

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 21 October 2022

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

Termly theme: Solidarity (The Good Samaritan)

Termly SJW values – Compassionate and Loving

God of Mercy and Love, may we continue to be proud of the history of all individuals within our community, especially those who paid a great price for liberation. Help us to live in such a way that the beauty and greatness of Your love is reflected in all we say and do. Help us to live our lives not for ourselves but for those around us and may we always cherish and remember the gift of life. Amen

Message from Chair of Governors

"I never lose. I either win or learn."

I doubt if Jose Mourinho realised it was Black History Month when he recently quoted Nelson Mandela. He was right though for in life when things don't go to plan it is how we respond that is important.

Nelson Mandela also said that education "is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Now that things seem, at least Covid-wise, to have settled down it gives us an opportunity to reflect on what has been learned from the pandemic.

For instance, Miss Marston, the staff and we as governors are even more aware that the care of each pupil remains uppermost in our priorities. At the start of each school year, we are obliged by the government to take part in safeguarding training. At our meeting earlier this month Mrs Crooks took us through the government's latest Keeping Children Safe In Education (KCSIE) guidance. She outlined that the role of governors is to ensure mechanisms exist to assist all members of our school community in discharging their daily roles and responsibilities. KCSIE emphasises a child-centred approach, something as a Catholic school we have always been committed to. The lockdowns endured and the resulting disruption has underlined the steps that need to be taken if our pupils are to be cared for and so go on to achieve their best outcomes. Please be assured the safety of the young people we serve remains at the forefront of all the school's planning.

An aspect of teaching that is now far better understood by staff and pupils and, dare I say it their parents, as a result of these interruptions is remote learning. Earlier this week all pupils and the parents of Year 7 pupils were invited to undergo training about accessing remote learning. It means teaching can continue should there be any future enforced school closure be it weather-related or for another Covid outbreak. I am certain the well thought-out remote learning programme the school has employed since March 2020 contributed to the exam success outlined below.

You'll be aware that in 2020 and 2021 Year 11 results were based not on how pupils performed in exams but on teacher assessment of their work. Last summer, for the first time since 2019, Year 11 pupils sat exams. At a recent governors' meeting Mr Holder, our new Deputy Headteacher, informed us that our provisional 2022 Progress 8 (P8) score is +0.67. As a reminder a school's P8 score is the measure of the progress pupils have made since starting in Year 7. A P8 of 0.0 tells you pupils have achieved what is expected of them, no more no less. **A P8 of +0.67 means that at Saint John Wall, last year's Year 11 pupils achieved a GCSE grade over two-thirds higher in every subject than pupils nationally.** Taking into account all the interruptions they suffered to their studies, as mentioned earlier, this is an astounding result. Yesterday the government published this year's official data for all schools. So, we can compare our performance with other schools, keeping in mind that the impact of covid may have impacted more on some schools than others.



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I am delighted to report that Saint John Wall's Progress 8 score of 0.67 puts the **school second out of the 35 secondary** schools in the Birmingham Archdiocese. It also puts us **within the top 20** out of all the Birmingham secondary schools, including grammar schools. All subjects are important however I'd like to draw two sets of results to your attention. 48% of our pupils that is nearly half of the entire Year 11, gained a GCSE level 5 or higher in both English and Maths whilst in RE, 43% of our pupils achieved a GCSE level 7 or higher. It puts our **RE outcomes amongst the elite** of Catholic schools as only three in the entire Archdiocese of Birmingham did better.

Huge congratulations to the pupils on their marvellous achievement and good luck to them as they now move on to their next stage of further education or training. Thank you and very well done to Miss Marston and her wonderful team of staff for their diligence and hard work. And of course, to parents for supporting the school during some very trying times.

This year our governing body has been strengthened further by two new Foundation Governors, Mr Paul Cornick and Mrs Danyella Otosio. Mr Cornick has a wide experience of many aspects of education while Mrs Otosio (nee Williams) you might recognise as a previous Head of RE and Catholic life at the school. Their knowledge and understanding will add to what is already a dedicated and highly professional team of governors.

Something we have to do at the start of a new school year is to review and ratify all our policies and believe me there are quite a few! I am really grateful to Miss Chohan for ensuring these policies, which cover all aspects of school life such as safeguarding, are updated.

By the way I've no further information regarding our proposed academisation. What I can tell you about though is this entry I read on Twitter last week:

Delighted to see this on the notice-board in the entrance of [@SAINT JOHN WALL](#)

- amazing things are going on in this school! The plan is for the Year of Sanctuary to recur as part of a three-year rolling programme.

