ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

19 October 2026
Week B



We were delighted to welcome Joe Fishburn, Gladiator Champion and Team GB Gymnast, to speak with our Year 7 and Year 8 students this week. Joe shared his inspiring journey, discussing the importance of resilience, overcoming adversity, and how challenges can help us grow stronger. His messaged encouraged students to embrace setbacks, stay determined, and believe in their ability to succeed. Some of our Year 7 students were also lucky enough to take part in a practical workshop, where they had the opportunity to put these lessons into action while learning from Joe. It was a powerful reminder that everyone faces challenges in life, but it is how we respond to them that matters most. Taking time to reflect, learn from experiences, and keep moving forward are key skills that will support our students both in school and beyond. A huge thank you to Joe for sharing such an important and inspiring message with our young people.

We were delighted to welcome author Helen Rutter into school on Monday for a fantastic visit with all of our Year 7 students. At the start of Year 7, every student was gifted a copy of The Game Changers, a powerful book about friendship, resilience, self-belief and the courage to be yourself. The story reflects many aspects of our students' own journey at St John's, making it especially meaningful to our school community. Students had the exciting opportunity to bring their books back to school for Helen to sign. It was wonderful to see our students' enthusiasm for reading and their confidence in engaging with a published author. A huge thank you to Helen for taking the time to meet our students, sign over 200 books and make reading such a memorable experience.






Spotlight on... Sport

What a phenomenal week it has been for sporting achievements, with success in football, netball and rugby across a variety of year groups.

On Tuesday afternoon, our Year 8 team, two Year 9 teams and Year 10 team for Netball took to the court to compete in a series of matches against Whitworth and Sedgefield. There were plenty of goals, lots of wins and teamwork and sportsmanship in abundance! The girls represented the school brilliantly, showing great determination, support for one another and a fantastic attitude throughout.




Our U15 Rugby team visited Barnard Castle on Tuesday for their first fixture of the academic year. The boys played some fantastic matches again Barnard Castle, High Tunstall, Yarm School, and Durham School and showed real character as a team. Despite not winning the event, the boys did themselves proud and Mr Smith commented on the progress and talent on displayed from the St John's team. Special well done to those boys who decided to attend their first ever competitive game and the Year 9 students who came along to play a year up.

The Year 9 football team have made a fantastic start to their season this year and last week ran out as 5-1 winners against Whitworth Park. Some amazing performances were witnessed and Mr Smith commented on the team's excellent attitude and mindset to win the game. Special mention goes to Thea Pailin who was awarded player of the match for the second time this week for school and managed to grab two goals in the win! A huge thank you to our Year 9 shirt sponsors this year, JT Dove Bishop Auckland! We really appreciate the support.





The Year 10 football team continued their excellent start to the season with a 4-2 win at Whitworth in the Bishop Auckland School's League last Thursday. Despite being 2-0 down, the boys fought back and managed to turn the game around for a fantastic win. Our strip sponsors this year are Witton Park Community Buses Ltd.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Tuesday 20 October- Year 7 Welcome Mass, 10am. We look forward to officially welcoming our Year 7 students into our learning community in our Welcome Mass at St Mary's Church. We warmly invite one parent/carer per child to join us, but ask for guests not to arrive before 9.45am.

Wednesday 21 October- Mary Poppins the Musical- Launch Event. We cannot wait to get started on this year's musical, Mary Poppins! Any students wishing to be involved should come along from 3.20-4.30pm.

Wednesday 21 October- Year 7 Autumn Disco, 6-7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £2 and are available via Arbor. Costumes are encouraged, with prizes for the best ones, and there will be a tuck shop available on the evening for snacks and drinks. Please also note that students cannot stay after school to wait for the disco and should be dropped off no earlier than 5.45pm and collected at the end of the disco at 7.30pm.

Thursday 22 October- Year 13 Boston trip. We wish our Year 13 students an amazing trip as they jet off to Boston, USA for a once in a lifetime trip as part of our partnership with the Turing Scheme.

Friday 23 October- Break up for half term. We wish all of our staff and students a well-deserved break after what has been an incredibly busy first half term of the academic year.

