



We were so pleased that our Year 4 pupils from our Catholic Feeder Primary schools were able to join us this week to share in a special Retreat Day. We had 170 students taking part in a range of activities across different prayer stations, focused on the theme of 'Build a Better World' linked to the principles of CAFOD. We hope all of the students had a wonderful day as part of our St John's community, and we look forward to welcoming them back soon.



We are so proud of 7A for their conduct on last week's trip to Auckland Palace. They fully immersed themselves in "Awful Auckland," exploring the not-so-pleasant side of Bishop Auckland's history. They then brought their learning to life by creating their own comic strips. This marks the first of our Year 7 trips to the Auckland Project. Over the next 7 weeks, each tutor group will have the same exciting opportunity to take part in this experience and we hope they engage in the opportunity as well as 7A did. Well done 7A, Miss Heads and Miss Giblin were extremely proud of you all; you were great ambassadors for St John's.



On Friday, all of Year 10 took part in mock interviews with professionals from a range of industries, including education providers, engineering firms and Bishop Auckland Council, as well as local independent companies too, some of whom were former students of St John's. Our students did an amazing job and the employers spoke very highly of our students, their attitudes, the quality of their responses and the school as a whole. Well done, Year 10 for being such great ambassadors and for doing yourselves and St John's proud. We know our students now feel more prepared for future interview situations, so thank you to all the employers involved and to Ms Somers, Dr Little and Hannah, our Careers Advisor, for their organisation of such a great morning.



Last week, three St John's students participated in the 2026 Durham School Golf Championships at Beamish Park. The event was very well attended, and the standard was exceptionally high. Although they did not quite qualify for the next round, the boys loved the competition and are already eager for next year. As a group of year 10 boys they came up against year 11 and 12 students and displayed fantastic golfing knowledge and etiquette. Excellent work Sam Johnston, Sam Ramsey and Emmanuel Reed; Mr Turnbull has even been inspired to try the sport following the boys' performance!



## A WORD FROM LISA BYRON, HEADTEACHER

### Spotlight on... Year 11 and Year 13

As exam season officially begins, I want to take a moment to recognise the tremendous focus and determination shown by our Year 11 and Year 13 students. Over recent weeks and months, they have demonstrated real commitment- attending revision sessions, engaging deeply in lessons and truly knuckling down as they prepare for the challenges ahead. Their hard work has not gone unnoticed, and we are incredibly proud of the mature and purposeful attitude they continue to show. We wish every one of them the very best of luck as their exams begin. This is an important milestone, and we have every confidence in their ability to rise to the occasion.

A special thank you must also go to our hard-working staff who continue to go above and beyond to support our young people, whether that be in the form of after-school and lunchtime intervention, weekend and holiday revision sessions, or always being on hand to offer guidance and support.

Alongside the hard work, we are also looking forward to the key dates that will allow us to celebrate them as individuals and as year groups: Year 13's Celebration Day and their Leavers' BBQ, Year 11's Celebration Day and their Prom, and of course the chance to applaud their achievements together on our Results Days in August. We are proud of how far they've come, and excited for all that lies ahead.



## COMING UP THIS WEEK

**Tuesday 5-** External exams begin for Year 11 and Year 13. We wish our students lots of luck and keep them in our thoughts and prayers as they begin this important time they have worked so hard towards.

**Tuesday 5-** Trust Padel competition. A group of our students will be representing St John's at a Trust Padel event, giving them the opportunity to try a brand new sport.

**Friday 8-** Year 13 Celebration Day. We look forward to our Year 13 Leavers' Mass at St Mary's Church, followed by celebrations with our students back at St John's.

**Sunday 10-** Super Sunday English Revision, 10am-12pm. All of Year 11 are encouraged to come along for this Literature revision session before their first English exam on Monday 11 May.