[@BumSchOfSanc](#)

[@SchsofSanctuary](#)

[#BumSoS](#)

There is more information about the school's involvement in the Birmingham Schools of Sanctuary project on our superb website.

Please get in touch should you require any more detail about what I've written. Until the next time I'll finish by wishing all the staff and pupils a relaxing half-term break and end with this prayer:

Almighty God, open our hearts to those who face hatred and injustice because of their race, background, or ethnicity so that we might better respect the human dignity of all people.

Amen.

Saint John Wall, pray for us.

Martin Jones, Chair of Governors

Goodbye to Members of Staff

Goodbye to Mr Owen and Mrs Slee who are leaving this half term. Both colleagues have influenced the lives of pupils in different ways; Mr Owen through sport, and Mrs Slee through her work in the Ark, ensuring pupils from Saint John Wall, and other schools, are supported to make the best progress whilst also modifying their behaviour. We wish them good luck and all the best for the future.

By Miss Marston

"I just want to say a big, truly heartfelt thank you to the pupils and staff at Saint John Wall. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working in the Ark and St Francis Centre and I take with me fond memories. Saint John Wall is a very special school which I have been proud to be a part of. I will be keeping in touch!"

By Mrs Slee



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Important Dates to Note

- **Inset Day - School closed to all pupils. Remote learning form time for pupils 8.50 – 9.50am**
Friday 21 October 2022
- **Half Term**
Monday 24 October 2022 to Friday 28 October 2022
- **Year 11 Mock 1 Examinations**
Monday 31 October 2022 to Friday 4 November 2022
- **Year 7 and Year 9 Assessment Week**
Monday 28 November 2022 to Friday 2 December 2022

Visit from Chantelle Gillespie

As part of our Cultural Heritage Day celebrations, we welcomed poet and spoken word artist, Chantelle Gillespie to Saint John Wall.

Chantelle delivered an assembly to our Year 7 & 9 pupils, sharing her poetry and encouraging our pupils to reflect on their story and culture. She then held a workshop with a small group of budding writers from Year 10 & 11, sharing tips on how to approach writing and supported the pupils in writing their own poetry.

We thank Chantelle for opening up and sharing her life story through her work - what an inspiration!

By Mr Price

Year 11 Mock 1 Timetable

Period	Monday 31 October	Tuesday 1 November	Wednesday 2 November	Thursday 3 November	Friday 4 November	Monday 7 November	Tuesday 8 November
1 9:00 Start	GCSE PE 1 Hour	Geography 1 Hour 30 Mins	Maths Calculator 1 hour 30 Mins	Science Physics 1 Hour 10 Mins	RE 1 Hour 30 mins	Maths Calculator 1 hour 30 Mins	Art Day French Speaking
	Sport 1 Hour 30 Mins						
	Child Development 1 Hour						
Break						Break	
2 and 3 10:50 Start	Maths Non-Calculator 1 hour 30 Mins	English Lang 1 Hour 45 Mins	Science - Chemistry 1 Hour 10 Mins	Resistant Materials 1 Hour 45 Mins	Business 2 Hours	History 1 Hour 45 Mins	
			Science Chemistry 1 Hour 45 Mins	Science Physics 1 Hour 45 Mins			
				Spanish Speaking			
Lunch						Lunch	
4 13:50 Start	Science - Biology 1 Hour 10 Mins	History 1 Hour 15 Mins	Health and Social Care 1 Hour	English Lit 1 Hour	Spanish Reading 1 Hour	Spanish Writing 1 Hour 15 Mins	
		French Listening 45 Mins	Music 1 Hour		French Reading 1 Hour	French Writing 1 Hour 15 Mins	
		iMedia 1 Hour 15 Mins	Travel 1 Hour 15 mins			Hospitality 1 Hour 30 Mins	
			Spanish Listening 45 Mins				

****Spanish Speaking Assessments to take place during Period 2 and Period 3 on Thursday 3 November by appointment



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Catholic Life

Year 8 One World Team

Last week the One World Team have considered what it means to be a leader. They discussed what makes a good leader by looking at the skills of others around the world who have been helped by CAFOD to bring peace to their communities. The pupils also discussed how small changes can have a huge impact on not only our school community, but on the world itself. Well done to all the team for your insights and discussion.



