

Saint John Wall Catholic School

A Catholic School For All



Mission Statement

'To educate each and every unique child in our care to hear and respond to what God calls them to be'



Issue 39

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 19 July 2024

Catholic Life - This year we are focusing on 'Year of Live Simply'.
Termly Theme: Care for Creation
Termly SJW Values – Curious and Active

End of Year Prayer

Dear Lord,

As we approach the end of this school year, we thank you for the many opportunities we have had.

Give us strength and courage to do what is right over the holidays.

Help us to be practical, to appreciate what others do for us, and to give time and effort to help others.

May we continue to be peacemakers in our global family.

Keep us safe in our activities and give us good rest and good fun.

May we all return refreshed and ready for a new year in September.

We thank you for our friends, family, teachers and a community that cares for us.

May we always be conscious of you in our lives.

Message from Chair of Governors

Is there life on Mars?

You may have seen recently that four astronauts were released having spent over a year inside a Martian habitat in Texas. I don't know what their findings were but they'd have emerged back into a very troubled world.

It made me pause and reflect on the past twelve months. While not without its challenges, here at Saint John Wall it has been another highly successful school year. A brilliant report from the Catholic Schools Inspectorate, outstanding exam results, the splendid refurbishment of our PE facilities and lots more besides. You only have to look at our website, especially on a Friday when the weekly newsletter is published, to see the numerous events the pupils have enjoyed.

I know it's a little late for the recent national 'Thank a Teacher Day' but a massive thank you to Miss Marston and each of her colleagues for all their hard work. Recently Mr Holder highlighted for governors how staff had generously given up their own time at weekends, over the May half-term holiday as well as before school started to provide revision sessions for our Year 11s. Governors are so grateful to them for the sacrifices they have made.

As chair of governors, I must thank Mrs Breslin as she steps down as a staff governor. She is a highly regarded member of staff who has filled a variety of important roles in the school the most recent being ground-breaking work supporting some of our most vulnerable pupils. We are really grateful to Mrs Breslin for at all our meetings she has enriched our discussions. I trust she too has benefitted from her experience as a governor.

GCSE Results Day 2024

GCSE results day is on **Thursday 22 August 2024**.

Year 11 - You can collect your results from 10am to 12pm.

Year 10 and Year 9 - You will be given your results when you return to school in September, or you can collect them between 11.00am and 12pm on Thursday 22 August 2024.



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SJW Staff Awards

Inevitably the end of each school year is tinged with a little sadness as we bid a fond farewell to staff. On behalf of the governors, they have our thanks and very best wishes for the future. I hope their time at Saint John Wall holds good memories for them.

A special mention for two people in particular who are leaving us.

I clearly remember Mrs Nash’s arrival at Saint John Wall. From the beginning she showed herself to be diligent and on top of all she was asked to do. Her organisational skills led her to become our examinations officer. This can be a daunting role as the world of school exams is often a minefield as external assessments have become more and more complex. Mrs Nash’s calm temperament and attention to detail ensured the smooth running of this key aspect of school life. From the governors I thank Mrs Nash for all she has contributed.

Many demands are made on Miss Marston’s time. Like every headteacher someone who can offer wise counsel is essential. Mrs Page has been such a person. In addition, she has also had wider responsibility for the aspects of school life that can prove problematic. In carrying out such vital duties Mrs Page has earned the respect of all in our school community. The many unsolicited acts of kindness she has made are always appreciated. From all who have witnessed Mrs Page’s thoughtfulness and for her dedication to the school, thank you.

On behalf of the governors, I wish both Mrs Nash and Mrs Page peace, health and happiness in their retirements. Let their years be filled with all the things they have looked forward to. May God bless them always.

Despite even trying A.I. I still haven’t found the answer to David Bowie’s question! What I do know however is that life is carrying on here on Earth and so to all our staff, pupils and their families I wish you a happy and safe summer holiday. Let’s hope the weather picks up and Team GB does well in the Paris Olympics.

Until the next time I’ll end with this prayer:
Loving Father, as we come to the end of another school year, we turn to you in confidence and place any difficult relationships into the healing hands of Jesus, your Son. Enable us to leave behind any regrets and bitterness. May the holiday be for us a time of rest and relaxation, to help restore us and re-create us in your image and likeness, as we enjoy more of the love and presence of our families on whom we ask your blessing. Amen.

Saint John Wall. Pray for us.

