

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 9 Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 11 November 2022

Catholic Life - This year we are focussing on 'The Year of Sanctuary'.

Termly theme: Solidarity (The Good Samaritan)

Termly SJW values – Compassionate and Loving

Gracious God, as we enter this memorial weekend, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the examples of their sacrifice inspire us in the selfless love of Your Son. Bless the families of our fallen troops and fill their homes with your strength and peace. Help us to answer the call to work for peace and justice and seek an end to war around the world. Amen

Important Dates to Note

- **House trip to Inflata Nation (Pankhurst House)**
Tuesday 15 November 2022
- **Aston University Trip (7 Year 11 pupils)**
Wednesday 16 November 2022
- **Values@Day**
Thursday 17 November 2022
- **Aston University Trip (7 Year 11 pupils)**
Friday 18 November 2022
- **JLH Languages (Year 8 pupils)**
Friday 25 November 2022
- **Year 7 and Year 9 Assessment Week**
Monday 28 November 2022 to Friday 2 December 2022

PISA international assessments

40 of our Year 11 pupils were randomly chosen to take part in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). Pupils answered questions about Reading, Maths, Science and attitudes. Their anonymised results will be used by the DfE and by Governments internationally to benchmark our education system against more than 80 other countries. The invigilators sent by Pearson commented that the behaviour and application of all of our pupils was "exemplary" and they were well looked after in the school, particularly by Mrs Nash. A massive thank you and well done to all of you for taking part, you have been a credit to yourselves and the school.

Anti-Bullying Week



Monday 14 November to Friday 18 November

Bullying affects millions of lives and can leave us feeling hopeless but it doesn't have to be this way. If we challenge it, we can change it and it starts by reaching out. Whether it's in school, at home, in the community or online, let's reach out and show each other the support we need. Reach out to someone you trust if you need to talk. Reach out to someone you know is being bullied. Reach out and consider a new approach and it doesn't stop with young people. From teachers to parents and influencers to politicians, we all have a responsibility to help each other reach out. Together, let's be the change we want to see. Reflect on our own behaviour, set positive examples and create kinder communities.

It takes courage, but it can change lives. So, this Anti-Bullying Week, let's come together and reach out to stop bullying.



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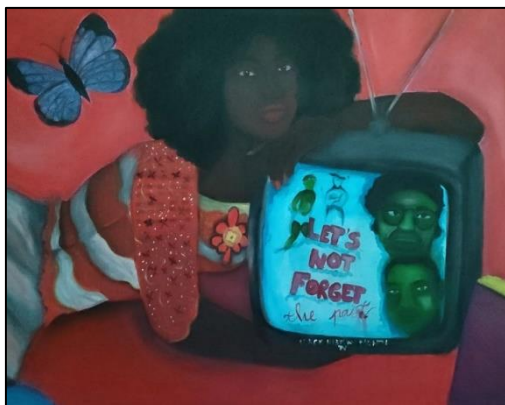
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Titan Black History Month Art Competition Winner

We are delighted to announce that Sarah Manu 9MCI is the winner of the Titan Black History Month Art Competition. Sarah will receive a £20 Amazon gift voucher and a certificate of achievement from Titan. Congratulations Sarah! Here is her winning art work.



"This is my painting for Black History Month. Besides being a simple painting, it has many hidden meanings. Starting from purple butterfly at the top; purple represents power, ambition, and nobility; a butterfly represents change and transformation, comfort, hope and positivity. I decided to use this animal and colour to represent how people can make an effort for a change, and that hope is there if we are ambitious enough to reach for it.

The book at the bottom just gives my point of view regarding BHM, which would be to try and understand each other's cultures and religions, and to remember the events from the past. Now getting onto the main part of the painting, it shows a black lady holding a TV, this one showing a small image of the times of slavery, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King and the words 'Let's not forget' referencing again to my personal point of view on BHM.

She is wearing an African attire. The sleeves have crosses to represent all of those who were killed because of racism, and the yellow/golden dots is for that every single event that happens regarding racism, one more person is aware of the injustice present in this world.

Also, I decided to make the people in the TV green because it represents life and resurrection, and gives a sense of tranquility and peace, which these people have so hardly fought for. The main colour for this painting is red, which symbolises war, courage, and anger, and it can be associated with blood. I used it as my main colour because there were, and still are, many victims of racism, and many have fought, so many others fight for them daily, for the rights that they deserve and to be seen as equal in the eyes of Modern society." **By Sarah Manu 9MCI**

Odd Sock Day

All you need to do is wear odd socks! It's a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique in Anti-Bullying Week! Odd Socks Day is being held on Monday 14 November this year.



