

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 7

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 22 October 2021

Catholic Life - This year's theme is based on the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13)

Termly theme: Excellence (hard soil)

Termly SJW values - Attentive and Discerning

Dear Lord, You created all people in your image. We thank you for the astonishing variety of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of friendship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children. Amen

Headteacher's Message

I am pleased to report that we have had a very successful half term, with minimal disruption caused by covid. There were extremely low numbers of pupils and staff who tested positive or had to isolate when compared to the national picture. The full curriculum has been delivered and we have been able to re-start many enrichment activities including after school clubs and some trips. Many more are planned for after half term.

However, it is still important to plan ahead in case the covid safety guidance changes for schools. Therefore, we had a remote learning contingency planning day on Wednesday 20 October. This involved reminders and refresher training for all pupils and staff followed by an MTeams lesson in the afternoon. Year 7 pupils and parents, who may not have used Teams before, were invited in to school for training and then had their Teams lesson later in the day. On Thursday staff supported pupils with any extra technology issues and on Friday morning there was a Teams tutor time as an extra practice for everybody. We hope that this means everybody is fully prepared to move to remote learning if it becomes necessary over the winter months. Thankyou to all the staff who helped to deliver training sessions to pupils, teachers and parents.

Thankyou also to those teachers who have started to deliver our in-school tuition programme. Staff will be delivering face to face and remote tuition. Some of this will be in small groups (5for5 tuition) and some will be larger classes or whole year groups (masterclasses). There is information about the school's tuition offer later in this newsletter. All tuition is free to those pupils identified.

Our Black History Month celebrations have been a great success and you can see more about these later in the newsletter. Thankyou to all staff and pupils who have embraced the themes this year.

Finally, an update from Mr Jones, Chair of Governors is on the next page. Have a good half term break.

By Miss Marston

COVID 19 Vaccinations

The NHS Covid-19 Vaccinations will take place in school on Monday 15 November 2021. If you have not already returned the consent forms, please can you return them back to the school urgently.



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“And the leaves that are green turn to brown.”

The playwright George Bernard Shaw once said that the UK and USA “are two nations separated by a common language.” As you know here we call the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness Autumn while over there it’s known as the Fall! Recently I’ve heard Americans using the word normalcy though we prefer normality. Whichever word is used it has been so pleasing to see life at Saint John Wall beginning to return to how it was before the pandemic started.

For governors it has certainly been back to business as we’ve attended a number of meetings on a whole range of school life. At one of these Mr John informed us that despite there being no exams last summer our Year 11 pupils from last year made excellent progress since starting here in Year 7. He also explained about our NEET grading. NEET stands for Not in Employment, Education or Training. Mr John told us that our NEET score was zero which is as good as it gets. It means after they left us each pupil in last year’s Year 11 gained a place in education or training. Congratulations to Miss Marston and her team of staff and of course to the pupils on this crucial achievement - and many thanks to you as parents for all your support. Nationally, far too many pupils become lost from the system after they are 16 years of age. Incidentally the government intends GCSE exams to resume next summer. Arrangements for these will become apparent later in the school year.

Staffing, like football transfers, is a key part of building a good team. Governors have been involved in two aspects. Firstly: altering the staffing structure so that it better meets the ever-changing requirements of government policy. And then, of course, finding new staff. To ensure the school improves further we need the best staff and I can assure you we have continued to make some outstanding appointments.

One of the tasks governors have to do at the start of a new school year is to review and update all our policies. There are many of these covering all aspects of school life. To check how well these policies are being applied in practice governors receive reports from members of staff with responsibility for those areas. These colleagues also attend governors’ meetings to explain more and to answer any questions we may have.

Safeguarding is one such policy and is at the top of the list of our priorities. We are very fortunate to have Mrs Hazelwood, somebody who is highly experienced, as our nominated safeguarding governor. Recently Mrs Crooks provided our annual safeguarding training. Parents can be assured that the safety of your children remains at the forefront of all the school’s planning.

Our impressive pupil progress data referred to earlier is a product of the highest standards of learning being maintained inside the classroom. Miss Hanson recently outlined all that is being done to help staff further develop their skills. For pupils to be successful at school good conduct is essential. Miss Timmins described how good behaviour is being rewarded and which sanctions are being employed for those who may step out of line. Visitors to the school regularly comment on how impressed they are with our pupils. Unfortunately, there are occasions when a pupil might consistently refuse to co-operate and so governors are reluctantly obliged to remove that pupil’s place at the school.

Many discovered during lockdown how stressful teaching can be. Miss Guest gave us all a presentation on how the well-being of staff is being supported in these difficult times especially for those colleagues new to the school or indeed new to the profession. This is an area that in the past hasn’t received the attention it ought to have.

At another meeting Miss Guest also outlined how pupil premium funding which the school receives is being used to improve the resources and activities available to us. These are regularly celebrated on our excellent web-site. Do take a few minutes to have a look.

Our Catholic life theme this year is ‘Parable of the Sower’. Mr Lloyd-Price reported on how this has started and what is being planned over the coming months. Pupils who have chosen Saint John Wall as their secondary school have most certainly seen their talents fall on good soil.

His Grace Archbishop Bernard has instructed any Catholic school who like us has yet to join a Multi Academy Company (MAC) of schools to do so by next September or at least be well along the path. Until now as governors we haven’t felt it was in the school’s interests to become an academy. Such reservations still exist. We shall tread very carefully as the last thing we want is to undo any of the incredible progress that has been made in establishing our position as one of the highest performing Catholic schools in the whole Archdiocese of Birmingham.

I’ll publish an update in December on this and other aspects of what I hope will be normal school life by which time leaves will have doubtless fallen from the trees. Do contact me if you require any more detail on what I’ve written. Until then please take care. I’ll end with this prayer:

***God, our Father: Increase our faith; strengthen our hope;
keep us safe in your love; make us always grateful for the
gift of life that we share.***

This we ask through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Saint John Wall, pray for us.

Martin Jones, Chair of Governors



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Important Dates to Note

- **INSET Day – School closed to pupils. Pupils should access form time via Teams as part of our covid contingency planning checks. Friday 22 October**
- **Half Term
Friday 22 October (after form time on teams) – Friday 29 October**
- **Year 11 Mock 1 Examinations
Monday 1 November – Friday 5 November**

Parents' Evenings and Afternoons

- **Year 11 Parents' Evening & targeted Year 10 pupils - Thursday 18 November 2021- 4.00pm – 6.00pm**
- **Year 7 & Year 9 Parents' Afternoon & targeted Year 8 pupils - Wednesday 15 December 2021 - 1.00pm – 4.00pm**

Vacancies

We have the following vacancies here at Saint John Wall Catholic School.