By Martin Jones - Chair of Governors

I am pleased to let you know that four of our staff were short-listed as finalists for the Titan Awards 2024.

Here are the nominations:

Secondary teacher of the Year: Mrs Forde and Miss Young

Support staff of the Year: Mrs Kaur

Titan Trainee of the Year: Mr Di Mattia

Unfortunately, we didn’t have any winners this year, but an enjoyable evening was had by all!





In addition, several of our staff were nominated for the Birmingham Diocesan Education Awards, and received certificates of recognition for the following:

| Category | Name |
|---|---------------|
| Exceptional contribution to the Catholic Life and Mission of the School | Mrs Crooks |
| Exceptional contribution to chaplaincy | Mrs Ellis |
| Exceptional contribution to parish links | Mrs Clayton |
| Exceptional contribution to teaching and learning | Ms V Hanson |
| Exceptional contribution to the support staff team | Miss Pollock |
| Exceptional contribution to Catholic Social Teaching and participation in social action | Mr Price |
| Exceptional contribution to spiritual, retreat, sport, music and cultural opportunities | Miss Cummings |
| Exceptional contribution to Catholic governance | Mr Jones |





Staff Leavers

At the end of another busy year, it's time to say goodbye to several staff. Some are moving on to new schools and four are retiring. The staff who are retiring have given a significant number of years of service to Catholic Education, and the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service (BDES) has awarded them each a certificate of thanksgiving. You can read below the information that I sent to the BDES about them. We wish all our staff leavers all the best for the future, and thank them for their hard work, dedication and commitment to our school community. Thanks also need to be extended to our whole staff who have again worked tirelessly to enable our pupils to become the best they can be. I hope that you all have a lovely summer holiday. **By Miss Marston**

Image of staff deleted.

"I think God called me to SJW to hear and respond to what he wanted me to be - I joined in June 1995 as part of the admin team 3 days a week around childcare for my 3 children (child minder/nursery and starting school reception) and have actually stayed 29 years through various changes mainly positive. I served under 5 Headteachers - Messrs Toft, Hussey, Hyatt & Quinn before currently Miss Marston. Originally, During the first 9 years I also did a little admin support for examinations before taking over as Examinations Officer in 2004. So that means I have seen at least 20 groups of Year 11 cohorts through their GCSE examinations (that's about 2,400 candidates also some through A levels when we had a sixth form). Even now seeing some of those pupils have their own children and helping those children through GCSEs too! but throughout my time here I have always worked hard, built and had good relationships with all tiers of staff but I always had the pupils' interests at heart looking to give the best outcomes for them in every way of school life.

But before I leave SJW I was so happy that Gandhi, my school house, have triumphed both this year but also at sports day too! I have waited a long time to see it. Well done Gandhi house!

I now look forward to spending more time with my own family and hope to be always part of the SJW family and I hope to come back to visit from time to time".

By Mrs Nash

Mrs Nash received a certificate of thanksgiving for dedicated service to Catholic Education from the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service:

Mrs Nash began working at Saint John Wall Catholic School as a part-time Clerical Assistant on 1 July 1995. She had completed her NVQ Business Administration course, and previously worked as a bookkeeper. This was back when Professor Tim Brighouse was Chief Education Officer, and the Headteacher at Saint John Wall was Mr Toft. Part of Mrs Nash's salary was funded by the Excellence in Cities project. She passed her six month probation and regularly moved up the payscale, and by 1998 she had responsibility of being the examinations secretary, supporting the exams Officer Mr Hack. In October 2000 Mrs Nash was temporarily re-graded up from support staff scale 3 to scale 4 – and earned the princely sum of £6922.77 per year! This re-grade was made permanent in 2003, and Mrs Nash went on to increase her hours in 2004. During that time Mr Hyatt was the acting Headteacher, and then Mr Hussey was appointed. In 2007 Mrs Nash became a full-time examinations secretary with responsibility for the examinations process and examinations policies. This was then re-graded and re-titled as Examinations Officer. Mrs Nash continued in this role and had to cope with significant changes to the location and set up of exams, including introduction of internal assessments, under more new school leaders – Mr Quinn and Miss Marston.

