ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

13 JANUARY 2025 WEEK A



A new term means a new and updated Enrichment Programme for the Spring 1 term. We are very proud of our Enrichment Programme which features a wide and varied range of over 70 clubs for all possible interests and talents. In response to student interest and request, and to ensure our Enrichment offer remains exciting and broad, we are introducing some new clubs for this term including Disney Singalong, Girls' Cricket, Anime Club, Chess Club and Darts Club. We are continuing to offer reward scratch cards for excellent attendance and engagement with Enrichment, and have this term introduced our Enrichment Champion Awards for those students that have shown real commitment and enthusiasm towards Enrichment this year so far.

St John's Enrichment Programme 2024-25 Spring 1					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
STEM	The Eagle- Student Newspaper,	Coding Club, LCU, IT2	Masterminds Club, RMO, MA7	STEM Club, EDO, Lab 5	Debate Club, CST/JVI, HU
Cultural	EOH, E5 (50 mins)	Classics- Ancient Greeks, ATO, HU6 (first half)	Quiet Lunch (Year 9), HHA, E2	MFL Club, (Years 7-9), CCR, MF3	Liturgy Leaders, ERA, Chapel
Capital	Board Game Club, NHI, MA4	Environment Awareness, CHA, HU2	LRC (50 mins)	PRIDE Club JKE, RE4 (first half)	The Arc
Community	840A 107GC	(Years 7-9 only, 50 mins)	172110110201		a manyana.
Catholic Life	Books and Biscuits (invitation only),	Rise Rangers, LSAs, LRC	Crochet and Crafts, KIB, MA3	Sign Language Club, SRO, E9 (Week A only)	Rise Rangers, LSAs, LRC
Wellbeing	LHE, LRC	The Arc	Creative Colouring, CSW, HU6	CAFOD Young Leaders (Year	Mindfulness and Meditation, CLI, Lab12
The Arts	The Arc	Disney Singalong, NHI, MA4	The Arc	12 only), ERA, Chapel	Anime Club, EAS, Lab 7
3	Drama Club, ALI, Main Hall	SJAMS, ALI, MU1	Chamber Choir (invitation only), RBE/ALI, MU2	FIFA Club, DMI, IT1	Karaoke Club, RBE/ALI,
Active Lifestyle	Project Ensemble	Guitar Club, DJO, MU1	Sixth Form Glee Club, LBT/IAI, Lecture	Books and Biscuits (invitation	Main Hall
Academic Enrichment	(invitation only), RBE, MU2	Girls' Cricket, DSM, Sports Hall	Theatre (Year 12 and 13 only)	only), LHE, LRC	Football, GMC/DPA, 3G 12.30- Year 7/8
Unless otherwise stated, clubs will	Badminton, ATU,		Mountaineering and Outdoor Sports,	The Arc	12.55- Year 9/10
run for the last 25 minutes of	Sports Hall	Table Tennis, BSM, Gym	LMD, C2	Darts Club, LCU, Main Hall (begins 16 th January)	Badminton, ATU,
lunchtime, starting at	Football, GMC/DPA,	Football, GMC/DSM, 3G 12.30- Year 7/8	Year 7 Netball, MMG, Sports Hall		Sports Hall
12.55pm, with the exception of	3G 12.30- Year 7/8 12.55- Year 9/10	12.55- Year 10/11	Football, GMC, 3G 12.30- Year 7/8	Year 8 Netball, MMG, Sports Hall	Just Dance, NJE, Gym
any sports clubs (green) which will	Year 10 Sports	GCSE PE Club, MMG, PE4	12.55- Year 9/10	Football, GMC/DSM, 3G	Homework Club, LSAs, IT3
run in the first half or for the	Science Intervention,	Work Experience Unifrog Support,	GCSE PE Club, ATU, PE4	12.30- Year 7/8 12.55- Year 9/11	23/10/113
whole of unchtime. Please	DSM, PE4	CLI, Lab 11 (Year 10 only)	Homework Club, LSAs, IT3	Homework Club, LSAs, IT3	
e prompt to your club as it will be first come, first	Homework Club, LSAs, IT3	Homework Club, LSAs, IT3		Homework Cidly, LSAS, 113	

Last week we introduced our Enrichment Champion Awards, a way of recognising and celebrating those students who have shown tremendous commitment, engagement and enthusiasm for Enrichment. This might be through loyalty and dedication to a particular club, pushing themselves out of their comfort zone in pursuing a new talent or interest or for supporting others within Enrichment. We were delighted to award some of these within assembly last week and there are more to come this week. Enrichment Champions will receive a special badge to acknowledge their hard work in championing enrichment within St John's and new Champions will be awarded each term.



A WORD FROM LISA BYRON. HEADTEACHER

We are incredibly proud and delighted to announce that St John's has been recognised as one of the Top Ten Secondary Schools in County Durham, according to Ofsted and examination data. This amazina accolade has been received thanks to the tireless dedication and passion of our superb staff, as well as the commendable hard work from our students. All who are part of our Learning Community know what a special place it is, and so it is wonderful to have received this recognition as one of the top schools in our region.

It was lovely to welcome everyone back to school last week for the start of the new year and term, and even better to see how many students returned with such positive attitudes to learning. The weather was not on our side and caused some difficulties with travel to and from school and to breaks and lunchtimes, but we appreciate everyone's perseverance and patience and hope that things can return to normal this week.