- **Temporary Casual Pupil Coach** – (Closing date: Monday 1 November 2021)
- **Temporary Part-time Site Assistant** – (Closing date: Wednesday 3 November 2021)

Job descriptions are available on our website under the 'About Us' drop down menu 'Vacancies' or you can click here - [Vacancies](#)

Safety Notice

We continue to work with the police supporting their initiatives to ensure that pupils are aware of any dangers and risk to their life and others. Therefore, we shall be spot checking pupils as well as searching whole year groups as appropriate over the next academic year in line with our behaviour policy.

By Mrs Crooks



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Catholic Life

Year 7 SVP Group



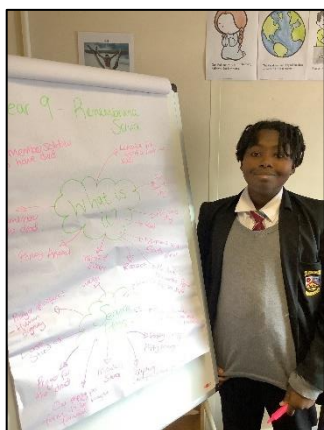
Welcome to our Youth SVP!

With an effective formula of "See, Think, Do," groups of Youth SVP members ages 11 to 14 meet in schools and parishes across England and Wales to discuss how to support people in need around them.

Youth SVP members use their voices and abilities to engage in their communities and take part in social action. Through voluntary work, Youth SVP members not only make a positive difference, but learn new skills, build lasting friendships and develop their faith.

This term our two Youth SVP groups have taken on two projects. Our first group will be engaging with our local community; research the struggles of the elderly; run a Christmas card competition for pupils in Year 7- Year 10.

Our second group will lead on a can drive for our local food banks and raise awareness of the work that is done by so many volunteers within our community to support those in need.



Year 9 Remembrance Service

This month Year 9 have visited the school Chapel to discuss, pray and lead on our Remembrance Services throughout November. Pupils shared ideas on what they felt should be said during our service, visited our memorial garden, and gave some brilliant ideas on how to get the whole school involved throughout the month of November.



Year 8 One World

Our Year 8 One World team came together this month to discuss and reflect upon the current Cop 26 that will begin in a few short days. They discussed the importance of looking after our 'common home' and will be campaigning within the school after the half term on environmental issues. If you would like more information on Cop 26 or the 'Eyes of the World Campaign' which our pupils will be leading on, please visit <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Eyes-of-the-World>

Year 9 Services in the Chapel

Throughout September and October, pupils in Year 9 have been visiting the school Chapel to take part in a special class service which has been based on Harvest and the changes that have been happening to each of us throughout the past year. Pupils had the opportunity to reflect and to pray, as well as visit our school garden.

By Mrs Ellis





Head of Year Messages

Grace Irwin 8RES, Ayub Gul 8BRK, Sarah Manu 8MCI, Hannah Nyika 8BRK, Francis Idemudia 8TOW, Karen Karenga 8TOW, Michel Frimpong 8BRK, Krish Harjiv 8BRK, Jalal Aziz 8BAR and Milcah Yosef 8BAR

Head of Year 11 Messages

Hello Year 11, we are in the last week of this half term and when you come back you will be doing your first mock GCSE exams! It is an exciting time, but I am sure it also quite stressful which is fairly normal, so please do not be alarmed should you feel this way. The important thing to do now is, push through this last week and have a good rest over the half term, balancing your social time with some revision too. I am proud of you as a year group as I have seen the growth even in this short period of time from a lot of you and it is testament to the fact that you are prepared to try to better your future opportunities. Please feel free to come and speak to me at any point if you are feeling uneasy about anything at all, that is what I am here for. I wish you all the best and I am sure we can look forward to a good set of results after the mocks, and we can then decide how to push forward to the next set of exams. I would like to leave you with a text which you should take comfort in, as it reaffirms how important it is to put God first in everything.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"
(Philippians 4:13)

By Mr Brooks

Hello everyone, congratulations on finishing your first half term of Year 11! The half term is a great chance for you to complete revision and complete any preparation ready for your upcoming mock exams. Over the half term please also have a break and relax ready for the Christmas term. Have a lovely half term.

By Miss Fox-Roberts

Head of Year 8 Message

We are now at the end of our first term in Year 8 and I can truly say that I am very proud of all the pupils by the way they have conducted themselves throughout this term. They have followed our Saint John Wall values of being attentive and discerning by displaying mature behaviour and I hope this continues once they return from their well-deserved half-term break.

Can I please remind parents/carers that as the weather is colder and wetter that pupils need to make sure that they are wearing an appropriate winter coat/jacket, so they are staying warm. Can parents also ensure that pupils are going home straight after school as it will be getting darker as clocks will be going back an hour on Sunday 31 October.

The following pupils have excelled this term by being the Top Ten in Year 8 collecting positive class chart points they are:

A big congratulations to them all for the excellent attitude, behaviour, and attainment this term.

Thank you to all the pupils who took part in the Cultural Heritage show and tell. It was lovely to hear pupils share their experiences of their heritage. This was shown through either posters that pupils had created or talking about what they are proud of.

Please enjoy the half term and always stay safe and look after yourselves.

By Mrs Chand

Head of Year 9 Message

As we come to the end of our first term in school, you have remained calm, considerate, and conducted yourself with the grace and maturity that I have come to expect from you. I am impressed with the way you have modelled social distancing for younger year groups on the playground by remaining within your bubble.

Well done for your participation in the house competition, and equally impressive input and work during Black History Month. It was great to see you during Cultural Heritage Day and all the diversity and memories we are creating at Saint John Wall Catholic School.

We have some improvements to make, and this includes uniform standards, which seem to slip during break and lunchtime. Let's ensure that your shirts are tucked in, and ties are on when we are in school. Those of you who play sports on the playground, please begin getting ready for lesson a few minutes earlier than everyone else so that you have time to get ready for class and are no longer the last pupils off the playground.

As you know, your first Assessment Week of the year will be upon you very soon and you have been given your examination homework booklets for your subjects. Please ensure that you use those examination booklets and continue with your revision over half term. You have had a fantastic start to school this term, gaining respect and positive feedback from staff and I am extremely proud of you. Please maintain these high standards when you return from the half term break. Let's keep Year 9 great!

"Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, but learning to dance in the rain"

Best wishes

By Mr Hussain



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Head of Year 7 Message

I'd like to congratulate all of our Year 7 pupils on their first half term at Saint John Wall Catholic School. Moving to a new school is never easy, but you have all shown great strength and character over the past few weeks and are a credit to your families. I hope that you spend your time over the half term holidays resting, keeping warm and staying safe.

Cultural Heritage Day

Congratulations to all those who took part in our Cultural Heritage Day and for your fabulous presentations! It was wonderful to hear how proud we all are of our heritage and cultures.

Examination Booklets

Pupils in Year 7 have been issued with examination booklets for each subject. This is compulsory work to be completed at home. Please ensure that you have every booklet and are ready with your completed work when we come back to school after the holiday. The booklets have in all of your learning from the past half term so this should enable you to revise everything that you need to know ready for your assessments.

Teams Meeting

Thank you to all those who were able to attend our training on Microsoft Teams. It was wonderful to welcome you all into our school. The lessons held were very successful and we hope you now have a better understanding of how our online learning works in the event of a lockdown or self-isolation.

Uniform

The holidays give us a great opportunity to check our uniform and equipment. Please ensure that you have your uniform ready and all equipment for your return to school. You will also need to bring in your winter coat for our ever changing seasons!

Kooth.com is an online service provided for **FREE** by Birmingham City Council for pupils aged 11+ to encourage good mental health and wellbeing. Once logged in you will be able to access additional support, speak to people your own age and chat to counsellors about how you are feeling. It's good to talk! Please follow the link below and get registered:

www.kooth.com

By Mrs Ellis



My goals for this week...

Our challenge is coming to an end! Please see Mrs Ellis in the first week back with your completed challenges to be entered into the prize draw!

Goal number 1: Learn my timetable for the week

To help me achieve this, I will:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Goal number 2: Learn the routes to take to get to each of my lessons

To help me achieve this, I will:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Goal number 3: Complete a piece of development homework from the school website

To help me achieve this, I will:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



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Head of Year 10 Message

Hello year 10, It has been a wonderful first Half Term back. I would like to thank you all for your hard work and dedication to your assessment week that you have had. I hope when getting your feedback from your class teachers you have been able to identify areas which you need to focus on. We have 2 more assessment weeks this year so you will be able to show your improvement again.

I would like to say welcome to all of our new pupils that have entered Year 10 over the past week. You have settled in very well and I have enjoyed getting to know you. Well done for having such a fantastic start at Saint John Wall.

Thank you to all of those who participated in the Non-School uniform day your behaviour and conduct on this day was noticed as being positive and you have done yourselves proud. This also goes for those who went home and participated on Teams lessons. THANK YOU for putting your education first. It is important that you are doing Teams lessons when asked so that we can assess who may need extra support with ICT equipment- If you think you need any extra support with this then let me know so I can support you.

Over the last month we have been taking part in Black History Month activities in form time. It has been lovely to see so many of you talking and getting involved with the activities. Thank you to those who dressed in their traditional dress it was lovely to see you embracing your culture. It was very heart-warming listening to the presentation from all forms on the diversity within forms and what it means to be proud of the cultures represented. Well done to those pupils named before who were brave to present- you all did such a fantastic job and you should be proud of yourselves for that.

WELL DONE

10ESM - Ivie Imadonmwinyi, Logan Phillips-Robinson, Amrita Gill, Julia Moszczynska and Dimitre Vernon
10FOD - Asher Rogers, Chetan Sohal and Andrea Zajacova
10HAB - Shea Fleming and Hardi Pembele
10HAR - Deborah Gebrekiristos and Connie Grant
10PAR - Rain Love, Milika Rahman and Olamide Adekunle-Olayiwola

I hope you have a safe and restful half term and I look forward to seeing you back in school on November 1st

By Miss Reynolds

Kenelm Youth Trust Think Tank

In response to what we learned during the Synod on young people in 2018, the Kenelm Youth Trust wanted to make Think Tank visits to schools a regular thing. We were visited by 5 members of the Kenelm Youth Trust on Friday 15 October, giving insights to pupils from Year 9-11 on mental health and wellbeing and listening to what our pupils' thoughts on this subject. The subject focus "What our Faith says about Mental Health" proved to be a great conversation starter within the group providing a good outlet to talk about how they have been feeling in small groups. We had some wonderful feedback from the pupils involved with many wanting further help and advice on how their faith can support them further in the future.

By Mrs Ellis



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Year 11 Mock 1 Examination Timetable

w/b 1 November 2021

Period	Monday 1 November	Tuesday 2 November	Wednesday 3 November	Thursday 4 November	Friday 5 November	Monday 8 November
1 9:00 Start	Performing Arts Day	GCSE PE 1 Hour	Geography 1 Hour 30 Mins	French Reading 1 Hour Spanish Reading 1 Hour	Resistant Materials 1 Hour 30 Mins	French Writing 1 Hour 15 Mins Spanish Writing 1 Hour 15 Mins Hospitality 1 Hour 30 Mins
2 and 3 10:45 Start		Break				Break
		English Lang 1 Hour 45 Mins	Maths Non Calculator 1 hour 30 Mins	Maths Calculator 1 hour 30 Mins	RE 1 Hour 30 mins	Maths Calculator 1 hour 30 Mins
4 13:45 Start		Lunch				Lunch
		Science - Chemistry 1 Hour 10 Mins	History EEE 55 Mins	Science Physics 1 Hour 10 Mins	History C&P 1 Hour 15 Mins	English Lit 1 Hour
ALL ASSESSMENTS WILL TAKE PLACE IN EITHER THE GYM /Music rm 8 /DRAMA /SFC						



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Stars of the Month

English

- **Nathalia Campbell-Bennett 8RES** - for always working hard in her lessons and putting the effort to take pride in her written work.
- **Connie Grant 10HAR** - for always being helpful and proactive in class and always working hard to achieve
- **Arshpreet Singh 11LAK** - for his development in his work and now is more confident to participate in lessons.
- **Camya Johnson 11SIM** - for improvement in her written work and participation in lessons.

By Miss Heathcote

MFL

- **Arshpreet Singh 11LAK** - for being continuously learned and wise in his attitude towards Spanish.
- **Emmanuel Erikowa 8TOW** - for being active and curious in her approach to Y8 Spanish by completing outstanding work in both class and at home.
- **Chelle John Omozee 9WIO** - for being active and curious. What a great start to Spanish MFL!

By Mr Rosellon

- **Elnael Fasil 7COB** - for being curious and active in French by showing excellent attitude and engagement.
- **Francis Idemudia 8TOW** - being active and curious in his Spanish lesson being consistently showing excellence.