Looking back on her 29 years of service, there are numerous Headteacher and Governor letters in Mrs Nash's file thanking her for her organisation and smooth running of the examinations process. In addition, Mrs Nash has ensured that the school passed all of its JCQ examination board inspections. As a practising Catholic, Mrs Nash has been fervent in her support of the Catholic life of the school. She has established a calm and purposeful atmosphere in exams, always beginning in prayer. She has attended many masses and liturgical events both on site, and elsewhere in the parish. She has also supported with recruitment of exam invigilators by persuading members of her church to apply. Mrs Nash has trained invigilators to actively support the Catholic life of the school, and they too are keen to attend mass where possible. Mrs Nash helps out with duties at break and before school to ensure pupils are safe, and she always takes great care to support pupils' wellbeing during the stressful examination period. Mrs Nash has been the face of exams for as long as people can remember, and she has shared in the joys and disappointments of so many generations of pupils at the school. She has motivated individual pupils and supported others, and helped to 'educate each and every unique child in her care to hear and respond to what God calls them to be'.

By Miss Marston



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staff
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“So, the time has finally come, when I am able to sit back and relax! I have had an absolute blast at SJW and feel very honoured to have been a part of the wonderful SJW family for 15 years! I have enjoyed all of my time with the fantastic pupils that have come through our doors. I am always thrilled to see our pupils make their way proudly and confidently into the big wide world at the end of Year 11, knowing that we have given them all the very best start in life, and helping them to hear and respond to what God calls them to be. I have also been lucky to work with some quite simply, wonderful staff. Each and every staff member gives 110%, every single day to maintain the standards and ethos of this very special school. I am immensely proud to have been a part of the superb staff team here. I will of course, miss every single person associated with the school, including many parents. Hopefully I will still be around to pop in from time to time for special events, if of course, I am invited! Take care all of you!”

By Mrs Page

Mrs Page received a certificate of thanksgiving for dedicated service to Catholic Education from the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service:

Mrs Page began working at Saint John Wall Catholic School as a Temporary Science Technician and Casual Exam Invigilator on 7 December 2009. She previously worked in IT, managing field support and IT infrastructure teams – but this suddenly ended in redundancy. In one of her references it says ‘Mrs Page will go out of her way to make every effort to communicate with you and make sure that you understand what is required of you’. This certainly proved to be the case as her career progressed at Saint John Wall from lab technician to clerical assistant, and then on to attendance officer in 2011. This role was re-graded in 2012 and included the responsibility that Mrs Page had to present to the school’s Catholic life and Pupil welfare committee. During her time as attendance officer, the school’s attendance was always above the national trend. Mrs Page worked tirelessly to build relationships with children and their families, and this fully supported the Catholic ethos of the school to be a welcoming and family-friendly community. During a support staff re-structure in 2016, Mrs Page’s role was altered to Pastoral and Attendance Officer. This role enabled her to take a fuller part in the pastoral life of the school including supporting Heads of Year and senior leaders with rewards, sanctions, safeguarding and many other aspects of

pastoral care. In 2017, the school introduced external safeguarding audits and under Mrs Page’s leadership, attendance and punctuality procedures were identified as a real strength of the school.

During 2017 the Headteacher struggled to find a suitable replacement for her PA who had retired. So, Mrs Page was persuaded to undertake the role of Headteacher’s Support Manager.

In this role, Mrs Page has played an integral part in the Catholic life of the school, not just for pupils but staff aswell. Mrs Page makes every effort to get to know staff and understand their personal circumstances. She supports them with real compassion and empathy. Mrs Page takes a thoughtful approach to cover to ensure the most suitable staff are used, to ensure the best education of our pupils. Through this work, she has helped the school staff absence to be incredibly low, and much lower than other schools. Mrs Page is the person who writes the Catholic life thankyou letters for staff. She embraces the Catholic life of the school, attending masses, trips, visits, House activities etc. she is the face of the school for visitors and when liaising with Fr Subba. Mrs Page is a professional and personal support to the senior leadership team – she is the one who makes the tea and provides the chocolate! She is the person who welcomes the CSI and Ofsted inspectors. Mrs Page is the person who welcomes interviewees and new staff to the school. All external visitors comment on the welcoming atmosphere in the school, and Mrs Page is a key part of that. I am sure that most people at the BDES will have spoken to Mrs Page or met her on one occasion or another. It is difficult to put into words how much she has done for the school, staff and pupils. She will be greatly missed by us all. Mrs Page helps create that atmosphere so that she and our staff are able to ‘educate each and every unique child in their care to hear and respond to what God calls them to be’.