Year 7 Chaplaincy Group

Pupils from Year 7 gathered for a special service live streamed across the Diocese, to celebrate the tour of St Bernadette's Relics. Pupils listened to scripture, prayed and meditated together and enjoyed their quiet time of reflection. The team has been really busy over the past few weeks visiting St Chad's Cathedral and Sanctuary. Next week they will begin to plan activities and work alongside Miss Young on a project for our wider community.



The Year 7 Chaplaincy Team also met this week to discuss and plan our Weekly Worship for All Saints and All Souls day. The Team researched the history of these Feast Days which fall on our return to school, and decided on the theme, décor and response for our Worship. We look forward to the team leading the rest of the school in prayer soon!



Year 8 Service

Over the past two weeks pupils from Year 8 gathered to celebrate Harvest. They reflected on the Parable of the Good Samaritan and considered all the things that distract them from seeing the goodness in life. Pupils then wrote down what they were grateful for and thanked God for his blessings. In November pupils will focus on what it means to walk in the footsteps on the Saints.



Year 9 Wellbeing Ambassadors

Year 9 have now completed their audit of the school and will be meeting to discuss the impact of the wellbeing support offered at Saint John Wall to pupils across all year groups. Pupils will then create a table of events and lead whole school activities aiming to encourage wellbeing and resilience.



By Mrs Ellis



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Head of Year Messages

Head of Year 9 Message

Head of Key Stage 3 Message

We all want our pupils to remain safe online and have had some concerns recently in school over the behaviour of some pupils on social media platforms. While social media is a great way to keep connected with family and friends, it does come with its problems which unfortunately can then impact on school life.

As a school we understand the importance for our pupils to have exposure to and use of social media platforms and will continue to provide support and education about keeping everyone safe online. I would like to draw your attention to a Family Centre feature on snapchat that as parents and carers you may find useful when guiding your child through the ups and downs of social media platforms. Always remember that communication is key when it comes to discussing social media, boundaries and open conversation will enable your child to seek support when they need it. Please take some time to discuss your child's social media access and take note of any age restrictions in place.

Snapchat's Family Centre feature has been launched to help parents engage with their teens in their digital world. The feature allows parents to easily view new friends their teens have added however it will not show the content of conversations, protecting their teen's privacy. According to Snap, this will, "reflect the way that parents engage with their teens in the real world where parents usually know who their teens are friends with and when they are hanging out." Using Snapchat Family Centre parents will be able to report accounts that may be concerning directly to Snapchat's Trust and Safety teams. Teens will also be able to notify parents when they have reported an account or a piece of content on the platform.

1. See which Snapchat friends their teens have sent messages, photos, or videos to in the last seven days, in a way that still protects the teens' privacy by not revealing the actual contents of their conversations (Snaps and messages)
2. See a complete list of their teens' existing friends.
3. Allow parents to easily view new friends their teens have added, making it easy to start conversations about who their new contacts are
4. Easily and confidentially report any accounts parents may be concerned about directly to our 24/7 Trust and Safety teams to investigate
5. Access key explainers about how to use these tools; resources for important conversation starters with their teens; and additional tips for using
6. Snapchat safely Teens who have opted-in to Family Center will also be able to see what their parents see, with a mirrored view of features.

By Mrs Ellis

As we are now ending our first half term at school, I would just like to say that it has been a pleasure to see so many of the pupils continue to be great role models for our younger pupils. I have seen some great acts of compassion in supporting other pupils and would like to say well done to you all. Please keep up the great work.

We have been taking part in Black History Month and I am really pleased to say that I had a small group of pupils who wanted to talk about their role models and inspiration during our Weekly worship. A big thank you to Tennice Wright, Teniola Adekunle-Olayiwola, Hannah Nyika and Kobi Mensah. They created their own speeches and spoke in front of their peers with confidence. I would like to see many more pupils volunteer to take part during our weekly worships.



A reminder that pupils need to ensure they are bringing the correct equipment to school everyday and this includes a school bag too.

Pupils will be bringing examination homework booklets home over half term to revise ready for their upcoming assessments which will be taking place at the end of November. Please ensure they are completing set tasks in order to do their best in all their subjects.

A reminder to parents/carers that it is getting darker when pupils are leaving school so please make sure that pupils are leaving and going straight home. Pupils need to make sure they are wearing a coat as the weather is getting colder.

As always please have a wonderful half term and stay safe.

By Mrs Chand



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Head of Year 10 Message

As we come to the end of our first half term in school as Year 10, most of 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 high standards for younger year groups on the playground by remaining within your playground and in and around the school.

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 lunchtimes. 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.