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.

High Five FRIDAY
16 October 2026

Virtues

Ruby Sue S 8O Honesty (DHA)
Emilia K 9Y Resilience (DHA)
Lucy C 10J Confidence and Respect (NRO)
Chloe M 10J Confidence and Respect (NRO)
Mrs- Sturdy's Year 13 Core RE Class Respect and Compassion (EST)
Willow H 12J Confidence (EST)
Millie G 12J Confidence (EST)
April G 13S Resilience (EST)

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

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High Five FRIDAY
16 October 2026

Year 7

Tase S 7M (DDE)
Amelia W 7M (DDE)
David A 7O (DDE)
Luca M 7O (DDE)
Jake F 7N (DDE)
Millie C 7N (DDE)
Jameliah R-A 7J (DDE)
Hannah F 7J (DDE)
Penny M 7N (CCR)
Tommy R 7N (CCR)
Emmy O 7R (CCR)
Jacob R 7R (CCR)
Anna T 7R (CCR)

Layton W 7Y (JHL)
Orlah-Mae B 7Y (JHL)
Justin F 7R (SCO)
Emmy O 7R (SCO)
Archie S 7J (CHA)
Emily D 7J (COS)
Arun U 7M (COS)
Talia B 7M (ASP)
Harrison B 7M (ASP)
Jaydon B 7R (ASP)
Zak A 7Y (MJE)
Iyla M 7Y (MJE)

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High Five FRIDAY
16 October 2026

Year 8

Daniel S 8J (AHA)
Katherine J 8J (AHA)
Connie A 8R (AWR)
Erin M 8R (AWR)
Lottie P 8R (AWR)
Isabel C 8R (AWR)
Sadie D 8R (AWR)
Isabella C 8A (AWR)
Rhuben C 8J (DHA)
Sam H 8Y (DHA)
Jimmy-Joe Y 8M (ASP)
Martha B 8H (COS)
Danyil M 8A (COS)

Andrea F 8J (SCO)
Lainey-May J 8R (SCO)
Nieve F 8R (SCO)
Isla W 8O (SCO)
Talulah C 8H (SCO)
Paddy T 8O (SCO)
Michael R 8R (SCO)
Connie A 8R (SCO)
Lee F 8H (SCO)
Francesca B 8M (CLI)
Leeon H 8Y (CLI)
Tillena T 8N (SCO)
Narelle M 8N (JHL)
Isla C 8N (JHL)

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High Five FRIDAY
16 October 2026

Year 9

Finlay H 9R (DSM)
Michael I 9R (DSM)
Tom B 9N (DSM)
Ethan-James O 9R (DSM)
Seth L 9N (DSM)
Oliver C 9J (DSM)
Caleb S 9A (DSM)
Jonnie T 9Y (DSM)
Patrik S 9Y (DSM)
Ethan P 9O (DSM)
Matthieu B 9N (DSM)
Harry H 9Y (DSM)
Pleasure A 9J (EST)
Olivia S 9J (EST)

George G 9M (AHA)
Darcey L 9O (CCR)
Beau W 9O (CCR)
Lexi A 9N (DHA)
Jenson C 9J (SCO)
Isaac T 9A (SCO)
Thomas P 9A (SCO)
Kai D 9A (SCO)
Hannah K 9A (CHA)
Lynn M 9N (DDE)
Jack O 9N (DDE)
Gabriel M 9M (DDE)
Maddy D 9M (DDE)
Finley H 9O (EST)
Emily B 9M (EST)

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High Five FRIDAY
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Year 10

Isaac B 10M (DSM)
Riley H 10M (DSM)
Finley G 10A (DSM)
Lewis B 10N (DSM & EST)
Taylor W 10R (DSM)
Oliver B 10A(DSM)
Maks F 10J (DSM)
Thomas H 10A (DSM)
Tom S 10A (DSM)
Harry G 10A (DSM)
Jack B 10A (LHA)
Joe M 10M (LHA)
Melissa B 10Y (AWR
Ella M 10M (AWR)
Christie B 10Y (DDE)
Emily M 10R (DDE)