By Miss Marston





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staff
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Mr Bhogal has fully supported the Catholic ethos of the school. He has helped to communicate with pupils whose parents did not speak very good English. He has helped to explain the expectations of a Catholic school regarding prayer life and religious education. He is a role model of our SJW values. He has always demonstrated respect and understanding of other faiths and has encouraged community cohesion. Mr Bhogal has been generous to pupils and staff. He has end of term Bhangra parties with his Panjabi pupils. He always brings in gifts and cards for staff on Sikh holy days. He is one of the most dignified and courteous people I have ever met. He has been an ambassador for the school within the Parish, when engaging with our Sikh community.

By Miss Marston

"I joined Saint John Wall Catholic School on 26 April 2011 as a part time Panjabi Teacher and I have thoroughly enjoyed working at this school. St. John Wall School is a 'Happy School' where everyone welcomes you with a smile. The governors, leaders and all the staff work together whilst I feel the teaching staff are fully supported by the senior leaders. They all work in unison to achieve their goals and as a result pupils are learning productively whilst attaining excellent results. Pupils in the school come from diverse communities, learning in collective harmony to reach their potential whilst maintaining a high standard of discipline. I should mention that safeguarding of pupils is very effective at this school. On duty staff make it a priority for pupils to return to their homes safely at the end of the day. The magnanimous nature of the headteacher, the pleasant administrative as well as reception staff is admirable. The school has a hard working, dedicated team of cleaning staff who maintain the facilities superbly. I have had a wonderful time at the school and will miss all of you dearly. I will cherish the memories of my time here always".

By Mr Bhogal

Mr Bhogal also received a certificate of thanksgiving for dedicated service to Catholic Education from the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service:

Mr Bhogal has been employed as a part time Panjabi teacher at Saint John Wall since 26 April 2011. He had previously taught at Handsworth Wood Girls' and Handsworth Wood Boys' schools for 16 years. During his 13 years of service at Saint John Wall he has supported numerous pupils to take pride in speaking their home language. He has also helped many to gain a GCSE qualification, and several to gain the A level qualification too. Many pupils gained the highest grades in these qualifications. For some of our new arrivals this has been their chance to feel success in the British education system, when perhaps their English did not enable them to gain high grades elsewhere.



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Image of staff deleted.

“In September after 17 years teaching maths at Saint John Wall I shall be retiring. I am filled with cherished memories of the pupils I have had the privilege to teach, also the colleagues I've had the pleasure to work with and the lifelong friendships I have made here. I will always treasure the time I've spent at this vibrant, very special school. Wishing the entire school community continued success”.

By Mrs Forde

Mrs Forde also received a certificate of thanksgiving for dedicated service to Catholic Education from the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service:

Mrs Forde began working at Saint John Wall Catholic School on 24 September 2007 having completed her teacher training at Newman College of Higher Education (now Newman University). She qualified to teach all primary subjects and KS3 ICT to pupils aged 7 to 14, and was taken on temporarily as a 'General Classroom Teacher' at Saint John Wall, to cover a maternity leave. Mrs Forde successfully completed her NQT induction period and was then given a permanent post in September 2008. Mrs Forde began to make a significant contribution to the Catholic life of the school when she undertook a Head of Mandela House role in 2011. This involved planning and co-ordinating events for Mandela House on 'Fete Day' and Sports day, plus other fund-raising and competitive activities. During this time she started to teach maths and in 2014 she was awarded a TLR as Pupil Achievement Co-ordinator, to work particularly with disadvantaged pupils. This enabled her to use her talents in building relationships and motivating pupils from the most deprived backgrounds to succeed in maths. She had good success with interventions which subsequently helped the school on its journey to improved outcomes, higher numbers of pupils achieving GCSEs in both English and Maths, and ultimately improved life chances for pupils. Mrs Forde's lessons were regularly visited as examples of best practice when the school hosted leaders from other schools for Progress8 Conferences and other partnership events.

Looking back on her 17 years of service, there are numerous Headteacher and Governor letters in Mrs Forde's file thanking her for her contribution to the Catholic life of the school, her participation in the Section 48 inspection, her winning form Prayer Corner, and her dedication to her tutor group.

