



We had a wonderful evening before half term at our Year 13 leavers' BBQ, reliving memories and celebrating two years of hard work, fun and friendship with a fantastic year group. We wish our students lots of luck as their exams continue over the next few weeks, before they leave St John's once and for all for their exciting next steps.



This year has seen some incredible achievements for our Duke of Edinburgh students, a qualification we value greatly in St John's and which continues to grow from strength to strength. The Year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh group successfully completed their practice expedition earlier this month and our staff passed on that it was a privilege to support the group as they navigated their way up and down the hills of Weardale on their very first DofE expedition. Our Year 10 students also took part in their practice Silver expedition in Osmotherley where the group navigated a route along the Despite cold conditions and sore shoulders, our groups displayed incredible dedication and resilience to these expeditions and we could not be prouder of them. We look forward to their final expeditions later this term.



On our final afternoon before half term, we held our House celebration for the House with the most points from ClassCharts points and House competitions so far this year. A huge well done to Aidan House who received their reward of an ice cream, along with those students on 100% attendance so far this year. As a special treat for our Year 11 students for their hard work through their exams so far, they also enjoyed an ice cream and some time relaxing in the sunshine with friends. The perfect day to end the half term and celebrate so many achievements.



## COMING UP THIS WEEK

**Monday 1-** We look forward to welcoming all students back to school after what we hope was a lovely half term. Exams continue for our Year 11 and 13 students and we continue to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

**Wednesday 3-** All cast are needed for this week's Little Shop of Horrors rehearsal, **until 5pm.**

With just over a month to go, it is vital that cast members check their rehearsal schedule for all upcoming rehearsals and attend all where they are needed: [Rehearsal Schedule](#)

**Wednesday 3-** Soar and Explore Expression of Interest deadline. Parents of students in Years 7-9 should refer to the letter sent in the Arbor app and via email for the form to complete to register your child's interest in the 2027 trips for our Soar and Explore initiative: [Expression of Interest Form](#)



## A WORD FROM LISA BYRON, HEADTEACHER

### Spotlight on... Soar and Explore

At St John's we are always looking at ways to add to our enrichment programme. Following feedback from parents/carers and students, and in a bid to improve our cultural enrichment offering further, we have launched an exciting new initiative: Soar and Explore.

Our Soar and Explore calendar will see four brand new capital city trips added to an annual calendar, providing parents/carers with the ability to plan ahead, whilst offering a brand-new cultural visit to each year group in Years 7-10. These visits will supplement our current provision which includes the Turing Scheme, Project Peru (Sixth Form), Ski Trip (Year 11) and departmental/sporting trips.

Parents of students in Years 7-9 have been sent expression of interest forms via Arbor and email for the 2027 trips, and the deadline for completion is Wednesday 3 June. Expressions of interest for the 2028 trips, including Rome, will be sent in October.

Parents of current Year 6 students who will be joining us in September will find out about how to register interest for next year's Year 7 trip to London on our Induction Day in July.

If you have any queries regarding any of the trips or the Soar and Explore Programme, please contact Mrs Rose, Assistant Headteacher.

On Wednesday 29 April, 18 students from Years 7 and 8 participated in the UKMT Junior Maths challenge. This consisted of a 60-minute, 25 question, multiple choice exam, testing their deep understanding of maths and challenging their problem solving and lateral thinking skills. We are extremely proud of all of the students who took part, and each received a certificate from UKMT and enjoyed a cake break with Miss Byron to celebrate their achievements. A big well done to Miles Martin, who achieved a silver award and "Best in Year" for Year 7. In Year 8, two students achieved a gold award, and will now represent St John's in the Junior Kangaroo, a massive congratulations to Francesca Saunders and Nathan Pallister!



# 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**  
22 May 2026

**Virtues**

Lily N 10A Responsibility (EST)  
Tia - Rose S 10J Responsibility (EST)  
11X2 and 11Y2 RE Classes Resilience (EST)  
Brooklyn H 9A Resilience and Self Belief (EST)  
Olivia B 9J Compassion (EMO)  
Lucy S 10A Responsibility (RCA)  
Sophia C 10R Responsibility (RCA)  
Lucy J 9M Self-belief (RCA)

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

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**High Five FRIDAY**  
22 May 2026

**Year 7**

Dinny A 7M (IAI & HHA)  
Clinton M 7Y (IAI)  
Harrison S 7N (IAI)  
Francesca H 7J (EMO)  
Andreas F 7J (EMO)  
Toby H 7J (EMO)  
Rhuben C 7J (EMO)  
Isla T 7Y (DDE)  
Constance A 7R (DDE)  
Daisy G 7R (DDE)  
Oscar I 7R (DDE)  
Miles M 7A (LMH)  
Isaac W 7Y (LMH)  
Lucy E 7M (LMH)

Ruby-Sue S 7O (SGO)  
Isobel M 7Y (COS)  
Oscar H 7H (COS)  
Vogue T 7H (COS)  
Cameron W 7O(DHA)  
Ellis W 7A (DHA)  
Honey T 7M (HHA)  
Naomi D 7A (SEB)  
Ella B 7A (SEB)  
Luca C 7R (JKE)  
Francesca B 7U (OWA)  
Year 7 students on Retreat

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**High Five FRIDAY**  
22 May 2026