Staff training – SJW Excellent teacher programme

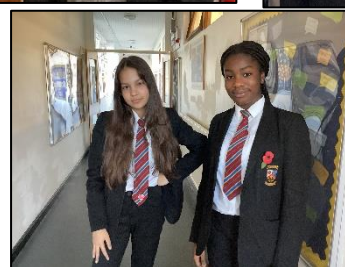
This year teaching staff are spending time after school participating in an 'Excellent teacher programme'. In March 2022 the government issued a White Paper titled 'Opportunity for all: Strong schools with great teachers for your child'. Within this the government set out an aim that 'by 2030, every child will be taught by an excellent teacher trained in the best-evidenced approaches'. For the last few years at Saint John Wall, our teachers have been trialing the latest research evidence as part of their Lesson study programme. Also, our early career teachers and their mentors regularly engage with research. Our school-developed excellent teacher programme is this year's addition to the above and it seeks to build on last year's Rosenshine Principles by combining it with the EEF's 5-a-day high quality daily teaching approach. Feedback from staff has been positive and we look forward to teachers further expanding their repertoire and applying these principles in lessons.





Raising Money for the Royal British Legion

What is Remembrance Day? Remembrance Day marks the day World War One ended, at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, in 1918. Remembrance Sunday is also marked each year, this falls on the second Sunday in November. On this day, there are ceremonies at war memorials and churches throughout the country, as well as abroad. The anniversary is used to remember all the people who have died in wars - not just World War One. This includes World War Two, the Falklands War, the Gulf War, and conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Every year in November, we sell and wear poppies in school as symbols of Remembrance to remember the fallen of the Armed Forces. The red poppy is a symbol of both Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future. **By Mr Woodward**



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Raising Money for the Royal British Legion

Form time activity: This week pupils in forms wrote their own Remembrance messages on a poppy which will be displayed on classroom windows. Messages focused on how thankful pupils are to those who have served in the Armed Services.

By Mr Woodward



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St Mary's Coffee Morning

We have been so busy this morning that there was no time to read any poetry which is what we had planned. Instead, pupils have helped to plant an Amelanchier tree in memory of Queen Elizabeth II. There was also a bring and buy sale and a raffle to raise money for Macmillan nurses. Pupils did a fantastic job calling prize numbers despite the rowdy crowd! Next week there is a speaker visiting to share information about Dementia. One of the most important things we do on our visits is chat to some of the guests who have Dementia and Alzheimer's to help them share memories and offer some support to their carers who bring them along.

By Mrs Clayton



School Games Programme

As part of the school games programme a secondary school talent competition was held at Sutton town centre on Tuesday. Thirteen Year 7 pupils attended and performed a street dance mix created by the girls using excellent team work during extra-curricular dance club. They placed an amazing 5th! For the majority of pupils this was their first time performing on stage and in front of an audience, they performed with confidence and high energy which was great to see from pupils who have only been at secondary school for 8 weeks. Those who performed should be incredibly proud of themselves. Our next performance will be at the Christmas show on the 12 and 13 December. If any pupils in Years 7 and 8 would like to join the dance club, it takes place in the hall on Mondays after school 3:10-4pm. I look forward to seeing some new faces and continue building on confidence and self-belief!

By Miss Young

"I really enjoyed performing on stage with the lights and encouragement from the audience" By Favour Basil 7RAH

"I am really excited to perform on stage again, join dance club it is so much fun!" By Aangelinah Antonio Pereira 7REG



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Sparx – Maths Department

The Maths Department have recently launched the use of a new software package called Sparx. Sparx will be replacing mathswatch, and pupils will have a weekly homework to complete. Pupils have all had a lesson with their maths teacher where they got to practise logging on and completing an example piece of homework.

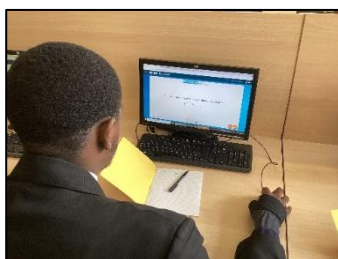
A bit about Sparx - For Parents/Guardians

Sparx personalises each child's homework, creating a weekly set of questions tailored to their level of understanding and learning pace. The questions are designed to be achievable whilst offering the stretch that learners need to make progress.