Especially commendable is her care and empathy for pupils who are growing up in challenging circumstances. For several years Mrs Forde voluntarily set up a breakfast club. She sourced free donations from local bakeries and shops, and provided toast and drinks for pupils who otherwise wouldn't have a breakfast at home. Any left-overs would be made into sandwiches and handed out at break time on the playground. Mrs Forde also ran gift stalls at certain times of the year e.g. Mothers Day and Christmas. These stalls had affordable items on sale that pupils could purchase so that they were able to give presents to their relatives during those times. Mrs Forde used any profits from the stalls to buy her tutor groups treats and donate to school fund.

Mrs Forde will be retiring this summer. During her 17 years at SJW, she has touched the lives of many pupils and no doubt made a difference to their outlook and opportunities – she has truly helped to 'educate each and every unique child in her care to hear and respond to what God calls them to be'.

By Miss Marston

Image of staff deleted.

“I have been at Saint John Wall for seven years, and I can truly say they have been incredibly special. It has been an honour to work with our pupils in English and I will miss you all very much. Please remember how important you are and how much you have to look forward to. A huge thanks also for the wonderful English team and the staff at Saint John Wall - I have always felt very much part of a family working here and I will miss the kindness and friendship of you all. Have a lovely summer and take care”.

By Mrs Hillier





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Image of staff deleted.

"What an adventure it's been! I'm so proud of you all. I've seen so many individuals across my two classes embrace the complexities of Spanish this year, discovering their self-confidence and pushing themselves to do better. It's been a joy to get to know you all. I hope you take what you're learning now across the world on many adventures, eventually meet Spanish-speaking friends and enjoy a world of knowledge. If nothing else, know that you're part of a world in which people look different but say the same things to each other as we do. Adelante and enjoy your summer holidays!"

By Mrs Harris

Image of staff deleted.

"It has been a pleasure working with all of you. I thank you for the many positive moments and happy memories I have made during my time at Saint John Wall Catholic School. I have met wonderful people, I learnt, and I made new connections. And we never know maybe our paths will cross again. Good luck!"

By Mrs Hashimova

Image of staff deleted.

"I've been working as a pupil coach at SJW since November. I am really grateful for my time here- the pupils and staff have been very kind. I have enjoyed working as a mentor - and have learnt a lot in the process. Working with pupils individually has been especially rewarding- and has given me a developed respect for the complexities of education. I leave SJW with stronger confidence and leadership skills. Thank you to all the staff for your support, and I hope all the pupils continue to work hard and succeed!"

By Miss Götz

"I am extremely grateful for the past 3 years I have spent at Saint John Wall and all the things it has taught me. The school is a wonderful place and everyone in it creates a lovely caring environment where I found pupils and staff can thrive. I was lucky to have this experience and learn many crucial skills and lessons that will help me in my next steps, as well as meeting many amazing inspiring people. I am very sad to be leaving, however happy to have had the time I have had at the school and prepared for my next adventure. Thank you very much to everyone at SJW for making my time here so enjoyable and memorable!"

By Miss Clayton

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"It has been a pleasure being an MFL teacher at SJW for four amazing years. I would like to first thank the pupils, who have been the best part of my job; your enthusiasm and curiosity have made my time at SJW so fulfilling. Watching you grow and succeed has been incredibly rewarding. Keep being curious, work hard, and believe in yourselves. You're all capable of great things. I would also like to thank the staff and my department, as working with you has been fantastic. I have learned so much from being a part of SJW, and I'm thankful for the memories we've made together. I'll miss this community and will always look back fondly on my time here".

By Miss Gosselin



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Image of staff deleted.

"It's said that 'all good things must come to an end' and that is certainly true of my feelings leaving SJW. I have been a member of staff for 7 years, having joined in January 2017 and have experienced a lot of professional, as well as personal, growth during my time here, so SJW will always hold a very special place in my heart. I feel extremely grateful I've been able to experience working alongside an array of dedicated, hardworking colleagues and had the pleasure and privilege of teaching the fantastic pupils at the school. I wish everyone at the school well and look forward to hearing about it's continued success and progress".

By Mrs Mann

Image of staff deleted.

"After seven years of working at Saint John Wall, it's time for me to say goodbye. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Saint John Wall. I am so appreciative for being a part of the loveliest Science department! Thank you all for the memories and lessons you have taught me. I will miss staff, pupils and will be thinking of you all and my time here, back home in Slovakia. Thank you for looking after me SJW. Goodbye and good luck for the future. God Bless."

By Mrs Hudak

Image of staff deleted.

