ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

9 November 2026
Week B

Our Year 8 students had a wonderful time last week at the Emmaus Village for their retreat, exploring the theme of Transformation, inspired by the conversion and mission of St Paul. They took part in walks, activity carousels, crafts, moments of prayer and reflection and even enjoyed watching some fireworks together. At the core of the retreat, students were encouraged to think about how encounters with Christ can transform our lives and help us grow in faith. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to step outside their comfort zones, embrace new challenges and discover how we can share God's love with others.



The Friends of St John's are preparing for this year's Christmas Hamper Raffle and are looking for donations to help create some fantastic festive prizes for our school community.

We would be grateful for donations such as:

🎁 Luxury chocolates and festive treats
🎁 Tea, coffee and hot chocolate
🎁 Pamper and beauty products
🎁 Candles and home fragrances
🎁 Christmas gifts and stocking fillers
🎁 Jams, chutneys and other seasonal goodies

Students can bring donations to the Pastoral Hub from Monday 9 November. Any donations containing alcohol must be dropped off by parents/carers at Main Reception.

Raffle tickets will be on sale from Tuesday, 1 December, with further details coming soon!



A letter for our students...

To the amazing students of St John's,

As you are probably aware, I am retiring from St John's at Christmas after 31 years at the school. It has been a difficult decision to make and leaving you will be very emotional for me; I will miss you all, much more than words can say. You are remarkable, unique and incredible individuals and I feel extremely proud and privileged to have been your Head Teacher.

You all have God-given talents and special gifts, and it has been wonderful to see you flourish whilst at St John's. I have loved watching you grow in confidence and resilience; make new friends who you support through challenging times, and develop a sense of responsibility, making positive contributions to the world around you. Each and every one of you makes St John's a special learning community, where our virtues shine through in your daily words and actions.

Throughout my time at St John's, it is you, our students, who brighten up the darkest days. I have loved the entertaining chats on the corridor or in the Dining Room; enjoyed celebrating your achievements with our cake breaks; smiled through the Friday karaokes (!); laughed at your quirky humour and latest gossip and am always overwhelmed by the wonderful talents and amazing skills that you possess.

Having been at the school for so long, I am always being asked the following questions:

"Miss, do you remember my dad/mum/aunty/cousin/sister/brother?"

"Miss, were you an English teacher? You taught my dad/mum/aunty/cousin..."

Such conversations always make me smile and, having taught so many generations during my time at the school, Parents' Evenings and school events are like family reunions! Being part of the St John's family is incredibly special, and I will miss it dearly.

St John's will always hold a special place in my heart and being part of your learning journey over the years has been a true vocation and a real privilege.

So, St John's wonderful students, I wish all of you joy and success in everything that you do. Never be afraid or embarrassed to let your lights shine for all the world to see. Have the self-belief, confidence and courage to tackle every challenge, never give up (even when times get hard), respect those you encounter, and fly high, now and always. God bless, each and every one of you, you are amazing!

Love and Best Wishes,
Miss Byron x

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Monday 9 November- Year 11 and Year 13 mock exams continue. Our students have worked incredibly hard so far and we wish them luck for their remaining mock exams.

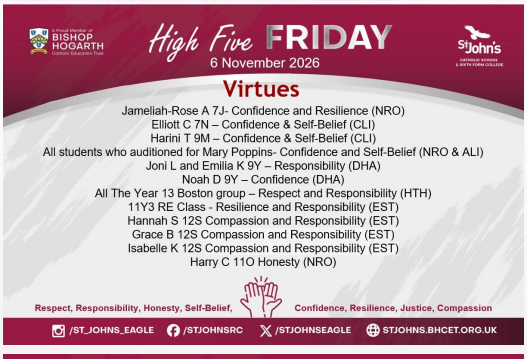
Wednesday 11 November- Alumni Art Workshop. We look forward to welcoming back former student, Amelie Smith, this week to work with our GCSE and A Level Art students. Amelie will be talking about her achievements and career journey so far, sharing some of her work and helping our students hone their own craft.