When we return to school after half term, please continue to follow our expectations and requirements regarding water bottles and confectionery. To remind you, only clear water bottles are allowed with drinking water, and any coloured liquids will be disposed of, and no sweets are allowed on to the school premises. Please be aware, sanctions for the possession of drugs, and drugs-related items, in school can include a permanent exclusion.

I would like to thank you all for your dedication and hard work to your assessment week. I hope when getting your feedback, you are able to identify areas which you need to focus on and close the gaps, in order to be in a stronger position for future assessment week(s). I want to make clear that in future, should any pupil(s) fail to act and behave in accordance with exam conditions, you will face appropriate sanctions, including removal from the exam(s), taking a resit of the papers after school and parent meetings to discuss your attitude and future.

Overall, Year 10 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, and you will shine.

By Mr Hussain

Head of Year 11 Message

Hello Year 11, well done for your first half-term in Year 11. Your attendance to after school revision sessions has been fantastic and your teachers have said how well you are engaging in these sessions which is lovely to hear. Remember, it is compulsory to attend these sessions as this is precious time with your teachers to help you reach and exceed your target grades.

One thing I would like you all to consider is your time management skills. Many of you are coming to school just as the bell is ringing, often this is not because of public transport but because you are waiting around for friends at the shops. The school gates open at 8.20am, please come to school early. These are good habits to get into for the future.

I know many of you have been looking into post-16 providers including sixth forms and colleges and some have even visited open days. Please ensure that you are talking to myself and Mr Holder about these so we can start helping and guiding you. Many of you should be looking to go to 6th forms. You need to start your applications as soon as possible so you are in with a chance of an interview. As always Tina Smith, Careers Adviser, is available weekly to support you as well.

You have your first set of Mock exams after half term so it is important you have some good study routines. Here are 6 things that you may find helpful when revising.



Please stay safe over the half term.

By Miss Reynolds



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Cultural Heritage Day



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Cultural Heritage Day



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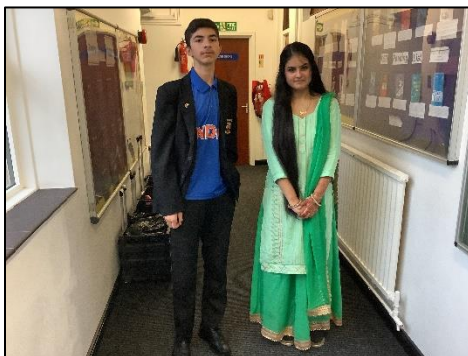
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Cultural Heritage Day



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KENELM Youth Trust

This week, we welcomed the Soli Team from the Kenelm Youth Trust who contributed to Black History Month by focusing on the theme 'Who am I?'. Our pupils spent the day discussing their culture, their identity and how they can respond to what God calls them to be. Pupils had fun playing different games and completing Team building activities to get to know each other better, building inclusivity, friendship, respect and tolerance for all.



"Today was fun, exploring my beliefs. It helped me to know my peers more and helped me to work on my team building skills." **Taio Taylor 8FOR**

"The best part was building the tower. We were given resources, but some were better than others. I had the skills but not the good resources, so the paper broke. It made me think and question more."
Dajaun Robinson 7FOR



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Black History Month

In Bucket 3 Subjects



"I always believed that when you follow your heart or your gut, when you really follow the things that feel great to you, you can never lose, because settling is the worst feeling in the world." —Rihanna

Drama Club

This week in Drama Club we looked at creating performances based around Black History Month. The stimulus for the piece was called "Standing Together". Both Year 7 and Year 8 pupils enjoyed splitting off into groups to discuss what "Standing Together" means to them.

Some of the ideas included:

- Standing with those in need
- Standing up for what you believe in
- Helping each other
- Standing up against racism

It was really good to see the pupils expressing themselves and then demonstrating what the stimulus means to them through still images and mini improvisations. – We even got to share back our performances using the stage lights!

It was also great to see Year 8 working so well with our new Year 7s sharing their wisdom and Drama knowledge.

By Miss Cummings

"I have enjoyed watching others perform and creating my own performance based around Black History Month."