Olivia B 10J (CSW)
Beaux A 10M (CSW)
Alfie O 10N (CSW)
Rowan N 10A (CSW)
Kahlan S 10R (CSW)
Harvey T 10Y (CSW)
Kelly-Ann C 10Y (CSW)
Alfie O'S 10N (PWA)
Riley H 10M (PWA)
Charlie M-T (PWA)
Dola O 10H (DHA & COS)
Grace N 10N (LDV)
Noah H 10A (LDV)
Joe M 10H (NRO)
Neve O 10J (NRO)
Lily S 10N (NRO & EST)

Tommy-Steven K 10J (NRO)
Jordan N 10N (EST)
Alfie O 10O (EST)
Aimee R 10O (EST)
Nicholas S 10J (EST)
Brooke C 10J (EST)
Lucy C 10O (EST)
Isla F 10N (EST)
Cobie G 10J (EST)
Hollie T 10N (EST)
Luke I 10J (EST)
Ruby K 10O (EST)
Harry M 10J (EST)
Lily W 10H (CLI)
Lilly J 10N (CLI)

Harvey T 10Y (SCO)
Erin H 10O (SCO)
Mea T 10 N (SCO)
Riley T-W 10M (SCO)
Chloe M 10J (SCO)
Lucy C 10J (SCO)
Lydia-Rose 10R (JHL)
Emme R (10Y (JHL)
Sophie W 10A (JHL)
Poppy S 10 Y (JHL)
Tom S 10A (CHA)
Bokani N 10O (CSW & EST)
Lorna B 10R (CSW)
Queenmercy A 10N (CSW)

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High Five FRIDAY
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Year 11

Joey R 11O (GMC)
Cruz J 11Y (GMC & LHA)
Millie B 11R (GMC)
Mina S-E 11J (LHA)
Yu Qi C 11N (LHA)
Evangeline E 11J (LHA)
Lewis G 11OO (LHA)
Joel H 11J (LHA)
Jessica M 11N (LHA)
Dexter M 11N (LHA)
Thomas R 11O (LHA)
Anna R 11N (LHA)
Alex M 11A (LHA)
Filip Z 11R (LHA)
Lennox H 11Y (LHA)
Millie W 11M (LHA & EST & LDV)
Jenson S 11A (LHA)
Daisy L 11R (SCO & LMA & EST)

James D 11M (CHA)
Matthew W 11R (CHA & EST)
J – Lucas W 11J (CSW)
Nathan K 11M (CSW)
Nathan A 11J (CSW)
Miylee A 11Y (CSW)
Tejaswi S 11A (CSW & EST)
Aiden G 11O (LBT)
Tilly W 11R (LBT) (SMG)
Brooke T 11R (LBT & EST)
Thalia A 11Y (CLI)
Raine N 11M (CLI)
Georgia C 11R (LHA & CSW)
Max A 11M (LHA & CSW)
Leah W 11A (LHA)
Megan P 11Y (LHA)
Elise G 11O (COS)

Krystian K 11J (SMG)
Noah B-R 11N (SMG)
Zea L 11Y (SMG)
Jess M 11N (SMG)
Nathan A 11J (PWA)
Freya H-F 11O (DHA)
Harrison M 11M (LDV & EST)
Eve B 11R (LDV & EST)
Aiden D 11N (JHL & NRO)
Charlie N 11O (JHL)
Maya W 11J (JHL)
Thomas K 11R (CLI & EST)
Thomas R 11O (CLI)
Harry S 11Y (CLI)
Yu Qi C 11N (SCO & LMA))
Ellie R 11R (SCO & LMA)
Amelia C 11Y (SCO & LMA & EST)
Jacob D 11J (SMG & NRO & CSW)

Macey B 11Y (EST)
Rosie G 11M (EST)
Clara J 11R (EST)
Nathan K 11M (EST)
Sophie R 11M (EST)
Henry S-J 11A (EST)
Brooke W 11M (EST)
Sophia C 11R (LHA)
Evie M 11Y (LHA)
Halle M 11Y (LHA & DDE)
Harry W 11N (AWR)
Lincoln B 11N (AWR)
Megan P 11Y (DDE)
Rishon T 11O (NRO)
Harry C 11O (NRO)
Esther L 11J (NRO)
Tia-Rose S 11J (NRO)
Robyn S 11N (NRO)

