ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

6 NOVEMBER 2023 WEEK A





A WORD FROM LISA BYRON. HEADTEACHER

On Friday, over 350 messages were sent to congratulate students for achieving 100% attendance. This is an excellent achievement and is a testament to our young people's resilience and dedication to the St John's School community. As the days get shorter and there seems to be more bugs around, it can be tempting for young people to want the 'odd day off' if they are feeling under the weather. The problem with this is that **every missed school** day is a missed opportunity to learn. It will lead to gaps in learning and, if allowed to accumulate, a significant difference in a student's ability to achieve good results and qualifications. Students who had more than 15 days of absence last year achieved grades at least one grade lower than those with better attendance.

We ask for your support in monitoring your child's attendance by checking their planner on a weekly basis. Each week they write their attendance percentage to date. Attendance lower than 95% is 10 days absence in one school year. Over time this results in lost learning. The NHS has a helpful guide called 'Is my child too ill for school?'. As well as providing useful advice for a range of conditions, it also clearly states that coughs, cold and sore throats are not barriers to school attendance.

www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school
Once again, thank you all for supporting St John's in
our efforts to maximise attendance for our amazing
students and in turn helping them to flourish and
excel in their education.

TOMING UP THIS WEEK

Monday 6- Year 11 Mock Exams continue this week. Well done to our Year 11 students for their fantastic conduct and commitment to these exams so far. Monday 6- We are welcoming the band The Mercians into school to perform for Years 9 and 10 with songs on topics such as mental health and relationships. Monday 6- Thirteen of our Year 13 students are visiting

Durham University as part of their EPQ study. **Wednesday 8-** Well done to all who auditioned last week for Les Miserables. Callback auditions take place on Wednesday, 3.20-4.30pm. Students should have been informed if they have been invited for a callback and should have received the materials for the song they need to perform, but should speak to Mrs Rose if unsure. Even if they have not been given a callback,

This week is National Green Careers Week. Students will be learning more about this in Pastoral and we will share on our Facebook and instagram pages too.

students will still be in the show and may still get a

On Monday our Year 7 students enjoyed their Autumn Disco, complete with some excellent costumes, spookily good disco and dancing and hot dogs and treats. A huge thank you to all of the staff who helped to organise and support the event to celebrate our Year 7 students' first half term at St John's.





On Friday we held our Quiz Night to raise funds for our Lourdes Pilgrimage. It was a fantastic evening which raised an incredible £750 for this wonderful cause.

Well done to Mr Morley who was a superb Quiz Master and to Emma and Thomas for organising this important event. Congratulations also to Team Science who were our winners for the second year in a row!

Last week we welcomed County Durham and Darlington Fire Service into school to speak to Year 7, 8 and 9 on safety around Bonfire Night. Students were given lots of key information on how to



keep themselves safe and what to do in an emergency. Students listened extremely well and showed respect.



SPORTING NEWS

- Our new Year 7 Pastoral Football competition starts this week, with Aiden (7M and 7J) taking on Bede (7A and 7O). Students will pick their own teams and each game will be followed by a penalty shoot out as a separate competition. The remaining tutor groups will follow next week. Each team will play each other, with the competition finishing at Christmas. Good luck!
- Year 9, 10 and 11 Netball teams have their next league fixtures on Tuesday 14 and Tuesday 28 November, both due to be played at Bishop Barrington finishing at 5pm. Please keep an eye out for announcements on ClassCharts regarding any changes to this.
- The students selected for the County Netball Schools' Tournament will also have announcements through ClassCharts. Please can parents reply to the letter that will be sent out. The tournament is 10:30-5pm at Consett Leisure Centre on Sunday 12 November and parents are required to provide transport. Thank you.
- This week we will be holding our Sports Awards during assemblies for Year 9 and 10 students.

LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS









DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- ☐ Thursday 16 November- SEND Coffee Morning,
- ☐ Friday 24 November- Disaggregated INSET Day,
- Thursday 30 November- Year 11 Progress Eve
- Sunday 10 December- Sixth Form Dinner Dance. Tickets on MCAS.
- Monday 11 December- Year 8 Retreat
- ☐ Thursday 14 December- Year 10 Progress Eve
- Monday 18 December- Christmas Concert
- ☐ Friday 22 December- Last day of term before Christmas. School reopens for all students on Monday 8 January
- Monday 8 January- Year 13 mock exams
- ☐ Thursday 1 February- Year 9 Progress Eve

🔊 1 Heard a Whisper...

This week's nominations display just how much our staff go above and beyond in their roles every single day, whether as a member of teaching staff, a tutor, admin or support staff. Well done this week to Mrs Mannix (Humanities), Joanne Hart (Finance), Emma Ramsey (Chaplain) and Miss Robinson (Head of Year 8). If you would like to nominate a member of staff for going above and beyond in their role, drop us an email at

iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhc et.org.uk