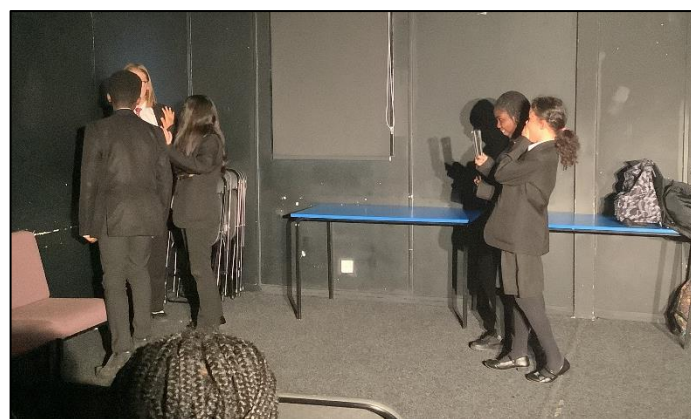
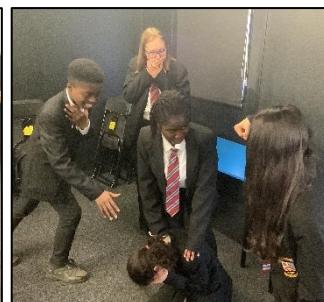
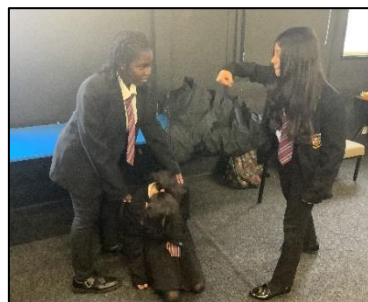
By Maya Karwanska 8PAW

"I really enjoyed taking part in Drama Club today and directing a piece based around Black History Month. I enjoyed watching everyone take part creating their pieces."

By Kodi Brown 8HAY

"Standing Together means stuff like helping each other and standing up against racism. I really enjoyed Drama Club today and creating our own scenes."

By Lilly-May Harrison 7JAS



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Black History Month

In Bucket 3 Subjects



"Women make up more than half of the world's population and potential. So it is neither just nor practical for their voices, for our voices, to go unheard at the highest levels of decision-making."
Meghan Markle

PE

October 2022 at Saint John Wall saw the celebration of Black History Month. In PE, pupils learnt about their sporting heroes and how they all contributed to raise awareness of black history. Pupils were able to develop their understanding of how to use sports to tackle global issues such as social injustice and discrimination.

Marcus Rashford MBE

Born in Manchester, England. Rashford is a professional footballer who currently plays for Manchester United. Besides his sporting achievements, Rashford has been a positive role model outside of football, leading multiple campaigns to support children and young people. In 2020, Rashford was instrumental in the campaign to support the delivery of free school meals to children during COVID-19 lockdown.

Tessa Sanderson CBE

Born in St Elizabeth, Jamaica. Sanderson was the first Black British woman to win gold at the Olympics. In 2006 she started an academy to help find athletes to train for London 2012.

In 2009 she set up the Tessa Sanderson Foundation and academy with the aim of encouraging young people with disabilities to take up sport, providing mentoring and support.

By Mr Ahmed

PE - Opportunities Outside of SJW

Hamstead Dimonds FC

- Youth Football Team
- U7s-U18s teams available.
- Development Training on Saturdays 10am-12pm
- Hamstead Pavilion, Hamstead Hill, Birmingham B20 1BX



Broadway Raiders FC

- Youth Football Team
- U13s team available.
- Development Training on Fridays 6pm-7pm
- Broadway Academy, The Broadway, Birmingham B20 3DP



Birchfield Harriers

- British Athletics Club
- Youth Development League Training available for Years 10-13.
- Birmingham Alexander Stadium, Walsall Rd, Birmingham B42 2LR



COB Basketball Club

- Birmingham Basketball Club
- Available for ages 11-18.
- Rupert St, Birmingham B7 5DT
- 0121 460 5879



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Black History Month

In Bucket 3 Subjects



"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

IT

In Year 10 Information Technology we have been learning about copyright and what royalty free images are. Using this information, during our Remote learning lesson we searched from some images that relate to black lives matter and were royalty free. The pupils were surprised that not all images are free for all purposes but that there were still a lot of black lives matter related images which shows how some people really believe how important it is to raise awareness.

In Computer Science class we watched a video about how minorities have been an important part of computing and how it's a world where they get to express themselves. As a class we discussed how this could impact our community.



Activity - Sourcing copyright free Images

Use the website [2.7 million+ Stunning Free Images to Use Anywhere - Pixabay](https://www.pixabay.com/) to find images that represent black history month - paste these images below



By Mr Rathbone

Art

To celebrate Black History Month in art lessons, Year 7 pupils looked at the work of inspirational artist Aaron Douglas. We learnt about Aaron's story and how his work had a strong impact on society; we then analysed his work, so that the pupils could create their own artwork inspired by Aaron Douglas.