Each week, topics are set by your child's maths teacher and will make up the majority of the homework questions. Questions from previous topics will also be included in the homework so that students can keep practising the skills they have learned.

- Sparx homework is tailored to your child and should offer them just the right level of challenge, based on the topics that their teacher has set.
- Homework contains 3 elements: Compulsory, XP Boost and Target.
- All questions in the Compulsory section must be answered correctly for the homework to be marked as complete.
- Each task bar will show as green when fully complete. For the homework to be classed as complete, all task bars for that homework need to be fully green. The percentage of homework complete will show on the menu page:
- XP Boost questions are at a similar level to Compulsory, and offer extra practice.
- Target questions have been designed to challenge your child. You will receive a link to a video in your parent email each week, to help you offer them support and encouragement with their Target homework.

By Mr Simmons



"I loved using Sparx maths, it gives me questions to challenge me and rewards me with xp. It's great!"

By Lydia Binyam 7ESM

"Sparx maths pushes you to your limits and rewards you with xp and cool minigames."

By Khaleel Cunningham 7LEV

"It helps me to learn new things and helps me work areas I struggle with."

By Charlene Donaldson 7JAS

"Sparx is really easy to use and really fun with extra game modes after you complete a task. It's also a really big upgrade from MathsWatch."

By Logan Phillips-Robinson 11HIR

"It's a really good website and it is easy to use to complete homework."

By Alvin Titah 11SIM

"Sparx is really good as it tests my understanding by giving me different questions to answer."

By Alisha Shafiq 11SIM



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BIMA Digital Day

On Wednesday pupils took part in BIMA digital day. The day was split into 3 different sections, one where they would learn how digital technology impacts business and vocations within the tech industry, we were given 2 briefs from different clients and pupils were put in groups to help solve clients' issues using digital technology. **By Mr Esmaili**

Comments:

"I enjoyed today as it was very interactive and had to use our teamwork to overcome challenges. I learnt about how different businesses used different techniques and how they used them to help."

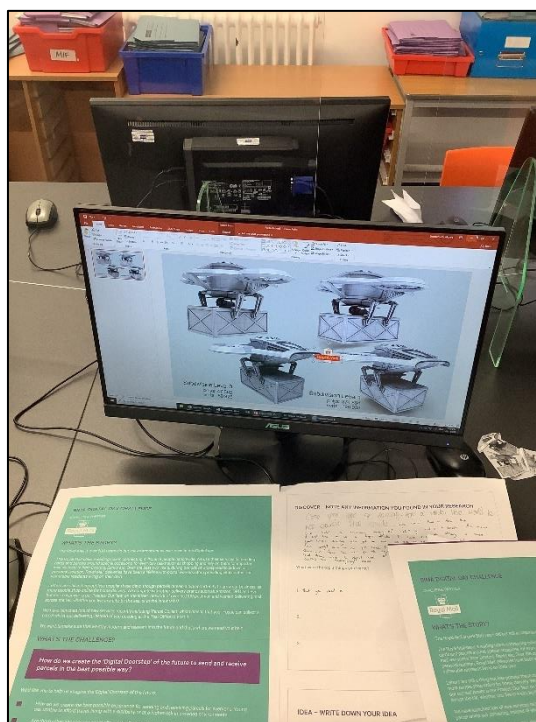
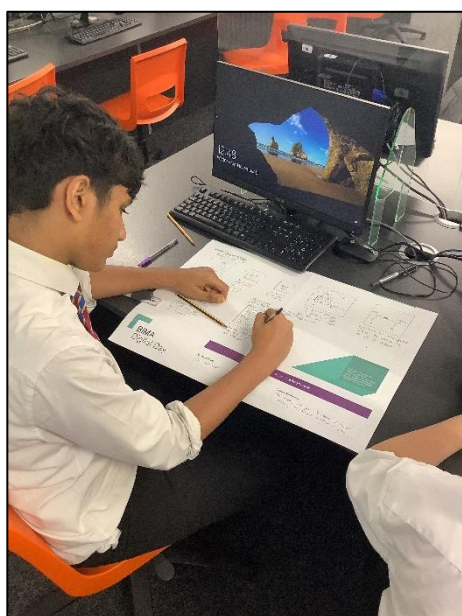
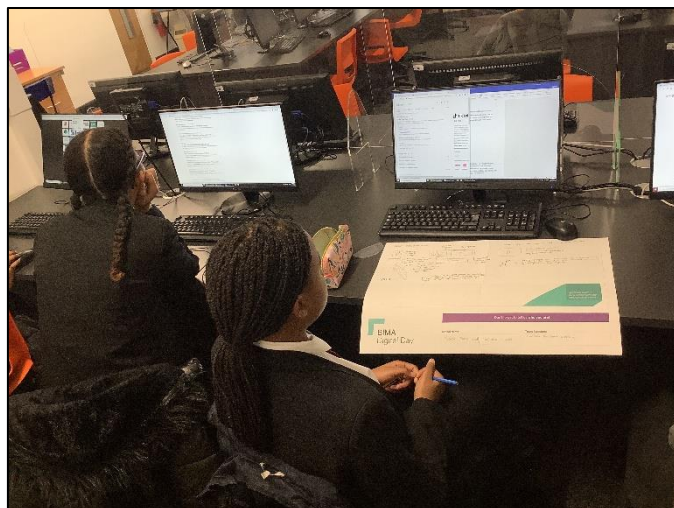
By Abi Brown 9RES

