isabelle Parry 110









