ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

10 MARCH 2025 WEEK B



On Wednesday the whole school took part in Ash Wednesday services, focused on the importance of praying, fasting and giving this Lent. As always, Emma our Chaplain delivered a

thought-provoking reflection followed by students receiving the ashes from staff. We were proud of our students for the levels of maturity and respect they showed during these services which are so important to the Catholic Life of St John's.

On Wednesday, five of our Year 10 GCSE Spanish students participated in The Spanish Apprentice at the Spanish Gallery in Bishop Auckland. The students completed a series of challenges including a Spanish listening activity about El Prado museum in Madrid, translation exercises and explored the link between Bishop Auckland and Spain. The day concluded with students writing and presenting a speech in Spanish which advertised Bishop Auckland as a tourist destination for Spanish nationals. The

students showcased their excellent

Spanish skills, teamwork and self-belief and were a credit to St John's.

The school was alive with imagination on Thursday as we celebrated World Book Day. During the course of the day, students took part in a Reading Relay, where they read a snippet of a story each lesson and spent time discussing what happened. Year 7 had a creative day, taking part in a National Book Token competition with some fantastic entries on show. Finally, we have loved receiving some amazing entries for our Booked Potato competition, and we have extended our deadline to 3.20pm on Monday to give anyone still wanting to get involved the weekend to come up with their entries.



On Thursday, some of our A Level students attended the Peter Vardy "The Word" conference in York. Dr Peter Vardy is a well known leader in the field of Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics and his books are a great source of wider reading for our A Level students. The conference was hugely

successful in getting our students excited about the content and extending their knowledge. Well done to Bodie, Jamie, Lucy, Eve and Jessica who were a credit to our St John's.

Some of our students attended a Pilgrim's of Hope day at English Martyrs School in Hartlepool to celebrate the Year of the Jubilee. As part of the day our very talented students created a Trust cross and recorded a special Trust hymn. Well done to them!





A WORD FROM LISA BYRON, HEADTEACHER

Reading can open a world of possibilities and we are continually looking for ways to improve our students' literacy and oracy skills. Whether it be through our wonderful LRC which is bursting with books, or our PREP reading programme which sees all students explore both fiction and non-fiction reading and develop their oracy and discussion skills. It was wonderful to see so many students embrace our Reading Relay this year and engage in the discussions it prompted. We appreciate your support in promotina readina for pleasure at home and helping our students' literacy skills to grow.

Attendance Matters

Last week's attendance figures were: Year 7: 94%, Year 8: 91.4% Year 9: 92.7%, Year 10: 91.7% Year 11: 89.8%



For the second year in a row, St John's attended the KS3 North East and Yorkshire regional round of the National

Schools Badminton Championships.
The boys qualified as KS3 County
Champions and faced schools
ranging from Northumberland to
Sheffield, finishing the tournament
in 8th place. A fantastic achievement
for Max, Krystian, Jake and Harvey
who only started playing badminton
in Year 7 at lunchtime and
afterschool clubs at school!

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Wednesday 12- Year 11 mock results assembly. Year 11 will be receiving results for their most recent mock exams, replicating their summer results day in August. We wish them lots of luck!

Thursday 13- Year 11 Progress Evening, online. Please note, as per the letter sent to parents and due to union guidelines and ongoing industrial action, not all teachers will be available for appointments. Appointments that are available can be made via SchoolCloud. Please contact school directly if you have any questions.

Saturday 15- Students from Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form are attending the Flame Conference at Wembley. Students should meet at school at 5am and more details will follow this week. We wish them a great trip. Tickets for this year's Jaquie Holloway Prize for Performing Arts, taking place on Wednesday 26 March, will be available from this week via TicketSource.

Year 8 Progress Evening is taking place in school on Thursday, 20 March. Appointments will be available via SchoolCloud this week.

LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS



ClassCharts

Year 7 Top **Achievers**

Nathan M 7M

Claudia M 7J

Hannah K 7A

Pola K 7N Tamarah M 7R

Year 8 Top

Achievers

Sienna J 8H

Constance C 8N

Edie-Grace C 8H Neve O 8J

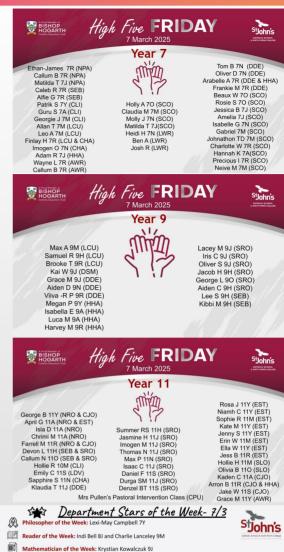
Summer B 8H

Year 9 Top

Achievers







Nathan A9H Krystian K 9J Trevor B 9J Noah B-R 9N Mina S-E 9J Year 10 Top **Achievers** Madelyn A 10N Skye H 100 Hannah V 10A Chloe D 10A Chloe D 10H Year 11 Top **Achievers** George B 11Y Farrell M 11R Sapphire S 11N Evie W 11Y

Kimberley G 11H

MFL Stars of the Week: Beau W 7O, Noah B-R 9N, Nathan A 9H, Sienna J 8H

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ☐ Thursday 20 March- Year 8 Progress Eve
- ☐ Wednesday 26 March- Jaquie Holloway Prize for Performing Arts
- ☐ Thursday 3 April- Year 10 Progress Eve
- ☐ Friday 11 April- Last day before Easter
- Monday 28 April- School reopens ☐ Monday 5 May- Bank Holiday
- ☐ Wednesday 7 May- GCSE Exams
- ☐ Monday 12 May- Year 7 Residential Retreat
- ☐ Monday 19 May- Year 10 Work
- ☐ Thursday 22 May- Year 7 Progress Eve ☐ Friday 23 May- Last day before half

I Heard a Whisper...

Scientist of the Week: Sophie-Anne Scott 70

Historian of the Week: Claudia McWilliam 7J

Geographer of the Week: Finley Haigh 70

Computer Scientist of the Week: Sam Ramsey 9H

Designer of the Week: Isla Thompson 7M

Artist of the Week: Alexis Beal 8J

Musician of the Week: Shane Finn 9Y

Linguist of the Week: Caleb Reilly 7R

We first began our I Heard a Whisper initiative almost two years ago as a way to celebrate the wonderful work of our staff and the incredible commitment, passion and support they demonstrate every day. Since then we have continued to receive nominations every week and have given hundreds of chocolate treats.

Well done this week to Miss Robinson (Head of Year 9), Mr Johnson (English), Mrs Giblin (Admin-Main Reception), Mr Smith (PE), Mr Fox (History), Mr Vicary (History) and Mr Rolston (Assistant Headteacher) who have all received wonderful nominations recently and were recipients of a sweet treat in celebration of this. We love

please do drop us an email: iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk

to receive such a variety of nominations, so

Artist of the Week





Katie Davison 13J