"I found today fun and educational. I enjoyed researching Primark and working in our groups. I learnt about the sustainability of Primark's clothes, and we researched how Primark can be more inclusive and include people with disabilities. I was able to learn about Primark as a business and how they incorporate sustainability and inclusivity. I found working in a group enjoyable."

By Denzel Okyei 9MCI

"I enjoyed the day and learnt about the disadvantage and advantages of using different techniques in digital businesses."

By Kai Nguyen 9MCI



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GCSE and A-Level Panjabi – Additional Classes

In our Panjabi classes we are studying and learning about Identity and Culture also local, national and global areas of interest. At present we have 3 different classes, Pre GCSE, GCSE and A Level.

In our Pre GCSE/ Beginners class we learn about Alphabet and script. We learn the shapes and sounds of the letters. At this level pupils learn to write these letters and the use of Lagan Maatran to make the simple words. They are encouraged to respond in Panjabi.

In our GCSE class they learn about all 4 skills, Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing to prepare for the GCSE examination.

1. Understanding and responding to spoken language.
2. Communicate and interact effectively
3. Understanding and responding to written language.
4. Communicate by writing for variety of purposes in Panjabi.

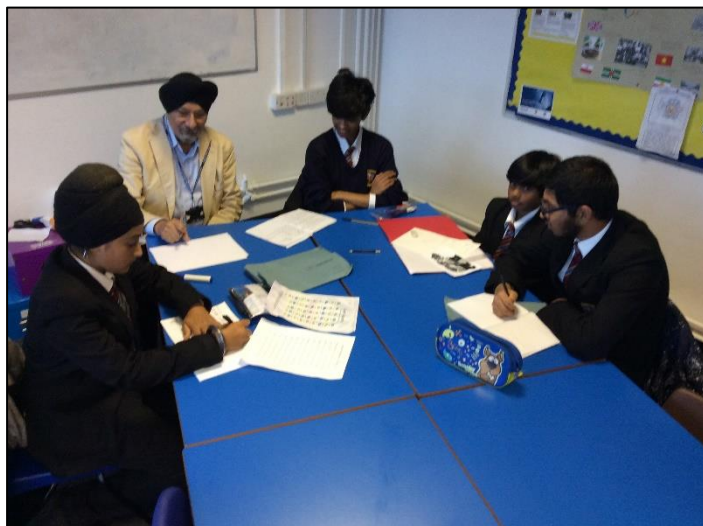
I am proud to say that every year we have been producing very good results.

This year we have 1 pupil preparing for an A Level examination. It consists of 3 papers which involves reading poetry, short stories and a novel. There will also be translation and retranslation involved.

I am happy with the interest pupils are showing and learning. We have a lot more Panjabi pupils coming to our school who we strongly encourage to take advantage of these classes. Please see Mrs Kawecka for a letter if you are not already involved.

Saint John Wall Catholic School is a very good school, I have been enjoying being a part of it as a part time teacher since 2011.

Mr Bhogal
Panjabi Teacher





SJW Maths Department Monthly Raffle



Thank you to the following
for sponsorship:



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**West
Bromwich**

Prizes

- Large boxes of chocolates
- iPad
- Cookies
- Starbucks Christmas Hamper
- Pizza

How to earn raffle tickets

- Complete your Sparx compulsory homework
- Complete Sparx Weekly XP Boost and Target Homework
- Go above and beyond in your lesson
- Attend Year 11 Past Paper Society
- Attend Wednesday Helping Hand Homework Club

Next Prize Draw: Monday 12 December 2022



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PWC FUNDED GRADUATE SCHEME INFORMATION EVENT

WEDNESDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2022

4pm - 5.30pm

ONLINE

ACEN
AFRICAN CARIBBEAN
EDUCATION NETWORK



PwC Funded Graduate Schemes for Black Students - ONLINE

PricewaterhouseCoopers (the second-largest professional services network in the world) is seeking to raise awareness of their funded degree schemes which are currently underrepresented by Black students.