"I have been an invigilator at Saint John Wall School for over twelve years. During this time, I have seen many changes take place and have enjoyed working with both the staff and pupils. I will certainly miss being part of the St John Wall Family".

By Mrs Ware

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"My time at Saint John Wall Catholic School has been an incredibly rewarding and memorable journey. Working with our wonderful pupils has been a joy; their enthusiasm, curiosity, and growth have been a constant source of inspiration for me.

I am also deeply grateful for the incredible staff at SJW. Their dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment to the pupils have been truly inspiring. From the warm welcomes in the morning to the collaborative efforts in the classroom, the sense of community and teamwork here is unparalleled. I have learned so much from my colleagues and have been continually impressed by their passion and professionalism.

As I move on to the next chapter of my career, I will carry with me the memories and valuable experiences gained at SJW. Thank you all for your support, friendship, and the wonderful moments we've shared".

By Mr Mehmood

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"As I prepare to embark on a new chapter, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the wonderful experiences and memories we've shared over the past three years at our school. It has been an absolute privilege to be a maths teacher, guiding our incredible pupils through their academic journey. Watching them grow, not just academically but personally, has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my career.

To all my classes, it has been an honour to witness your journey from curious pupils to confident learners. Your enthusiasm, resilience, and kindness have been truly inspiring. I am immensely proud of all that you have achieved and excited for the bright futures that await you. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your educational journey. I will always treasure the memories we've created together and look forward to hearing about your continued success".

By Miss Reglewska





Summer Fete

Monday 15 July 2024

On Monday we held our annual summer fete day. Pupils set up stalls with fun activities as well as food and drinks. There was a number of fun activities that took place including hook a duck, top bins football challenge, guess how many sweets in the jar, pizza and samosas, tombola, throw a sponge at a teacher, garden darts, pin the tail on a donkey amongst others. Well done to all the staff who made this an amazing day.

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Brilliant Club Graduation

Monday 15 July 2024

On Monday a group of fantastic Year 8 pupils completed their graduation ceremony at Birmingham City University after submitting their 1500 word essay responses based on gender, peace and activism. Well done to all the pupils involved, they had a brilliant day.

By Mr Mehmood

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"The graduation was amazing. I really enjoyed myself and I would recommend for future groups. It was a brilliant experience and I'm very grateful for being chosen for the Scholars Programme".

By Alan Adamkowski 8CAL



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"I found the trip to be a phenomenal success. I enjoyed every bit and even interacted with a few university students. Would definitely recommend it to the future brilliant students".

By Oyinkansola Olayiwola 8 JAS



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Values@Day

Tuesday 16 July 2024

On Tuesday, Year 7 & 8 worked with a variety of external visitors, they were:
Libby Flenley from SLL
Elevate
AWA Dance
Enrich Education (Quidditch)
Sport4Life
Stand Against Violence
Pupils had a very informative day and enjoyed the sessions.

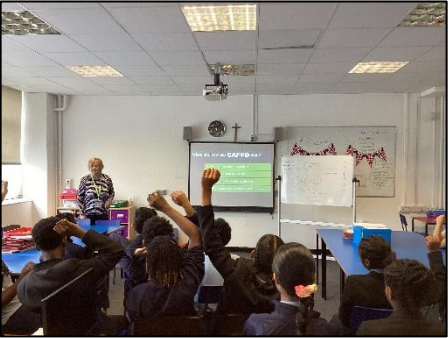


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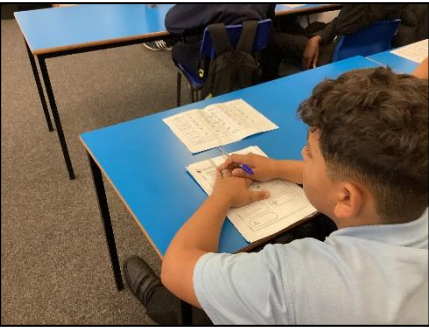
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Weston-Super-Mare Trip

Tuesday 16 July 2024

On Tuesday the whole of Year 9 went on a trip to Weston-Super-Mare. Despite the weather the pupils had a wonderful time playing in the sand and exploring the surroundings. Well done Year 9s!