By Miss Gosselin

- **Samhal Guesh 11RAT** - for her excellent start to school and being active in helping with translations.

By Mrs Kawecka

History

- **Teya Davidson-Harris 9OWE** - being learned and wise by applying knowledge of the topic so far to create a Kahoot quiz.
- **Nikodem Siatkowski 7PAW** - for being generous and grateful in his attitude towards his learning.
- **Hasnain Khurram 9JON** - being active and curious. What a great start to GCSE History!
- **Paulina Michalowska 9JON & Maja Tchorek 9JOS** - displaying an excellent attitude and effort in History.

By Miss Lally

- **Shiv Patel 11WOO** - showing excellence at all times. Fantastic classwork and preparation for mock 1.
- **Kyra Mills 9OWE** - being active and curious. What a great start to GCSE History!

By Miss Guest

- **Daisy Idemudia 8RES** - for making amazing progress in History.
- **Esaias Stewart 8BAR** - for showing excellence in his attitude towards learning.
- **Jayden Platt 8BAR, O'Mari Harvey 8TOW & Haidar Ali 8TOW** - for being eloquent and truthful by retelling the story of Mansa Musa.

By Mr McIntosh



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Stars of the Month

- **K'Yanna Douglas - 8XW** - Excellent History skills.
- **Sarah Manu - 8YJ** - Superb historical knowledge.
- **Shania-Anne McDermott - 8XW** - Superb effort in History lessons.
- **Riccardo Sfteta - 7XW** - Excellent work and answers in History.
- **Rako Hussain - 7XW** - Excellent work and answers in History.
- **Rayna Jassal - 7XW** - Superb effort in History lessons.

By Mr John

9A Geography and History, fantastically representing Year 9 and the Humanities department in terms of the cultural heritage efforts; a superb effort from all the pupils involved.



Health and Social Care

Charnae Duffield 11SIM - Charnae has settled in very well this term, she has made detailed notes in her exercise books which are of good quality and good focus on her coursework. Keep it up!

Sanvir Kaur 11RAH - has done extremely well in Health and Social Care so far, showing excellent dedication and producing good quality work.

Simran Sheemar 11SIM - settling in well and showing great focus and attention to detail in assignments, keep it up!

By Miss Bibi

Hospitality and Catering

Camya Johnson 11 SIM and Tina Nyugen 11LAK - excellent focus and dedication in lessons for theory and practical's, producing high quality work.

Mohammed Umar Shaid 11RAT - has shown a huge improvement in attitude, being generous in helping others and being more focused. Keep it up!

By Miss Bibi

7YJ Food Technology

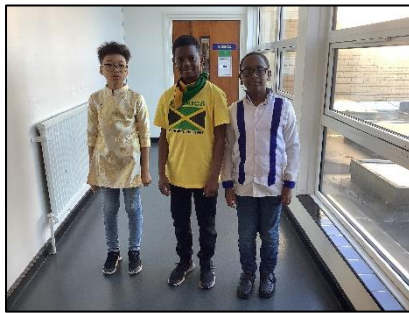
Erica Dogleag 7HAY - consistent excellent behaviour and attitude in lessons, showcasing great values; being generous, helping others, being attentive in seeking knowledge and developing skills.

By Miss Bibi





Cultural Heritage Day



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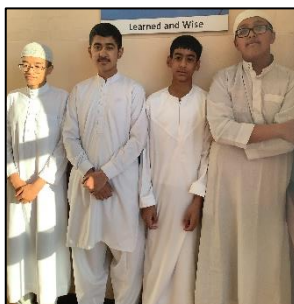
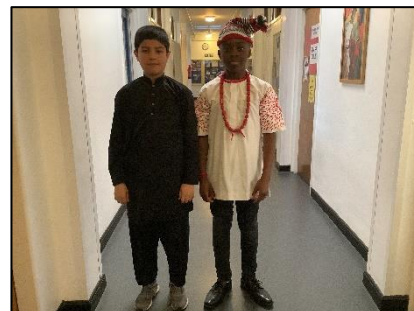
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Black History Month

How Black History Month is being celebrated in Humanities & MFL

My class came up with some interesting questions for our volcanologist such as "what barriers did you have to overcome to be an expert in your field?" and 'Has being black stopped you chasing your passion?'.

By Mr Cockburn



MFL – French – Miss Gosselin

Pupils in Year 7 have been working on introducing themselves. To reflect the diversity of different career paths pupils looked at travel blogger Gabby Beckford.

They completed a speaking and listening activity where they had to identify key information on Gabby Beckford such as her name, age and D.O.B.

Pupils enjoyed putting everything they have learnt so far about introductions into practice.

MFL – Spanish – Mr Rosellon

Pupils were active and curious whilst playing a game of Detectives. Pupils found celebrities, such as Usain Bolt and Khaby Lame, hidden in the classroom. Once they've found them, kids must fill in a grid with celebrities' details (name, birthday, age, home, nationality and extra information).



Pupils enjoyed the activity and commented on how BHM made them feel.

"Black History month makes me feel proud that I'm black and it is a time to recognise people and respect their culture."

By Ishmael Clarke 7FOR

"It makes me feel proud to be black and glad I have black history for confidence." By Monique Smikle 7FOR

"Black History Month made me feel proud of my colour and it also made me feel special because of who I am, my background and my African heritage and culture." Bradley Nguetack 7PAW



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Black History Month

How Black History Month is being celebrated in Humanities & MFL

History – Mr McIntosh

In History Year 7 and 8 have had the opportunity to look at the Medieval Empire of Mali and its most famous leader Mansa Musa.

Pupils in Year 7 compared Monarchies in medieval Europe to Medieval Africa. Pupils in Year 8 were able to see how wealthy the West of Africa was before the development of the slave trade in the 1500s.

Griot storytelling

Pupils were eloquent and truthful in retelling the story of Mansa Musa's Pilgrimage to Mecca.

They did this in the style of Griots- group of people whose job is to remember and pass along the stories of their community. They are oral storytellers. For as long as people can remember, Griots have told tales and sung songs that tell of family histories, recount adventures, or praise their rulers.

Pupils were very good at memorising the story and retelling it in a confident way.

Well done to the following pupils for having a go!

Jayden Platt 8BAR	Daisy Idemudia 8RES
O'Mari Havery 8TOW	Haidar Ali 8TOW
Yoosuf Bouterse 8RES	Salim Ali 7COB
Jacob Boahene 7HAY	Nhi Mai 7COB



What did pupils learn about the empire of Mali?