We would like to highlight this scheme to Black students, noting the underrepresentation of this ethnic group in these environments nationally.

More than 220 students, parents, and teachers in 70+ schools across the country have already registered for this event so far! We are keen that students do not miss out. Deciding to attend university and choosing what course to follow is one of the most important educational/career decisions students will make so we want to ensure they receive the best possible information to support them in this crucial process.

If Black A-level students in years 12-13 who are seeking to attend a top-tier university whilst gaining invaluable corporate training, without the financial burden of a student loan, the PwC Technology and Accounting degree schemes on offer could provide a particularly compelling option. Each Flying Start university has different entry criteria. For technology, entry requirements range from AAA to BBB for the study first pathway in Leeds, Birmingham, Belfast, and London, or 112 UCAS points (96 for those from lower socio-economic backgrounds) for the Manchester work first pathway. Accounting admission criteria range from AAA to AAB.

We will be running an introductory online event to the scheme as follows:

Wednesday 16th November 2022

16:00 – 17:30

The event will help students gain a better understanding of working in professional services, the application process, the scheme itself, as well as hear from current scheme members and senior Black PwC staff.

About the degree schemes

Working as part of PwC's world-class team, students will have the opportunity to work with high-profile clients whilst experiencing the full-time student lifestyle with integrated paid placements. As well as gaining a funded degree, there is also the possibility of securing a graduate job on completion.

This is an exceptional opportunity for students, especially those who are more likely to find access to these high-profile spaces more challenging, and who might have concerns around financing their tertiary education.

[Click here to register](#)



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Parents' guide: Gaming advice to support teens

internet
matters.org



What to think about:



How they should balance screen time and offline activities

Talk about the importance of prioritising **offline activities** like sleep, socialising with friends and school work to help them strike the right balance when it comes to gaming.



Be aware of Let's Play videos

As well as playing games, **children also watch others play through streams and videos online.** These videos can be unpredictable and may contain foul language so it's a good idea to watch a couple with them to assess whether they are suitable.



Know your PEGI ratings

As teens get older it can be tempting to let them play games which may not be age appropriate but **it's important to make them aware of why they may not be ready to play these games** due to themes expressed in the game.

What to talk about

Talk about gaming risks:

- **Keeping personal information private** to stop strangers from contacting them outside of the game
- Being aware that **not everyone online is who they say they are**
- **Keeping it positive** when it comes to language and interactions with others to avoid incidents of bullying. **Share our Internet manners guide with your child for support.**
- **Recognising when they've been playing too much** (i.e. feeling tired or angry)
- **Managing the pressure to play inappropriate games** that may feature content that may upset them
- **Dealing with stress/anger while gaming** by taking regular breaks and thinking before posting
- **Being critical of spending money on in-game purchases** that may result in skin gambling



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Encourage them to seek support when they need it

Let them know that they can **talk to you, a trusted adult or organisations like childline** if they run into any issues online

Share Stop, Speak, Support code

To help them tackle the issue of cyberbullying in gaming **share the Stop, Speak, Support code with them**. This will help them know what steps to take to support someone who is being cyberbullied.

Discuss their understanding of themes in games

It's important to talk about the **tricky themes** that are featured in games like violence, sex and gender representation to make sure they have a real-world view when it comes to their understanding.

Things to do

Taking breaks to stay safe

Encourage them to take breaks after 45 minutes of playing to help them develop good online habits.

Model good behaviour

If you game yourself, you can model **healthy gaming habits**.

Put a family agreement in place

Even as they get more proficient online, **teens need boundaries**. Work together to establish what games they can play and when, to help them develop good online habits.

Teach them how to set privacy settings and block abuse

Review the **privacy settings** they have on their **account** and show them how to block or report an issue on the games they play.

Encourage them to play in communal areas of the house

Keeping gameplay in a place where you can hear and see what they are doing can **help you stay engaged in what they are doing** and prompt you to step when there is a concern.

Play the games to stay in the know

Playing the games can help you understand the themes that your child might be exposed to and learn more about ways games can offer a range of benefits like improving problem-solving skills.





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