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High Five FRIDAY
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Year 12

Cohen R 12J (HTH)
Molly C 12T (HTH)
Isla D 12S (HTH)
Nicole S 12S (HTH)
Laycie W 12T (HTH)
Hannah S 12T (LBT)
Molly M 12T (LBT & NRO)
Maiya J 12T (LBT)
Megan M 12S (LBT)
Lewis W 12J (LBT)

Hannah B 12T (NRO)
Harrison B 12S (NRO)
Seb G 12S (NRO)
Molly D 12S (NRO)
Sofia A 12T (NRO)
Robert B 12J (NRO)
Allanah A 12T (DDE)
Sam C 112S (CLI)

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High Five FRIDAY
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Year 13

April G 13S (LBT & HTH)
Abi T 13T (LBT)
Niamh T 13T (LBT)
Aimee S 13T (LBT & HTH)
Sophie C 13T (LBT & HTH)
Ryan D 13S (LBT)
Rory B 13S (LBT)
Harry H 13J (LBT)
Kate B 13J (LBT)
Klaudia T 13T (LBT & NRO)
Hollie R 13T (LBT)

Beth K 13T (EST)
Kade S 13J (EST)
Julia W 13J (EST)
Niamh C 13S (HTH)
Jess B 13T (HTH)
Daniel D 13S (CLI)
Poppy W 13T (DDE)
Jake C 13 J (CSW)

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The end of this week sees the first of our 'Turning up Tastes Good' prize draws for a Just Eat voucher. There are four chances to win: 100% attendance for the term, 100% attendance for the final fortnight, improved attendance and attendance streak.

Arbor Top Scorers

Year 7
Finlay Bryan Olivier Wencek
Harrison Bellamy Emily Dowson
Braxton Hope Justin Ferko
Emmy Okonkwo Bertie Corner

Year 8
Ada Anoke Constance Appleby
Alicia Waude Andrea Ferkova
Isabella Calvert Samuel Hardy
Emilia Ochman Paddy Turner

Year 9
Saule Keaveney Verity Devlin
Isaac Tonge Darcey Law
Heidi Robinson Ella Smith
Michael Igwebuike
Hannah Keddilty

Year 10
Shay Malcolm Lucy Clark
Harvey Thompson Christie Brown
Bokani Ndlovu Sophie Wales
Riley Thompson-Walton
Lydia-Rose Hardy-Westgarth

Year 11
Jacob Dawson Yu Qi Chen
Elpida Boutzera Megan Priestley
Nathan Keenlyside
Rishon Thomas
Tejaswi Shivakumaram
Billingham-Rowland, Noah



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ❑ **Monday 2 November-** School reopens
- ❑ **Monday 2 November-** Year 11/Year 13 Mock exams begin
- ❑ **Tuesday 3 November-** Year 7 Meet the Tutor (online event)
- ❑ **Wednesday 4 November-** Year 8 Retreat
- ❑ **Wednesday 4 November-** Year 9 Info Eve
- ❑ **Tuesday 17 November-** Year 9 Build my Skills Workshop
- ❑ **Wednesday 18 November-** Year 8 Info Eve *(please note this is a rearranged date)*
- ❑ **Tuesday 8 December-** Year 11 Progress Eve
- ❑ **Monday 14 December-** Christmas Celebration
- ❑ **Tuesday 15 December-** Advent Liturgies

I Heard a Whisper... iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk

When we appreciate the small victories and express joy in learning, we create a culture that values growth, resilience, and collaboration. Instead of criticism, let's spread appreciation and recognition for hard work and progress. Let's make an effort to celebrate each other- the teachers who inspire, the students who strive, and the community that supports them all. Together, we can build a more uplifting narrative that encourages everyone to thrive! Well done this week to Miss Robinson (Head of Year 11), Ms Byron (Headteacher) and Mr Hutchinson (Head of Humanities) who will all receive this week's sweet treat.

Artist of the Week



Isabella Gibson, 9N