"I was surprised to learn the story of Mansa Musa. I never knew Africa had so much Gold." **Mercedes Johnson 8TOW**

"It is interesting to see that the West Africa had so much money before the slave trade." **Jacob Boahene 7HAY**

"We normally get told in the media that Africa has no resources, but we learnt today that Africa was rich in resources like Gold and Copper." **Borys Morawski 7PAW**

"The media shows Africa to be really poor and have a population of children that don't have access to food and water but the story of Mansa Musa and Empire he ran is so different." **Nilasha Kanna 8MCI**

"Africa was known as a poor continent but just by seeing of what we have learned I'm shocked." **Daniel Oji 8BAR**



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Black History Month

How Black History Month is being celebrated in Humanities & MFL

Year 8 have been doing an activity about volcanoes during their lesson for Black History Month. It is centred around award winning black volcanologist Jazmin Scarlett, who is based in the UK and how she studies volcanoes in relation to slavery and colonialism.

By Mr Cockburn

I have never seen a... Black volcanologist

- Jazmin Scarlett is a volcanologist (experts who study volcanoes). It's a field that combines her passion and heritage, since her grandfather lived next to a volcano that last erupted in 1979 on the island of St Vincent. The family connection set Jazmin on a path of research that she's continued ever since. She combines volcanology with social sciences - to understand how people feel and think about living with a volcano, and inform disaster preparedness and response.
- She became the first Black woman to receive an award from the Geological Society of London over her research into a Caribbean island's volcanic eruptions and its links with slavery.

"In 1812, the island was at the centre of the slave trade, and then fast-forward to 1979 and the eruption took place around six months before St Vincent gained independence from Britain."



You are a journalist interviewing Jazmin for the BBC. What are 5 questions you would ask her for the interview? **E.g.** *Did you have to overcome any barriers when becoming a volcanologist?*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



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Black History Month

How Black History Month is being celebrated in GCSE PE

As part as BHM in PE we have been looking at a black British athlete. This person is the European record holder for the indoor athletics 60m event and was raised in London. As part of using Literacy in PE we are going to be reading his autobiography and the struggles he went through as a young black male growing up

By Mr Owen

"He was a good black male who has switched his life from bad to good." **By Ronny Nkuidjeu 10HAR**

"Learning About Dwayne Chambers and how he turned his life around to become one of the fastest British 60m sprinters as a black male is inspiring the youth to stay on the right path." **By Dimitre Vernon 10ESM**

Black History Month

How Black History Month is being celebrated in Music

During this half term Year 8 have been learning about Reggae and its history. We have focused on 'Three Little Birds' by Bob Marley. Each person in the group learnt one part to then practise together for a final performance. The key elements were Drum introduction, Bass Riff, Melody and Off Beat Chords.

By Mrs Crooks



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Black History Month

How Black History Month is being celebrated in Computing & Enterprise

Enterprise

In Enterprise the pupils have been learning about Black entrepreneurs such as Jay Ann-Lopez. Jay-Ann is the CEO and Founder of Black Girl Gamers; an online safe space and platform that heightens the visibility of Black Women in Gaming and advocates for Diversity & Inclusion.

By Mr Rathbone



"It helps black people to be more confident about their work and effort and not be ashamed of where they from and what they do." By Noe Maleyombo 10FOD

"I have learnt from black history enterprise that black people have struggled to grow their business because of the colour of their skin but over years that has begun to change. Something that is important about this is the courage that people would've needed to have worked through the struggles."

By Tobi Babalola 10HAR

Computing

In Computing the pupils have been looking at the life stories of some Black trailblazers in the world of computer science. These seven men and women played an integral role in the development of the modern computer technology the world relies on today.

By Mr Rathbone

"I learnt that no matter what your skin tone you will be able to have a good job and that males and females are capable of such a job. I also learnt that the future generation of black people will be able to do this job knowing that members of the fellow black community have been in this section of jobs."

By Hannah Nyika 8BRK

"I have learnt that there are black people that have accomplished magnificent things in computing. When you think about them you know that you can do amazing things if you put in enough effort and work."

By Yoosuf Bouterse 8RES

"It is important to think about black history in computing, because they are encouraging people to get into computer science and inspiring people." By Abi Brown 8RES

"What I have learnt in the black history computing lesson is that no matter what skin, ethnicity and other type of stuff, if you want to do something or have a dream don't give up."

By Daniel Oji 8BAR



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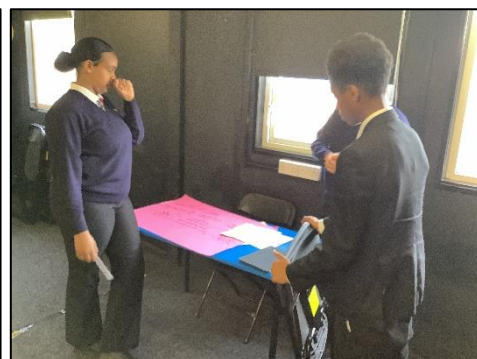


Black History Month

How Black History Month is being celebrated in Performing Arts

This month Year 11 have been busy creating a range of performances relating to their stimuli of the week. During Black History Month we looked closely at this quote 'You've got to learn to leave the table when love's no longer being served' from Nina Simone who was an American singer, songwriter, and a civil rights activist. Year 11 had the opportunity to explore more into what this quote meant to them and create a short piece based around their initial thoughts and explore a range of topics for example, equal rights, responsibility, love vs hate and knowing when to step away. It has been very interesting to see how creative Year 11 have been especially over this half term looking at a range of stimuli that allows them to have a voice and create theatre to express their thoughts, feelings, and opinions on a range of different topics.

By Miss Cummings



"Exploring this quote practically taught us how everyone should treat each other equally". By Zohaib Sheikh 11RAT

"This quote helped me believe that everyone should be treated the same and I have learnt about my culture and ethnicity." By Malick Jarju 11LAK

"When exploring the quote, I learned more about the history of my culture." By Omar Crossgill 11LAK



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Extra-Curricular After School Clubs

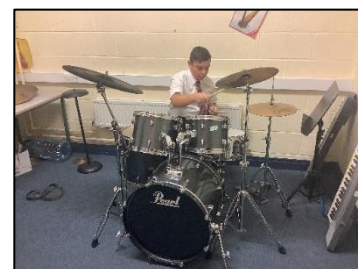
This half term, pupils have been encouraged to take part in extra-curricular activities here at Saint John Wall. These activities are led by our school staff to extend our pupils learning, skills and talents outside the classroom. The timetable below demonstrates the rich and varied extra-curricular opportunities that we offer our pupils:

SAINT JOHN WALL CATHOLIC SCHOOL A Catholic School For All

Curriculum Intent: "To educate each and every unique child in our care to hear and respond to what God calls them to be".

