ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

16 OCTOBER 2023 WEEK A



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A WORD FROM LISA BYRON. HEADTEACHER

It's hard to believe we have reached our final week of the first half term of this academic year, and we've certainly crammed a lot into it! We've held two Open Evenings, two retreats, several trips and visits and launched our new Enrichment Programme which has opened up so many opportunities for our students to be involved with. As we approach the half term break, I would like to wish all of our staff, students and families a safe, relaxing and enjoyable week.

Tuesday was World Mental Health Day. Our Student Leadership Team held a bake sale over breaktime which raised almost £200 for The Mental Health Foundation. We also promoted reading as beneficial to our wellbeing through Take Ten to Read which saw the whole school reading for 10 minutes during Pastoral.



On Thursday, many of our Year 11 and Year 10 students and their families came along to our Sixth Form Open Evening to find out about the course and opportunities on offer post-16. It was wonderful to see so many current St John's students thinking about their next steps with us, as well as students from elsewhere looking to join our community. Thank you to our fabulous staff who were as passionate as always about their subjects, and to our amazing Sixth Form students who gave up their evening to speak to visitors. Our application process is now open online for current Year 11 students and the deadline to apply is Friday 3rd November.







On Friday, our Year 12 students took part in a retreat day focusing on the theme of 'No Limits'. The day started with an inspirational speech by Stuart Myers, who shared his life story after being born with no arms. Stuart explained how he defied the odds and achieved great things both professionally and personally by using the catchphrase 'Give it a go'. Students were then led through a reflection with our Chaplain, Emma who focused the session on a quote from Usain Bolt: "The sky has no limits, neither should you." The retreat day ended with a visit to Hamsterley Forest, developing relationships and taking time out to reflect on the message of the day, whilst also raising money for a charity close to our hearts at St John's, Teenage Cancer Trust.



enjoying hot chocolate and toasting marshmallows around the campfire.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Well done to all involved!

Tuesday 17- We have two exciting new PE clubs starting this week after school- Table Tennis on Tuesday in the Gym from 3.20-4.20pm for students in Years 7-11 and Dodgeball on Thursday in the Gym from 3.20-4.20pm for students in Years 7-9. These clubs are completely free and students can just turn up and get involved. **Wednesday 18-** We are delighted to be welcoming Bishop Stephen into school on Wednesday, along with representatives from across the Trust. Some of our students will be involved in the event which will include a

representatives from across the Trust. Some of our students will be involved in the event which will include a special liturgy with singing, dancing and readings and the chance to show Bishop Stephen what makes our school and Trust such a special place to learn.

Wednesday 18- Four of our Year 12 students are heading to Auschwitz Birkenau as part of the Lessons From Auschwitz project to help aid their study of A Level History. We're sure they'll have an amazing time.

Thursday 19- Year 7 Welcome Mass. We are looking forward to welcoming parents and carers of our Year 7 students to our Welcome Mass at St Mary's Church at 10.50am. Students will be walking down to church from schiool at 10.20am and we ask that parents wait outside of church until students are seated. This is a wonderful opportunity to officially welcome our new Year 7 students into the St John's community. A reminder that, due to limited space, we are only able to invite one parent or carer per student.

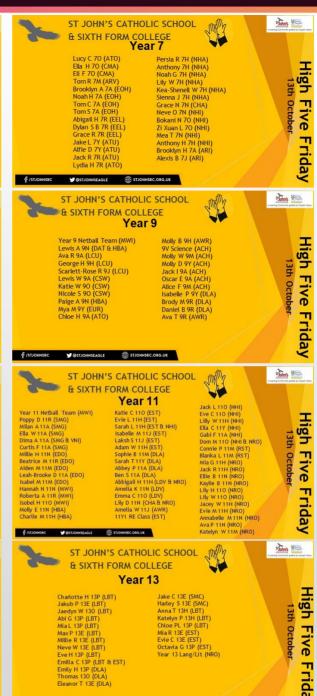
Thursday 19- Tom's Talks. Tom will deliver a variety of sessions focusing on mental health to Year 11 Period 2, Year 10 Period 3 and then a workshop with a small group of Year 10 students Period 4.

Thursday 19- Understanding Autism Information Session, 4-5.30pm. Parents and carers are warmly invited to come along for a session with Lucy Kreczak our SENDCO to learn more about autism and how to support children with autism at home. There is no need to book a place, simply sign in at Main Reception on arrival. **Friday 20-** School is closed to students due to staff Inset. Half term begins on this day and school will reopen on Monday 30 October (Week B Timetable). We wish you all a wonderful half term break.

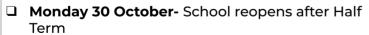
LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS







DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- Monday 30 October- Year 11 Mocks begin
- Monday 30 October- Pre-Loved Uniform Shop
- Friday 3 November- Lourdes Family Quiz
- Thursday 9 November- Year 7 and 8 Sports Awards. More details to follow.
- Thursday 16 November- SEND Coffee Morning, 10-11am
- ☐ Friday 24 November- Disaggregated INSET Day, school closed.
- Thursday 30 November- Year 11 Progress Eve
- Sunday 10 December- Sixth Form Dinner Dance. Tickets on MCAS.
- Thursday 14 December- Year 10 Progress Eve

I Heard a Whisper...

We have been completely blown away by the wonderful emails which have been flooding into our I Heard a Whisper inbox over the past couple of weeks, so much so that we shared more than double our normal number of



nominations last week. Well done to Miss Robinson (Head of Year 8), Susie Denning (Parent Support Advisor), Miss Hankey (Assistant Head of Year 8), Emma Ramsey (Chaplain), Mrs Carter (Assistant Head of Year 11), Mrs Barnham (Head of Year 9) and Mrs Davis (LSA and DofE Coordinator).