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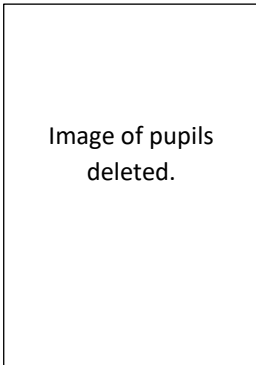
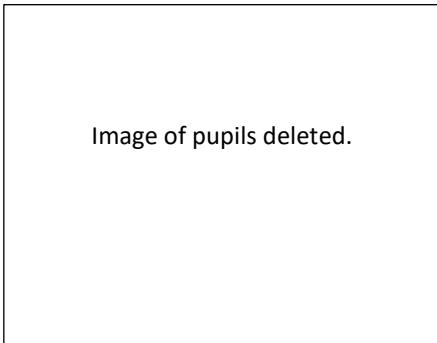


IFS London Trip

Monday 15 July 2024 to Tuesday 16 July 2024

This week, Year 9 Computer Science, IT and Enterprise pupils got to enjoy an overnight visit to London. The trip began with a tour around Bletchley Park, home to some of the machines that cracked the Enigma code in WW2 and one of the birthplaces of the modern computer. We then went on to visit the London South Bank University. Here pupils got to experience a virtual escape room where they put their problem-solving skills to the test. They also had a tour of the university and got to see what further education may look like and the facilities on offer.

The second day was a visit to the Staines-Upon-Thames branch of the international software firm IFS (Industrial and Financial Systems). Pupils were given talks about how the firm works and some of the main jobs and customers they have. Pupils had the opportunity to present to IFS employees what they had learnt about the past and possible future of Computing and Enterprise. Congratulations to the winning Team who won the opportunity to drive a lap in the hi-tech Formula 1 Simulation Experience. We want to take this opportunity to thank IFS for sponsoring the trip and allowing the pupils the chance to see London, visit the IFS offices and learn more about the world of Computing and Enterprise. **By Mr Rathbone**

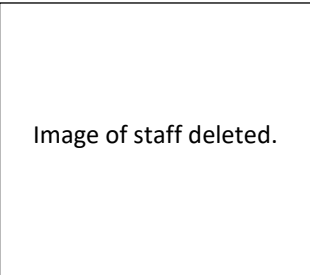
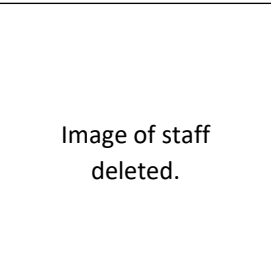
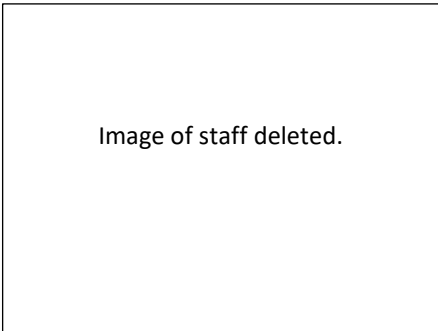
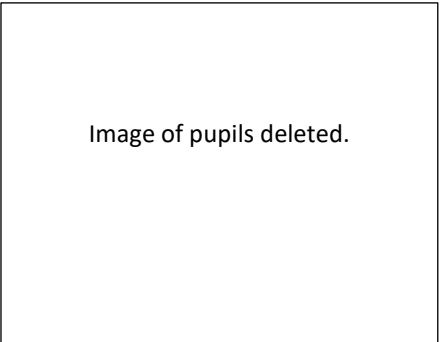
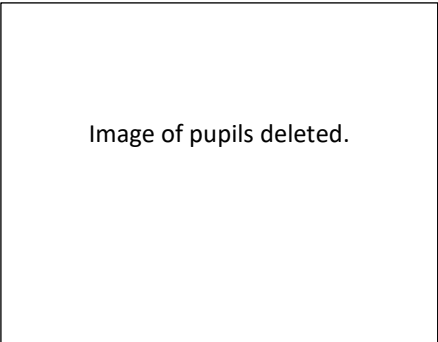
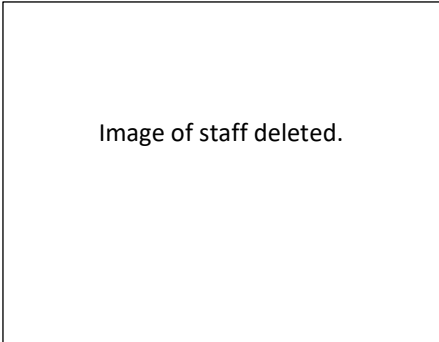