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lessons During School	Years 7-9 Dohl Drums- Mr H	Years 7-9 Steel Pans- Mr Clarke Guitar- Mr Aaron Drums- Mr Denver	Years 7-9 <u>Key Board</u> - Mr Duffell		
Lunch Time				Year 7&8 Engineering- work on your class project Mr Penfold T6	
After School	Year 7 and 8 Football Club Mr Brooks & Miss Reynolds	GeogSoc Explore Geography in the real world: documentaries, quizzes, model making, treasure hunts Mr Cockburn Room 24 <i>Refreshments included!</i>	House Competitions Specific Year Groups Miss Cummings Year 9 & 10 Football Club - Mr Owen / Mr Parekh Year 9 & 10 Netball Club Miss Cousins Year 9 Music Jam Session Keyboards, Drums, Guitar, Classical, Reggae, Hip Hop, Gospel. Mrs Crooks/Ms Brooks Music room	Saint John Wall School Team Sports Fixtures Years 7-9 Code Club Mr Rathbone Room 3	Year 7 –9 Cooking Club Miss Bibi T1 Year 7 & 8 Drama Club Miss Cummings Drama Studio Year 7 – 9 Art Club Mrs <u>Restauri</u> Room 1

Here are some photos of pupils enjoying the extra-curricular activities. If you have any other ideas for extra-curricular clubs or activities, please speak to Mr Lloyd-Price or Mrs Crooks.



By Mr Lloyd-Price



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Lifestyle Lessons

This half term, Year 7 & 8 pupils have completed their first set of Lifestyle lessons. These lessons focus on developing life skills in addition to the curriculum. Topics covered include:

- Democracy and money management
- First Aid
- Stewardship and how to care for animals and the environment
- Healthy mind and healthy body

Pupils completed a survey to evaluate their first half term of Lifestyle lessons. The results were as follows:

87% of pupils asked said that lifestyle lessons had helped them develop new skills.

63% of pupils asked said that lifestyle lessons helped them prepare for the future.

83% of pupils asked said that they learnt something new and interesting in lifestyle lessons.

By Mr Lloyd-Price

What have you learnt during Lifestyle?

Here are some examples of what pupils said in the survey:

We have learnt about politics and the different parties that there are in the UK. We know the difference between those parties and what they stand for.

We have learned how to perform CPR. We have learned how to put someone into the recovery position. We know what to do if someone is having an asthma attack.

We have learned about responsibility towards nature, the importance of looking after our surroundings, caring for animals and other living things.

Strategies for looking after our mental health. Avoiding situations that do not concern us - cyber bullying/bullying. We discussed ways to show and increase resilience.

During our lifestyle lessons we have created literacy-based interventions which support pupils to better understand what they read and then be able to feed back to others in their group. They will use Reciprocal Reading books and support each other with reading and comprehension. This will then guide them to have a better understanding of texts are reading and then be able to input this in to their other lessons.

By Mrs Chand

"In all the six weeks I have learnt reciprocal reading is to be confident in reading. Prediction is when you predict before you read the book, clarifying is when you make sure you understand the words, summarising is when you close the book and see if you know what happened in the story and also seeing if your prediction is right or wrong."

By Andrew Le 7COB

"Over the six weeks I have learnt how to speak up and how to discuss my answer. I had to predict, clarify, summarise and question. I have learnt how to understand what I am reading."

By Imogen Babalola 7FOR

"I have learnt to read as a group in my Literacy lesson, I have enjoyed the lessons and will now read more." **By Feven Ghebrezghi 7COB**



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Lifestyle Lessons

In our Year 7 Lifestyle lesson on Monday, we have been going over some of the First aid we have talked about over the past 6 weeks. We have included CPR, Allergies, Bleeding, Asthma, Head injuries and Choking. The pupils have enjoyed doing role plays and getting involved. Today some of the pupils were putting each other into the recovery position which is an important part of First aid. We ended the lesson with a revision interactive quiz which the pupils really enjoyed.

By Mrs France

"I love Lifestyle lessons because I want to learn how to help people if they have asthma, if they are bleeding or out of breath."

By Hussain Ahmedzai 7FOR

"I found Lifestyle lessons very helpful because I learnt lots of things to help someone in an emergency situation. If someone was choking, bleeding or had a head injury we now know what to do."

By Kritika Basra 7PEJ



At the beginning of the term some pupils in Year 7 have been given the opportunity to learn about First Aid during their Lifestyle lessons. Most pupils portrayed a good knowledge about First Aid and by the end of the six weeks they were confident enough to assist someone in need. The sessions have been delivered on a serious note but simple and enjoyable enabling pupils to require life-saving skills which they can use in their everyday life. Well done to those who completed and kept engaged during this course.

By Mrs C Forbes

"In first aid I have learnt how to put someone in a recovery position. I have enjoyed doing the word searches and learning about what to do when someone is bleeding."

By Priya Chem 7PAW

"In Lifestyle we have learnt how to control allergies, stop bleeding and what to do if you see someone passed out. These things have literally helped me. For this reason this is one of my favourite subjects."

By Veer Kaura 7PEJ



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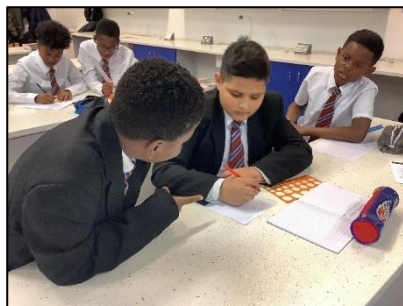
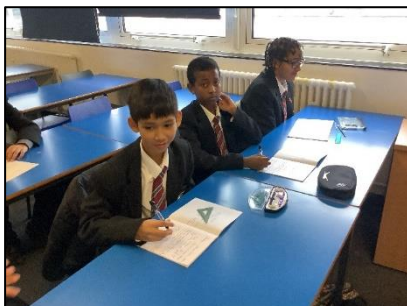
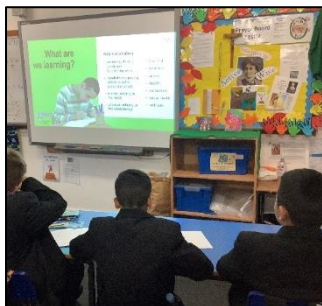


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Lifestyle Lessons

In Year 7 and 8 lifestyle lessons we have been looking at having a healthy mind and developing and maintaining positive mental well-being. We have looked at positive body image, mindfulness, social media and cyber bullying, happiness and resilience. During our sessions we have had healthy discussion, practiced mindfulness and ensured that we know where to turn to for help. All the pupils have participated well and tried the activities to maintain a positive mental well-being.