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

## High Five FRIDAY

1 May 2026

### Virtues

Jess B 12T Responsibility (ERA)  
Isla D 12S Responsibility (ERA)  
Olivia F 12S Responsibility (ERA)  
Daisy J 12S Responsibility (ERA)  
Lucy O 12S Responsibility (ERA)  
Abbie C 7H Confidence (SGO)  
Nancy T 9R (RCA & SCO)  
Julia B 9R (RCA & SCO)

GCSE Drama Students- Self-Belief and Confidence  
Silver DoE Students- Confidence and Resilience

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

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## High Five FRIDAY

1 May 2026

### Year 7

Lily B 7O (LCU)  
Oscar I 7R (LCU)  
Mya P 7M (HHA)  
Jimmy-Joe Y 7M (HHA)

Sadie G 7A (ERO)  
Nola C 7Y (COS)  
Eddie D-S 7N (CLI)  
Jonathan B 7N (SGO)  
Annie L 7V (SGO)

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## High Five FRIDAY

1 May 2026

### Year 8

Beau W 8O (JKE)  
Finley H 8O (JKE)  
Claudia M 8O (JKE)  
Rosie S 8O (JKE)  
Holly A 8O (JKE)  
Darcy L 8O (JKE)  
Aimee H 8O (JKE)  
Callum S 8O (JKE)  
Hannah L 8Y (ASP)  
Oliver C 8J (COS)  
Hannah K 8A (CHA)  
Savannah S 8O (CHA)  
Jonnice T 8Y (VNI)

Artem K 8J (LCU)  
Olivia S 8J (LCU)  
Jayden C 8R (LCU)  
Chase M 8A (LLA)  
Thomas A 8A (LLA)  
Dominik S 8M (LLA)  
Amelia F 8R (LLA)  
George A 8M (LLA)  
Alex T 8O (SGO)  
Leo G 8O (SGO)  
Katie G 8J (MHA)  
Isabella T 8J (MHA)  
Clayton N 8N (MHA)

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## High Five FRIDAY

1 May 2026

### Year 9

Olivia B 9J (JKE)  
Milana D 9J (JKE)  
Ivy R 9A (SGO)  
Riley TW 9M (SEB)  
Dawid P 9J (SEB)  
Lucy Corn. 9J (NRO)

Lorna B 9R (HHA)  
Finley G 9A (HHA)  
Tom A 9Y (CHA)  
Ella W 9N (CHA)  
Frankie B 9J (CHA)  
Ava T 9H (CHA)

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## High Five FRIDAY

1 May 2026

### Year 10

Anna R 10N (JKE)  
Aidan C 10O (JKE)  
Olivia J 10J (JKE)  
Brooke W 10M (VNI & EST)  
Nathan A 10J (LLA)  
Alesha Z 10O (LLA)  
Kodi S 10N (LLA)  
Aela W 10O (LLA)  
Thomas K 10R (EST)  
Brooke T 10R (EST)  
Sienna T 10A (EST)  
Daisy L R (EST)  
Nathan K 10M (EST)  
Tejaswi S 10A (EST)

Ryan D 10A (LCU)  
Luke F 10J (LCU)  
Mylvee A 10Y (HHA)  
Connor A 10Y (HHA)  
Oliver B 10Y (CHA & EST)  
Amelia C 10Y (EST)  
Macey B 10Y (EST)  
Harrison M 10M (EST)  
Mason G 10Y (EST)  
Sophie R 10M (EST)  
Alfie W 10A (EST)  
Ava A 10M (EST)  
Matthew W 10R (EST)  
Eve B 10R (EST)  
Millie W 10M (EST)

Isabelle D 10Y (SGO)  
Rosie G 10M (SEB & EST)  
Raine N 10M (SEB)  
Molly N 10R (SEB)  
Logan P 10N (KRE)  
Lewis G 10O (KRE)  
Clara J 10R (EST)  
Leah W 10A (VNI)  
Callie T 10R (VNI)  
Esther L 10J (NRO)

