

# ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

12 JANUARY 2026



## **A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values**

## WEEK A



## A WORD FROM LISA BYRON, HEADTEACHER

## Spotlight on... Enrichment

We are extremely proud to offer over 70 clubs to our students across lunchtime and after school, with something for everyone. Under the categories of STEM, Creative, and Community, The Arts, and Sports, there is something for everyone to get involved in.

STEM, Community and Catholic Life, The Arts, Cultural Capital, Wellbeing, Active Lifestyle, Academic Enrichment, we ensure all of our students

have access to a wide range of opportunities for every talent, hobby and passion. We encourage our students to attend as much enrichment as they can throughout the week, particularly at lunchtime. Not only can they have the chance to develop a new skill or hone an existing talent, they will also meet new people and develop interests in new things.

people and develop interests in new things. Every week our newsletter features the exciting opportunities and achievements enrichment can bring, and a brand new year and term is the perfect time to try something new.

Before Christmas we celebrated the amazing achievements of our Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh groups who received their certificates for completing their awards. As well as learning a new skill and keeping fit, the students showed real determination, resilience and great contributions to volunteering establishments, giving up a minimum of 1 hour every week to volunteer their time at places such as schools, allotments, churches, charity shops, team coaching, dance classes, and more. We are very proud of them all, especially for coping with the dreadful weather for approaching the process with positivity and just a few moans! We are now working hard on our Gold Award progress to their Silver and Gold Awards, and for a new cohort of students starting in January. Watch this space for news on our amazing Gold Award achievements.

Tuesday 20 January is our Careers Day within school. If any of our parents or carers would be willing to speak to some groups of students about their career, or know someone who would, please contact [jsomers@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk](mailto:jsomers@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk)



Also before Christmas, 230 of our students across Years 8, 9 and 10 had the opportunity to attend Bishop Auckland College to take part in some exciting enrichment sessions there. Our students took part in a range of amazing activities including E-Sports, Hairdressing, festive art, cooking up festive treats in Catering, making their own lip scrubs and face masks in Beauty, learning how to change a tyre in Motor Vehicles, learning how to build a wall in Construction, taking and developing their own photographs in the designated Photography studio and recording their own songs in the Music studio. Our students had a fantastic time, and we are so grateful to the wonderful staff at the College for allowing us to use their amazing facilities and give our students the chance to learn new skills and enrich their experiences. We look forward to more sessions later on in the year.



## COMING UP THIS WEEK

**Tuesday 13-** Year 9 Options Drop-In Evening, 4-6pm. We look forward to welcoming our Year 9 students into school along with their parents and carers to find out more about the subjects on offer for GCSE.

**Wednesday 14-** Little Shop of Horrors rehearsal for all cast until 4.30pm.

**Friday 16-** World Faith Day. World Religion Day takes place on Sunday 18 January. To mark this day, throughout this week students from Years 7-10 will study different religions within RE lessons and the week's Celebration of the Word will be focused on promoting the values of tolerance and respect. The week will culminate on Friday with a group of Year 10 students visiting Bishop Auckland College to experience firsthand Jewish practices through the use of their Immersive Suite.

**Looking Ahead:** Appointments will soon go live for our Year 12 and 13 Progress Evening on Thursday 29 January and Year 9 Progress Evening on Thursday 5 January. More information will be sent via MCAS.

# LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS



We love to celebrate and share our students' achievements, both in and out of school. If your child has a success they would like to share with us and are happy for it to be posted on our Facebook and Instagram pages, please email it, along with a photo, to Mrs Rose, Assistant Headteacher, at [mrose@stjohns.bhcert.org.uk](mailto:mrose@stjohns.bhcert.org.uk).

**High Five FRIDAY**  
9 January 2026

**Virtues**

- Jimmy-Joe Y 7M Compassion (RBE)
- April G 12S Confidence (NRO)
- Olivia F 12S Confidence (NRO)
- Daisy J 12S Confidence (NRO)
- Emily C 12S Confidence (NRO)
- Bobby E-A 11A Confidence (NRO)
- Lewis W 11A Confidence (NRO)
- Scarlett-Rose R 11O Responsibility (NRO)
- Nadia I 11M Responsibility (NRO)

Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Self-Belief, Confidence, Resilience, Justice, Compassion

A graphic for 'High Five FRIDAY' on January 9, 2026. It features the school crest of Bishop Hogarth Catholic Secondary School at the top left, the text 'High Five FRIDAY' in a large, stylized font, the date '9 January 2026' below it, and the text 'Year 9' in a large font. To the right is the St. John's Catholic School logo with the text 'St. John's CATHOLIC SCHOOL' and 'A NATIONALLY ACCREDITED PRIVATE SCHOOL'.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ❑ **Tuesday 20 January-** Whole School Careers Day
- ❑ **Monday 26 January-** Turing Scheme Trip to Geneva
- ❑ **Thursday 29 January-** Sixth Form Progress Eve
- ❑ **Thursday 5 February-** Year 9 Progress Eve
- ❑ **Monday 9 February-** Year 11 and 13 mocks
- ❑ **Wednesday 18 February-** Ash Wednesday Liturgies
- ❑ **Friday 20 February-** Break up for half term
- ❑ **Monday 2 March-** School reopens
- ❑ **Thursday 19 March-** Year 8 Progress Eve
- ❑ **Monday 23 March-** Year 10 and 12 mocks
- ❑ **Wednesday 25 March-** Jaquie Holloway Prize for Performing Arts
- ❑ **Thursday 19 March-** Year 8 Progress Eve

## *I Heard a Whisper...*

We had our first 'I Heard a Whisper' of 2026 last week, and we started the year with gratitude.

Well done to Ann Wake (Chair of Governors) and Fr David Coxon (Parish Priest), and Miss Allaway, Miss Bell and Mrs Balmer (LSAs) who were the recipients of last week's sweet treats.

We look forward to sharing many more nominations throughout the year, so drop us an email at if you would like to put forward a member of staff for a shout-out and treat.

[iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk](mailto:iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk)

## Artist of the Week



**Chloe Diaz, 11H**