By Mrs Adams



"The lifestyle lessons have helped me become more organised and improved my maturity." **By Miradi Pembele 7HAY**

"I love lifestyle it calms me down." **By Sebastian Lambert Blackwood 7PEJ**

"Lifestyle helps me focus on the positives." **By Sham Behane 7HAY**

"I like lifestyle it is fun and entertaining." **By Sandra Lutrzykowska 7PAW**



During Lifestyle lessons in the Chapel, pupils have been playing the game of Mexican Train. They have learnt about being good winners and losers. They have also begun to develop strategies to help them play the game better.

By Mrs Clayton

"I have enjoyed Lifestyle lessons because it has given me the chance to do different things that I wouldn't normally do like pond dipping and litter picking."

By Elnael Fasil 7COB

"The best thing about Lifestyle lessons was when Mrs Clayton brought Dougal into school and we learnt about pet care. I had no idea it was so complicated."

By Jahari Walker-Smith 7PAW

"I have really enjoyed being outside with Mrs Clayton especially pond dipping, planting our bulbs and taking Dougal for a walk."

By Jacob Boahene 7HAY





Tuition at Saint John Wall

I am pleased to let you know that the school has received extra funding to pay for pupils to receive tuition to help overcome any effects from the pandemic. We have decided to use our own staff to run the tuition sessions as we feel that they know our pupils best.

Tuition will be specially developed and personalised for the learning needs of individual pupils. This tuition programme has been designed to support our pupils with their learning, prepare them for assessments and ensure that any gaps in pupils' knowledge are addressed.

There are two types of tuition:

5for5 tuition: Five pupils are chosen by a class teacher. This teacher will work with the pupils for five 1-hour sessions, focusing on areas for development specific to those pupils. These sessions take place after school between 3pm to 4pm.

Masterclass: A masterclass will be led with a larger group, this may be a specially selected group of pupils, a full class or a whole year group. This will take place either face to face afterschool at 3pm to 3.45pm or on Teams at 5pm to 5:45pm.

Different children will be invited to attend these extra tuition sessions throughout this school year. Attendance is compulsory because we believe these tuition sessions will be very beneficial.

If your child has been chosen to take part in our tuition, you will receive a text or a letter.

The programme in this newsletter lists the different tuition that will be running for the next two weeks:

	Monday				Tuesday	Wednesday			Thursday		Friday	
Week 1 1 November – 5 November	Yr 7 RE with Mrs Harms 5 for 5 3pm-4pm					Yr 10 Maths with Mr Simmons 5 for 5 3pm-4pm			Yr 10 Polish with Mrs Kawecka 5 for 5 3pm-4pm	Yr 10 Science with Mr Rahman 5 for 5 3pm-4pm		
Week 2 8 November – 12 November	Yr 7 RE with Mrs Harms 5 for 5 3pm-4pm	Yr 10 English with Mrs Hillier 5 for 5 3pm-4pm	Yr 10 History with Miss Guest 5 for 5 3pm-4pm	Yr 10 Maths with Mr Hussain 5 for 5 3pm-4pm	Yr 10 History with Miss Guest 5 for 5 3pm-4pm	Yr 10 Maths with Mr Simmons 5 for 5 3pm-4pm	Yr 10 History with Miss Guest 5 for 5 3pm-4pm	Year 7 & 8 Pastoral Masterclass with Mrs Ellis 3:05pm-3:50pm	Yr 10 Polish with Mrs Kawecka 5 for 5 3pm-4pm	Yr 10 Science with Mr Rahman 5 for 5 3pm-4pm	Yr 10 History with Miss Guest 5 for 5 3pm-4pm	Yr 10 History with Miss Guest 5 for 5 3pm-4pm

If you have any enquiries about our tuition programme please contact

Mr Lloyd-Price (Year 7 and 8 parents) or Mr John (Year 9 and 10 parents).

By Mr Lloyd-Price



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Book Reviews

Malamander

The book is about a missing girl going back to the hotel where her and her parents went missing 12 years- ish prior, asking for help from the lost and founder of said hotel, and play detectives. The whole point of her going to the hotel was to seek for her missing parents. Then how did it go from that to her and Herbert, the lost and founder, to get caught up to this legend that turned to be true? Now, this is my opinion, if you do read it, you might as well like it.

Daughter of the Flames

Daughter of the Flames was overall a great book. I would personally give it a 9/10. The story is about Zira, who's real name is Zahira Elefenesh, a royal. She lost her memory before six years old after 'the Great Fire ', where she lost all her family. Being rescued by her nanny, Zira grew to be a warrior for the Rua, who were in hiding from the Sedonne, when one day they attacked and they were forced to take action.

By Sarah Manu 8MCI

Coraline

"This novella was a movie from words, Neil Gaiman: a genius when it comes to words. The vivid scenes your mind can conjure will have you wanting to read more. From just the words you are put in a reverie state: both conscious and unconscious simultaneously, in third person, 1st person anywhere your mind takes you. Both a dream and a nightmare. I would definitely recommend this book."

By K'yaana Douglas 8MCI

Dairy of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul

"My Accelerated Reader book was called Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul. I really liked that book and I even got 100% when I did my test on it. I like everything about it, the font, the characters, the storyline. The main character of all the diary of a wimpy kid series is a 13 year old called Greg Heffley. He is mostly a funny person and kind of a wimp. The book is about Greg and his family going a road trip somewhere because his mother got an idea for it from a magazine called 'family frolic'. Greg, his older brother Rodrick, his younger brother Manny and his mom and dad eventually get stranded in the middle of nowhere with no keys or wallets. I liked the book because of how funny it is, normally books are supposed to be interesting or informative but Diary of a Wimpy Kid books are actually really funny."

By Natasha Glenn 8BRK

Valkyrie the Runaway

"Definitely would recommend this book to someone who likes Norse mythology and people who are fascinated by myths."