**Year 8**

Francesca S 8O (JKE & IAI)  
Issac O 8R (IAI)  
Belal Q 8A (IAI)  
Nathan M 8M (IAI)  
Heidi R 8O (IAI)  
Ethan L 8J (IAI)  
Nathan P 8J (IAI)  
Rosie S 8O (IAI)  
Nathan M 8M (LMH)  
Lillie A 8M (LMH)  
Gabriel M 8M (LMH)  
Kian H 8M (LMH)

Leo G 8O (SGO)  
Hope T 8N (MMI)  
Ella S 8N (DHA)  
Poppy S 8Y (DHA)  
Jenson C 8J (SEB)  
Sophie D 8A (SEB)  
Harrison D 8N (OWA)  
Tanatissa M 8J (OWA)  
Jessica B 8J (OWA)  
Heidi B 8J (OWA)  
Guru S 8A (CHA)  
Henry C 8N (DDE)  
Tom B 8N (DDE)

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**High Five FRIDAY**  
22 May 2026

**Year 9**

Leon W (9A) EBA  
Imogen K (9J) EBA  
Alfie L-W 9H (IAI)  
Kea-S W 9N (IAI)  
Evie P 9A (IAI)  
Tommy-S K 9J (IAI)  
Brooklyn H 9A (ERO)  
Ava T 9H (DDE)  
Tylor S 9Y (DDE)  
Harry M 9J (DDE)  
Ella W 9J (DDE)  
Chloe C 9N (DHA)  
Sienna N 9Y (DHA)

Eady T 9A (ERO)  
Kea-Shenell W 9A (ERO)  
Maisy N 9A (ERO)  
Isla S 9M (HHA)  
Tom C 9A (HHA)  
Kole S 9H (SEB)  
Ava W 9Y (SEB)  
Lucy J 9M (MVI)  
Thomas H 9R (LMH)  
Lola M 9N (LMH)  
Christina J 9N (LMH)

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**High Five FRIDAY**  
22 May 2026

**Year 10**

Filip Z 10R (HHA)  
Sophia C 10R (HHA)  
Lucy S 10A (HHA)  
Kate T 10Y (NRO)  
Year 10 on successful completion of Work Experience

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**High Five FRIDAY**  
22 May 2026

**Year 11**

Monica M 11O (HHA)  
Chloe H 11N (HHA)  
Hannah M 11N (HHA)  
Teddy M 11N (HHA)  
Lewis A 11N (HHA)  
All of Year 11 for their hard work and commitment to exams

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**High Five FRIDAY**  
22 May 2026

**Year 12**

Isaac C 12T (LBT)  
Alicia M 12T (LBT)  
Emilie P 12T (LBT)  
Lexi J 12T (LBT)  
Isabelle P 12T (LBT)  
Klaudia T 12T (LBT)  
Kate B 12T (LBT)  
Hollie R 12T (LBT)  
Finn H 12S (DDE)

Daisy J 12S (HTH)  
Yulia S 12T (HTH)  
Daniel D 12S (OWA)  
Year 12 Criminology LBT & RCA & NPA  
Spencer V 12T (SMC)  
Max B 12S (SMC)

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**High Five FRIDAY**  
22 May 2026

**Year 13**

Year 13 Sociology LBT & MDU  
Year 13 Criminology LBT & HTH  
Jessica P 13C (EST)  
Summer T 13C (EST)  
Faye G 13E (LBT)  
Katie H 13E (LBT)  
Hannah B 13E (LBT)  
Emily C 13A (LBT)  
George B 13C (LBT)  
Year 13 Psychology (HTH&VNI)

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**ClassCharts**  
**Year 7 Top Achievers**

Isobel M 7Y  
Samuel H 7Y  
Ava M 7Y  
Naomi D 7A  
Abbie C 7H  
Rhuben C 7J  
Christopher B 7J

**Year 8 Top Achievers**

Belle D 8A  
Hannah K 8A  
Kai D 8A  
Guru S 8A  
Nathan P 8J  
Verity D 8M  
Daniel W 8O

**Year 9 Top Achievers**

Sienna N 9Y  
Neave W 9Y  
Tylor S 9Y  
Harvey T 9Y  
Poppy Y 9M  
Rebecca J 9Y  
Kea-Shenell W 9N

**Year 10 Top Achievers**

Matthew W 10R  
Madeilene S 10N  
Leah W 10A  
Lucy S 10A

**Year 11 Top Achievers**

Skye H 11O  
Hannah M 11N  
Eden S 11J  
Monica M 11O  
Chloe H 11N  
Teddy M 11H

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ☐ **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 (*tickets on sale this week*)
- ☐ **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



## 1 Heard a Whisper...

Before half term we bid farewell to two long-serving members of staff at St John's who will be a big loss to our learning community: Mrs Nighoskar (Health and Social Care/ Social Sciences) and Mandy Allen (Admin- Attendance).

What better way to extend a heartfelt thank you to them than through I Heard a Whisper, except we don't want to whisper, we want to shout about what a huge impact they have had on our school and what a difference they have made to the lives of so many students, families and staff! With around 40 years dedication to St John's between them, we are going to miss their kindness, support and unwavering commitment to our learning community.

As a parting gift to her Admin team, Mandy also wanted to nominate them all for a Whisper too to thank them for their support over the years and recognise the amazing work they do every day.

We know you will join us in wishing Mrs Nighoskar and Mandy a very happy, long and well-deserved retirement.

We look forward to sharing more nominations over the course of our final half term, so keep them coming:

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