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## High Five FRIDAY

1 May 2026

### Year 11

Neve E 11O (SEB)  
Joshua W 11M (SEB)  
Ethan W 11R (LCU)  
Teddy M 11H (HHA)  
Alex U 11J (HHA)  
Ava T 11R (CHA)  
Jack B 11N (NRO)  
Bobby E-A 11A (NRO)

Freddie C 11A (NRO)  
Lewis W 11A (NRO)  
Eve M 11R (NRO)  
Lexi B 11R (NRO)  
Harry B 11Y (NRO)  
Hannah S 11H (NRO)  
Grace B 11O (NRO)  
Skye H 11O (NRO)  
Nadia I 11M (NRO)  
Eden W 11Y (NRO)

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## High Five FRIDAY

1 May 2026

### Year 12

Olivia F 12S (HTH)  
Imogen M 12S (HTH)  
Isaac C 12T (HTH)  
Niamh C 12T (HTH & HHA)

Finn H 12S (EST)  
Beth K 12T (EST)  
Sophie R 12T (RCA)  
Olivia E 12 12S (RCA)  
Jamiee 12S (RCA)  
Lucas E 12S (RCA)

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## High Five FRIDAY

1 May 2026

### Year 13

Alfie J 13R (HTH)  
Faye G 13E (HTH)  
Neve R 13C (HTH)  
Issac S 13R (HTH)

Jack R 13C (NRO & RBE)  
Ruby W 13A (NRO & RBE)  
Evan M 13E (NRO & RBE)

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### ClassCharts

#### Year 7 Top Achievers

Joseph H 7J  
Cameron W 7O  
Richie M 7M  
Archie P 7M  
Luca C 7R  
Katherine J 7J

#### Year 8 Top Achievers

Nathan P 8J  
Kai D 8A  
Tommy-Lee C 8O  
Wayne L 8R  
Callum B 8R  
Jenson C 8J

#### Year 9 Top Achievers

Grace R 9R  
Milana D 9J  
Ava T 9H  
Lilly J 9H  
Neve O 9J  
Frankie B 9J

#### Year 10 Top Achievers

Connor A 10Y  
Michelle E 10Y  
Trevor B 10J  
Chloe W 10O  
Leon B 10M  
Alesha Z 10O

#### Year 11 Top Achievers

Madelyn A 11N  
Joshua W 11M  
Noah L 11R  
Hannah B 11R  
Hannah V 11A  
Robert B 11R



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday 18 May- Year 10 Work Experience
- Wednesday 20 May- Year 7 Retreat
- Friday 22 May- Break up for half term
- Thursday 21 May- Year 13 Leavers' BBQ
- Monday 1 June- School reopens
- Monday 15 June- Year 5 Week 1
- Wednesday 17 June- Year 11 Celebration Day
- Monday 22 June- Year 5 Week 2
- Thursday 25 June- Virtue Awards
- Tuesday 30 June- Year 11 Prom
- Thursday 2 July- Year 6 Welcome Evening
- Monday 6/ Tuesday 7 July- Little Shop of Horrors school production
- Thursday 9/ Friday 10 July- Year 6 Induction
- Tuesday 14 July- Whole school liturgies
- Friday 17 July- Break up for Summer
- Wednesday 2 September- School reopens for all students



## I Heard a Whisper...

Dedication doesn't stop at the classroom door. Our staff create opportunities, open minds, build confidence and give students experiences that shape who they become. The extra hours, the encouragement, the patience, the creativity- it all makes our Learning Community the wonderful place it is. So thank you to our staff who, not only teach, but continue to believe, inspire, listen, support, guide, nurture, motivate and celebrate. Well done last week to Mr Turnbull (Head of PE), Michael Stephenson (Learning Mentor) and Thomas Young (Learning Mentor/ Turing Scheme Lead) who all received a sweet treat.

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



## Artist of the Week



Harry Blackett, 11Y



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