By Natasha Phagania 9WIO



House News

Here are the top achievers for this month

Gandhi

Connie Grant (10HAR)	56
Karen Karenga (8TOW)	48
Ashpreet Kaur (9WIO)	47
Riya Bains (7FOR)	45

John Paul

Rohit Din (9OWE)	68
Sarah Manu (8MCI)	43
Harsh Kumar (7COB)	40
Sahar Stosray (10ESM)	31

Pankhurst

Ayub Gul (8BRK)	58
Crystabel Owusu (10HAB)	44
Ali Mirshekarikazerouni (9JON)	38
Fidele Randy Kelian Huyge (9JON)	38
Miradi Pembele	37

Luther King

Rohan Sehjail (9JOS)	59
Shanae Warner (8BAR)	45
Kemissa Ible (7PAW)	34
Manjot Kaur (10FOD)	34

Mandela

Grace Irwin (8RES)	53
Kerion Mokanda (9GOS)	53
Aqsa Nawaz (7PEJ)	36
Shanay Graham (10PAR)	31

Black History Month House Competition - 'I am Proud to be'

Over the three weeks we have been looking at a range of different themes relating to BHM. This month's competition gave our forms a chance to get creative and delve into who they are and what they are proud to be. It was amazing to see everyone get involved and share who they are proud to be as an individual and part of their cultural. Below is some of our fantastic submissions and the winner will be announced in the first November Newsletter so let the best forms win!

By Miss Cummings





Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for your continued support with Covid-19 home testing. **We know how important it is for you to be able to send your children to school.**

You should encourage your children to continue testing and [report](#) results twice a week, at home, throughout the October half-term school holiday and take a test before returning to school/college. All results should be reported, even if your result is negative or void

Your children have been given home test kits from school to bring home. You can help them to take the test and report their results. Testing is free of charge. If you do still require more home testing kits to continue testing over half term, you can also order more [online](#) through gov.uk or collect from your local pharmacy.

By testing your child twice a week over the half term, you will help us to reduce transmission of Coronavirus, keep your child in school and keep Saint John Wall Catholic School open to minimise disruption to their education and to you and your household.

Please contact the school, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

K Marston

Miss K Marston
Headteacher



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21st October 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to update you on our local COVID-19 offer to schools across Birmingham following the Press briefing by the Secretary of State for Health on 20th October 2021.

You may be aware of the extra control measures that your child's school would have introduced since the start of the Autumn term in response to increased infections. These include encouraging good handwashing, twice weekly LFD tests, staying at home if unwell or tested positive and taking the COVID-19 vaccines. They have also been reminding children to practice good hygiene by sneezing or coughing into their elbows or using and disposing of tissues properly, as the weather gets cooler.

The Council has worked with headteachers to produce local bespoke [school resources](#) to raise awareness within our schools

What to expect if there are COVID-19 infections at your child's school.

Schools are no longer required to identify close contacts of any cases of COVID-19 in their setting. If there is a confirmed case at school, they will send a "warn and inform" letter to let you know about it and provide general updates.

Pupils who have mixed closely with the confirmed case (in the same class or group of friends) or are contacts of a case due to contact outside school will be advised to have a PCR test. It is helpful if children who are close contacts remain at home until they receive a negative result as this helps to further reduce the risk.

If the school has a large outbreak, the public health advice will be based on a risk assessment and may include some or all of the following measures:

- Reducing mixing between year groups or classes.
- Introducing the use of face coverings in classrooms and communal areas for anyone age 11 and over.
- Cancelling large school gatherings such as assemblies, open evenings, scheduled sports events, residential school trips and school staff meetings.
- Moving to online learning.

These measures will be discussed and jointly agreed with the school, UKHSA, Department for Education, the Council's Education and Skills and Public Health teams using [the Department for Education's contingency framework](#).



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I would encourage you to continue to work closely with your child's school and support them by following the advice given.

COVID-19 vaccinations

COVID-19 vaccinations are now available to everyone in Birmingham aged 12 years and over. It is very reassuring to see that the vaccines have helped to reduce the risk of serious illness or death, spreading infection and give protection from known variants.

I encourage you, if your child is aged 12-15 years, to consent to them receiving the vaccination at school as soon as it is offered.

The NHS is writing to parents to advise them about how their children will receive vaccines including when they miss a school appointment.

Please speak with a trusted professional or read the information available on [the NHS website](#) to support you in making Your decision. You may also wish to speak to your GP. For any young people aged 16-18 years, there are [several locations across the city](#) where they can walk-in and 'grab a jab'

Our school community has been amazing and continue to work incredibly hard to keep children, families, staff and visitors safe.

Thank you to everyone for your sacrifices and contributions to improving Birmingham's pandemic response.

Yours sincerely

Dr Justin Varney
Director of Public Health

Birmingham City Council
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Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

HAPPY, SAFE HALLOWEEN/BONFIRE NIGHT – REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

With the darker nights fast approaching, it is important that students are reminded what we, as a school community, expect of them in terms of behaviour.

Parents/carers and students should already be aware that as part of our safeguarding arrangements, the school has a two-way information sharing agreement in place with West Midlands Police, and we are active members of the local Police & Schools Panel. This joint-approach helps us to intervene early to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour involving our students, and provide support and up-to-date safety messages.

In partnership with the police, we would also like to remind our students about the following:-

- **Anti-social behaviour:** Halloween can be a scary time for people who don't like surprises or callers at their door. Think about how your actions and behaviour affect others; elderly and vulnerable people may be frightened by 'trick or treat' so look out for signs in windows that people do not want callers at their door.
- **Personal Safety:**
 - Be aware of your surroundings, take care of friends and family members and keep valuables such as phones out of public view whenever possible.
 - Don't drink alcohol, take illegal drugs or unknown substances; they can have a big impact on your health and safety, behaviour and your ability to do well at school and enjoy other interests and activities. They can also be addictive and have unpredictable side effects, including sudden death!
 - West Midlands Fire Service recommends that you go to an organised display; it's the smart way to stay safe. You'll see a lot more fireworks and it's a lot cheaper. Information about firework safety is available at www.saferfireworks.com
- **Weapons in public places:** carrying a knife will get you a criminal record which can have life-long effects on travel and job prospects. Those who carry knives are also much more likely to be injured by them.
- **Off-road bikes:** These can only be ridden on private land with the landowner's permission. Don't risk your life and future prospects by illegally riding these on the road.
- **Remember the company you keep:** if your friend breaks the law, you may also be held responsible for that crime – even if you weren't the one directly responsible.

Yours faithfully,

K Marston

K Marston
Headteacher
Saint John Wall Catholic School

Mat Shaer
Chief Superintendent - East NPU
West Midlands Police

Stephen Graham
Chief Superintendent - West NPU
West Midlands Police



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