



Thank you to all of our Year 9 parents and carers who came along to our Options Evening last week to find out about the subjects on offer for KS4. All Year 9 students have been emailed a link to the form to complete to choose their option subjects for next year. There is no rush to fill in the form straightaway, but it must be completed by Friday, 13 February. If students change their mind after they have submitted the form, they can simply fill it in again as many times as they need to until the form closes on Friday, 13 February. After this date they won't be able to change their option choices. All of the course information is available on our website via the link below:

<https://stjohns.bhcet.org.uk/our-school/the-curriculum#tab-318>

64 If you have any further questions, or were unable to attend and would like more information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

As part of the FutureMe programme, some of our Year 9 and 10 students took part in some workshops designed to build students' resilience and develop key skills that will support them

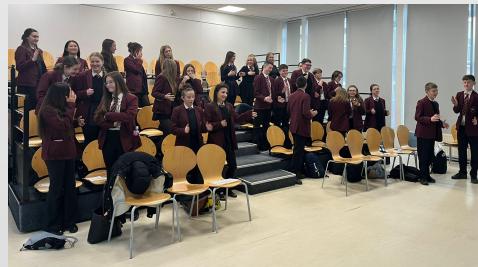


**Deadline for form completion: Friday, 13 February
Year 9 Progress Evening: Thursday, 5 February**

Mrs Pullen (Assistant Headteacher): cpullen@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk
Mrs Rose (Assistant Headteacher/ 9 Link): nrose@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk
Mr Coulthard (Head of Year 9): scoulthard@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk

in navigating their future steps. All sessions were created and delivered by Resilient Me and our students engaged extremely well with them, pushing themselves out of their comfort zones.

Sunday was World Religion Day, a day which promotes understanding, tolerance, and unity among all faiths. To mark this day, throughout last week students from Year 7 to 10 studied a different world religion in their RE lessons. Year 7 learnt about the festival of Diwali and how Hindus create rangoli patterns on the floor to welcome the goodness of wealth and prosperity, Lakshmi into their homes. Year 8 learnt about the importance of the lotus flower in Buddhism and how it is a symbol of spiritual enlightenment, purity and rebirth. Year 9 learnt about the Five Pillars of Islam and how each pillar for the foundation of a Muslim's life and studied Islamic art patterns. The week culminated on Friday with a group of Year 10 students visiting Bishop Auckland College to experience first hand Jewish practices through the use of their incredible Immersive Suite.



A WORD FROM LISA BYRON, HEADTEACHER

Spotlight on... Catholic Life

The Catholic life of our school is at the heart of everything we do and we are committed to nurturing a community where every student is encouraged to grow in faith, character and understanding.

Our school community continues to embody tolerance, unity and respect, creating an environment where all are welcomed and valued. Last week, our celebration of World Religion Day offered a powerful reminder of the importance of understanding and appreciating the beliefs of others. Through reflection, discussion and learning, students embraced the message of peace and unity that sits at the centre of both our Catholic identity and our wider British Values.

Our pastoral programme and weekly Celebration of the Word continue to reinforce these themes and these opportunities help deepen our students' understanding of faith, develop empathy and encourage them to put Gospel values into action in their everyday lives.

Together, we remain committed to forming young people who are not only academically successful, but who are also thoughtful, compassionate citizens ready to make a positive difference in our world.



COMING UP THIS WEEK

Tuesday 20- Whole school Careers Day. We are looking forward to another successful Careers Day at St John's. All students across the school will be off timetable and instead will be taking part in various activities, including workshops, team challenges, A Level taster sessions, talks from external speakers and work experience.

Wednesday 21- Little Shop of Horrors rehearsal for all cast until 4.30pm.

Wednesday 21- Year 11 Information Evening, 5.15-6.15pm. We invite all Year 11 students and their parents and carers to our Information Evening focused on revision and exam preparation and the support on offer.

Looking Ahead: Appointments are now live for our Year 12 and 13 Progress Evening on Thursday 29 January, and will go live this week for our Year 9 Progress Evening on Thursday 5 February.

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.bhcet.org.uk.

High Five FRIDAY
 16 January 2026

Virtues

High Five FRIDAY
 16 January 2026

Year 7

High Five FRIDAY
 16 January 2026

Year 8

High Five FRIDAY
 16 January 2026

Year 9

High Five FRIDAY
 16 January 2026

Year 10

High Five FRIDAY
 16 January 2026

Year 11

High Five FRIDAY
 9 January 2025

Year 12 and 13

High Five FRIDAY
 16 January 2026

Year 11

High Five FRIDAY
 16 January 2026

Year 7

High Five FRIDAY
 16 January 2026

Year 9

High Five FRIDAY
 16 January 2026

Year 8

High Five FRIDAY
 16 January 2026

Year 10

High Five FRIDAY
 16 January 2026

Year 11

High Five FRIDAY
 16 January 2026

Year 12 and 13

MFL Stars of the Week: Ava Mae Johnson (9N), Ethan Beswick (8J), Poppy Young (9M), Alfie Westgarth (7N)

ClassCharts
Year 7 Top Achievers

Grace W 7J
 Annie B 7J
 Darcie H 7R
 Layla W 7R
 Cassey M 7R

Year 8 Top Achievers

Kai D 8A
 Victoria B 8H
 James T 8H
 Caleb S 8H
 Samuel M 8A

Year 9 Top Achievers

Grace R 9R
 Poppy S 9Y
 Lydia-Rose H-W 9R
 Matty R 9O
 Bokani N 9O

Year 10 Top Achievers

Tejaswi S 10A
 Trevor B 10J
 Charlie G 10A
 Krystian K 10J
 Ewan R 10M

Year 11 Top Achievers

Hannah V 11A
 Nelle R 11R
 Kristian W 11R
 Jacob B 11A
 Zuzanna W 11J

Department Stars of the Week - 16/1

- Philosopher of the Week:** Finley Haigh 8O
- Reader of the Week:** Molly Ramsawh 7A
- Mathematician of the Week:** Kai Stephenson 8H
- Scientist of the Week:** Isabella Kirby 7O
- Linguist of the Week:** Leo Raine 7J
- Historian of the Week:** Eddie Deverell-Smith 7N
- Geographer of the Week:** Oliver Davies 8N
- Sportsperson of the Week:** Francesca Hayne 7J and Eliza Mounsey 7O
- Designer of the Week:** Natalia Tyers 8J
- Artist of the Week:** Ava Walker 9Y and Poppy Suddes 9Y
- Musician of the Week:** Issac O'Neil 8R
- Computer Scientist of the Week:** Artem Kozak 8J



St. John's
Catholic School & Sixth Form College

Artist of the Week



Zuzanna Wolosyk, 11J

I Heard a Whisper...

We love to hear from our parents and value their feedback, contributions and support. It's particularly wonderful when they take the time to share with us their praise and gratitude for members of staff.

Well done this week to Mr Harwood (Maths), Mrs Davis (LSA) and Mrs Hannant (Humanities) who have all received I Heard a Whisper nominations from parents.

We'd love to hear how a member of our staff has made a difference to you or your child. Drop us an email:

iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday 26 January-** Turing Scheme Trip to Geneva
- Thursday 29 January-** Sixth Form Progress Evening
- Thursday 5 February-** Year 9 Progress Evening
- Monday 9 February-** Year 11 and 13 mocks begin
- 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