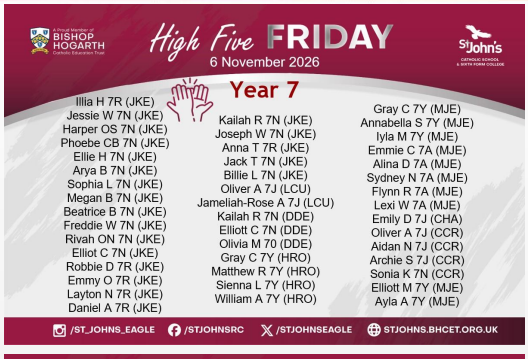
Wednesday 11 November- Mary Poppins the Musical- callbacks, 3.20-5pm. We were blown away by the talent on show last Wednesday at our initial auditions. All students who have been invited to the callbacks have been notified via email. We hope to share the final cast list by the end of the week.

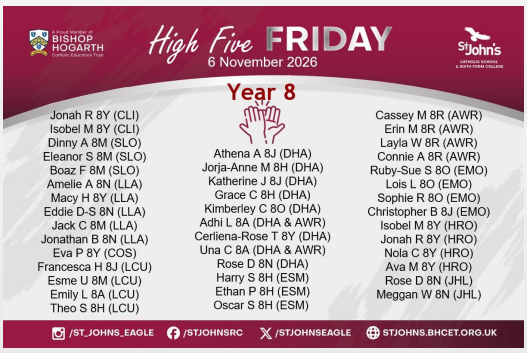
Friday 13 November- Introducing our brand new enrichment club- Soar and Serve. Students from all year groups are encouraged to come along at the start of lunch on Friday in the Lecture Theatre to find out more about how they can get involved. As part of Soar and Serve, students will be involved in selecting a local charity for their year group, organising fundraising events, contributing positively to our local community, visiting local care homes and helping those within our local community most in need.

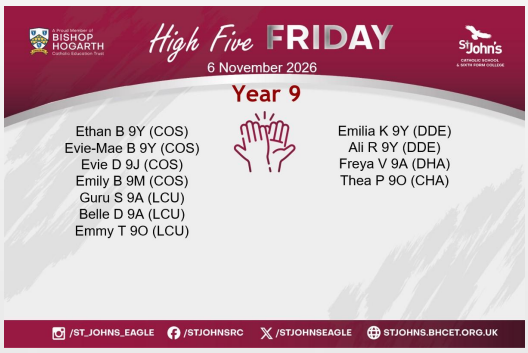
LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS

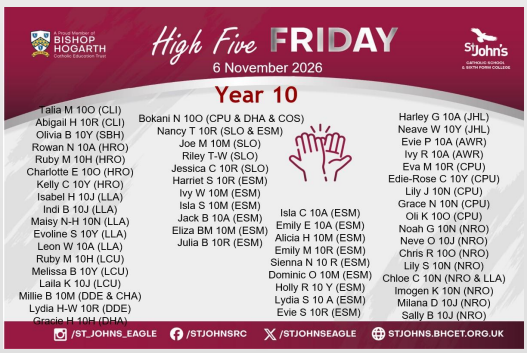
We love to celebrate and share our students' achievements, both in and out of school. If your child has a success they would like to share with us and are happy for it to be posted on our Facebook and Instagram pages, please email it, along with a photo, to Mrs Rose, Assistant Headteacher, at nrose@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk.