SJW Celebration Day

Wednesday 17 July 2024

On Wednesday the school hosted its first Saint John Wall Celebration Day. Firstly, we invited parents to accompany their child to school. Parents experienced a morning weekly worship and then attended a lesson where they learnt more about the life of Saint John Wall, and the significance of saints for those who are Catholic. Next, the school opened its doors to visitors who are friends of the school. This included ex-staff, governors, ex-pupils and representatives from businesses and the local community with whom the school has links. Visitors had a tour of the school, and attended a memorial event celebrating the lives of Mrs Harms, Ms Slee and Miss Nightingale, who sadly passed away last year. Finally, our SJW staff were treated to a celebration afternoon tea that had been prepared by Year 9 catering pupils and our canteen staff from AiP. It was a wonderful day, the weather was kind to us, and we were delighted to have so many people in attendance.





SMSCV Day

Thursday 18 July 2024

On Thursday, we welcomed Prison Me, No Way back to school for another successful year. We've been working with this organisation for over 10 years. Year 9 pupils discussed some key topics like County Lines, first aid and making the right choices. Pupils were also able to see inside a prison van. We look forward to welcoming PMNW back next year to work with the new Year 9s.



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Science & Industry Museum Trip

Thursday 18 July 2024

Today, Year 8 travelled up to Manchester to visit the Science and Industry Museum. Here the pupils got the opportunity to test experiments, learn how the world of science worked and about textiles. It was very interactive and great to see pupils getting involved.

"I really enjoyed the whole trip. There was an activity where I got to see how our skeletons move when riding a bike".
By Zenab Imram 8JAS

"I enjoyed the different activities we got to do especially the one where we got to test our reaction times". **By Krishnoor Singh 8RAH**

"I really enjoyed the whole trip and all the activities in the museum. It was also good to be back in Manchester".
By Hamza Mehmood 8REG

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Sandwell Valley Walk

Thursday 18 July 2024

On Thursday Year 7 embarked on their walk to Sandwell Valley. We trekked through the beautiful landscape, taking in breathtaking views of the lakes, fields and trees. After a fun afternoon of playing games, sports and on the play equipment we enjoyed a nice picnic and (for some) a trip to the ice-cream van!

Thank you, Year 7, for a wonderful day. You did us all proud!



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End of Year Service

Friday 19 July 2024

Today, Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 attended our end of year service to celebrate the achievements of the year. Thank you to all the readers, singers and performers who made the service a memorable one.



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July 2024



Dear Parent/Carer

Re: National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absence

I am taking this opportunity to write to inform you of some important changes the Department for Education is introducing regarding school attendance and the issuing of penalty notices when children are absent from school.

A new National Framework for Penalty Notices has been being introduced. The new regulations will come into effect from the 19th of August 2024. The aim is to improve consistency in the use of penalty notices across England.

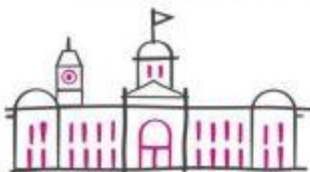
The national framework includes:

- A single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered of ten sessions (usually equivalent to five school days) for any unauthorised absence within a rolling ten school week period. The 10-week period may span different terms or school years. For example, two sessions of unauthorised absence in the summer term and a further eight during the autumn term.
- An increase to the rate of a penalty notice from £120 to £160 if paid within 28 days and £60 to £80 if paid within 21 days. If a second penalty notice is issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling three-year period, the notice will be charged at the higher rate of £160 with no option for this second offence to be discharged at £80.
- A national limit of two penalty notices that can be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling three-year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another tool must be considered (such as prosecution or another attendance legal interventions).

This means that if you have applied for a leave of absence to take place from September 2024 and the school has not agreed to authorise it, you may receive a penalty notice at the level prescribed by the new framework.

Please be aware that new legislation does not allow schools to authorise any holidays in term time or authorise leave retrospectively.

The local authority is in the process of consulting with schools and partner agencies to develop a revised local code of conduct. The document will be published on Birmingham City Council's website.



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The Council believes good attendance is essential to support your child in getting the most out of their education and we thank you for your continued support.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to contact the school who may be able to offer support for your child and family.

Yours sincerely

Sue Harrison
Strategic Director of Childrens and Families





National School Attendance Award

2023/24 Spring Term



St John Wall Catholic School

Top 25% of similar FFT Secondary Schools in England



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