Attendance Last Week:

An impressive 839 students had 100% attendance last week and 144 of these were in Year 11. Well done! Year 7: 92%, Year 8: 91.4%, Year 9: 91.1%, Year 10: 91.1%, Year 11: 88.2%

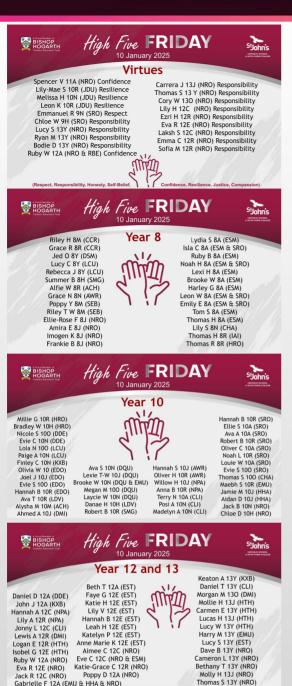
Tuesday 14- Careers' Day. All students will be off timetable for a special Careers' Day. Year 7 and 8 will be taking part in Enterprise tasks to help develop their teamwork, leadership and employability skills. Many of our Year 9 students will be out of school completing a day of Work Experience in their chosen area, whilst others will be completing a virtual work experience with Glaxo Smith Klein. Our Year 10 students are being given the chance to explore careers in different subject areas that they are interested in as a way to encourage them to think about the future, as well as talks from the NHS and about apprenticeships. Year 11 will be sampling taster sessions in Sixth Form subjects as well as vocational areas at Bishop Auckland College and talks from Darlington College, GSK and apprenticeships to help them with their next steps. Finally, Sixth Form students will be engaging with talks and sessions focused on their next steps, such as student finance, stress management, interview skills, apprenticeships and careers in the NHS We hope our students have an enjoyable day and know they will find the sessions on offer extremely useful for considering their career journey and future choices.

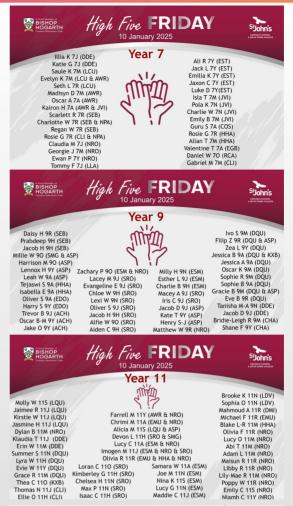
Wednesday 15- Frozen rehearsal for all cast until 4.30pm. This will be our second 'table read' rehearsal where we will read through Act 2 and listen to the soundtrack so all cast members know exactly what the show includes.

LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS











ClassCharts Year 7 Top **Achievers**

Yana H 7R Evelyn K 7M Bailee H 7M Hannah K 7A Pola K 7A

Year 8 Top **Achievers**

Sienna J 8H Kea-Shenell W 8H Noah S 8H Summer B 8H Leon W 8A

Year 9 Top **Achievers**

Matthew W 9R Thomas T 9A Mina S-E 9J Leah W 9A Zea L 9Y

Year 10 Top **Achievers**

Hassan S 10J Jack R 100 Aidan D 10J Cohen R 100 Madelyn A 10N

Year 11 Top **Achievers**

Jessica M 11Y Mahmoud A M 11R Dylan B 11M Sam E 11A

MFL Stars of the Week: Caleb R (7R), Matthew W (9R), Pippa H (8R), Charlie M-T (8N), Macey B (9Y)

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ☐ Wednesday 22 January- Year 10 Work Experience Information Evening, 4.45pm
- ☐ Tuesday 28 January- Year 9 Options Evening ☐ Thursday 30 January- Year 12/13 Progress Eve
- ☐ Monday 10 February- Year 11/13 Mocks begin
- ☐ Thursday 13 February- Year 9 Progress Eve
- ☐ Friday 21 February- Staff Inset, school closed to students. Half term begins
- ☐ Monday 3 March- School reopens

FACT OF THE WEEK

Did you know that this year is the only square year most of us will see in our lifetime, (45 x 45). The last was 1936 (44 x 44) and the next will be 2116 (46 x 46). So far this month we have had three days where all the digits are square numbers: 1/1/2025, 4/1/2025 and 9/1/2025. How many days will this happen this year?

🕉 1 Heard a Whisper...

Department Stars of the Week- 10/1

Reader of the Week: Henry Staermose-Johnson 9A

Mathematician of the Week: Jacob Dawson 91

Geographer of the Week: Yevanhelina Tkachenko (70)

Designer of the Week: Claudia McWilliam 7J

Musician of the Week: Maisy Newby-Higginbottom 8N

Computer Scientist of the Week: Evelyn Keers 7M

son of the Week: Samuel Johnston (9H)

Scientist of the Week: Alfie Walsh 8)

Linguist of the Week: Caleb Reilly 7R

Artist of the Week: Ivo Stuart 9M

Our first nominations of 2025 are all from staff members to acknowledge support and hard work from colleagues, once again showcasing the supportive learning community we have. Well done to Mrs Quicke (Head of Health and Social Care), Mr Turnbull (Head of PE), Miss Byron (Headteacher), Mr Dunn (Assistant Headteacher/ Director of Sixth Form), Miss Hayes (Assistant Headteacher/ Head of English), Mike Metcalf (Site) and Amy Lawson (Catering Manager) who are all this week's recipients of a sweet treat.

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Artist of the Week

StJohn's





Evan Bowes 12C