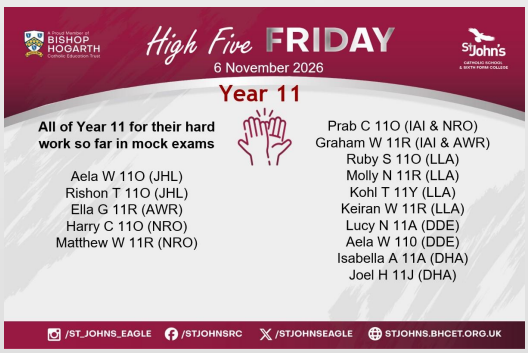


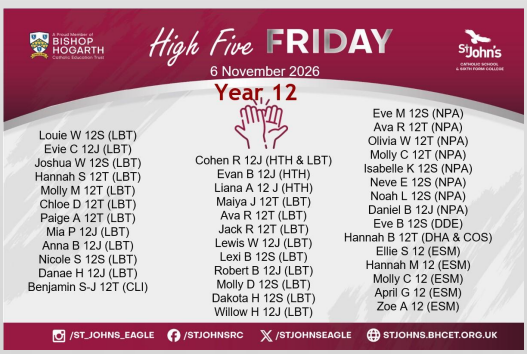


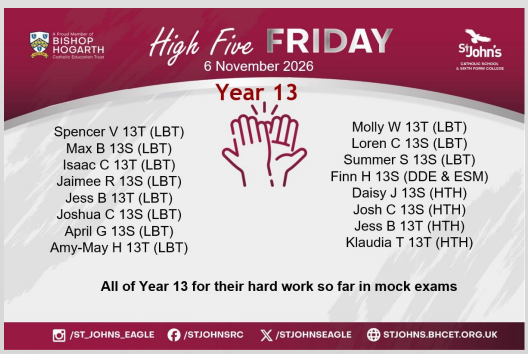












Arbor Top Scorers

Year 7
Elliott C, Gray C, Ada W, Oliver A, Phoebe C-B, Kailah R, Arya B, Anna T, Beatrice B, Megan B, Penny M, Emmie C

Year 8
Katherine J, Lucy B, Dinny A, Isobel M, Jonah R, Eleanor S, Constance A, Esmae U, Laila G, Ella H

Year 9
Isabella G, Belle D, Nathan P, Ali R, Kai D, Claudia M, Thea P, Freya V, Henry C, Noah D

Year 10
Bokani N, Alistair H, Holly R, Isla C, Christopher R, Sophie W, Lucy C, Caitlyn H, Ruby M, Talia M

Year 11
Iona A, Isabella E, Ella G, Joel H, Esther L, Zachary P, Mina S-E, Kate T, Graham W, Matthew W

Sixth Form
Finn H, Zoe A, Hannah B, Molly C, Olivia F, April G, Beth K, Imogen M, Hannah M, Lucy O, Ellie S, Benjamin S-J, Julia W

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Tuesday 17 November-** Year 9 Build my Skills Workshop
- **Wednesday 18 November-** Year 8 Info Eve
- **Tuesday 8 December-** Year 11 Progress Eve
- **Monday 14 December-** Christmas Celebration
- **Tuesday 15 December-** Advent Liturgies
- **Friday 18 December-** Break up for Christmas
- **Monday 4 January-** School reopens
- **Tuesday 5 January-** Year 12/13 Progress Eve
- **Tuesday 19 January-** Year 10 Progress Eve
- **Tuesday 26 January-** Careers Day
- **Monday 1 February-** Year 11/13 Mocks 2
- **Tuesday 2 February-** Year 9 Options Eve

I Heard a Whisper...

Whether it's a small gesture or a significant contribution, every effort matters. Unfortunately, we are sometimes quicker to criticise and complain than we are to take the time to say thank you and acknowledge people's efforts. A little appreciation goes a long way, and sometimes it can even earn someone a chocolate bar!

Well done this week to Mrs Thompson (Head of Year 12 and 13), Thomas Young (Learning Mentor and Turing Scheme Lead) and Josh Park (Business Manager) and Danielle Dowson (Admin- Exams).

Help make your appreciation go a long way by dropping us an email **iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk**

Artist of the Week

Allanah Allison, 12T