"This type of art for Black History Month has really inspired me to do my best in my future with various animationns related to art. Black History inspires everyone."

By Khaleel Cunningham 7LEV

"This is inspirational because it symbolises that it doesn't matter the colour of your skin, you can do whatever you want in life."

By Marlon Richard 7ESM



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Black History Month

In Bucket 3 Subjects



"I am lucky that whatever fear I have inside me, my desire to win is always stronger."

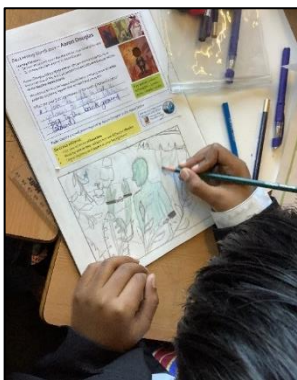
Serena Williams



Black History Month art competition entry by Zara Khan 9RES

"My drawing is of a woman that I had met who inspired me to do what makes me happy."

This links to Black History Month as I see and remember that there are many different inspiring black artists in my lifetime who have their own views of the world, that are very much appreciated by me."



"In today's lesson we learnt about Aaron Douglas, a man born in 1899 who soon discovered the world of racism. He was a black man who stood up against racism during a dark time, when black people were considered second-class compared to white people. He made art inspired by cubism with bright colours to show that black people are just as important."

By Makda Abraha 7LEV

"Doing this is really cool and I enjoyed it."

By Isaiah Foster 7LEV



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Black History Month

In Bucket 3 Subjects



"Don't aspire to make a living, aspire to make a difference."

Denzel Washington

Food Technology

In food technology we welcomed our newest member of the team Mr March who is here working through Birmingham City University. Pupils have taken part in a variety of practical lessons making; frittatas, American pancakes, quesadillas, pasta salad and patties. Below Year 8 loved making patties from scratch with Mr March, weighing and measuring ingredients independently, combining their fillings, making pastry and developing their fine knife skills. Well done to all food pupils, you have been a real joy this half term! **By Mrs Breslin**



Engineering Design Technology

To celebrate Black History Month pupils have been studying the Adinkra symbols. These symbols originate from Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire and represent popular proverbs, record historical events, express particular attitudes or behaviour.

Pupils were tasked with identifying their core beliefs which we linked with our SJW values. They then found what their core belief looks like in the form of a symbol and created a copy of each symbol. The final step was to use the three symbols to inspire a design of their own symbol which encompassed all three symbols. These are the symbols that our pupils voted to be made into a code which was then created on our laser cutters. **By Mrs Breslin**

Create your own Adinkra Symbols Activity

Name: Kayden Tran

First, research and find the Adinkra symbols that you like best. Then, draw them in the space below.

1. What does it mean? Success Family Trust

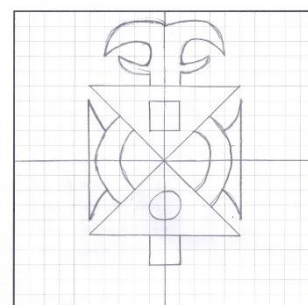
2. Using the Adinkra symbols, create a new symbol that represents your core belief. Draw it in the space below.

What does this symbol represent to you?
A square having its corners cut off, but still staying connected from on table but in the middle holding on tight even if you're hurt

3. Using the Adinkra symbols, create a new symbol that represents your core belief. Draw it in the space below.

What does this symbol represent to you?
Looks like an anchor keeps us safe and in a secure spot.

8. Your teacher will design and draw it for you. As soon as you can, the graph grid below using 1 square to be 1 cm by 1 cm.



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Black History Month

In English



"We all require and want respect, man or woman, black or white. It's our basic human right."

Aretha Franklin

This week, Year 9 have been exploring how to write an effective 'hook' for their transactional writing. In honour of Black History Month, 9YJ were given the task of writing an opening hook for an article that focused on the importance of celebrating Black History Month. Here are some examples:

By Ms Flinn

"Imagine a world where there is no equality. Having to suffer or watch others close to you suffer from harsh discrimination. That is what racism is and should be stopped."

By Sonia Sandhu 9BAR

"Do you remember the things that our black brothers and sisters have done for us? Well, I will tell you how they have changed our society."

By Mohammed Awais Hussain 9BAR

"Culture. Racism. History. Three words that will forever be etched into the lives of everyone. Words that mean something different to everyone."

By Rehan Safdar 9WOO

"Black History Month. A month that should be honoured and commemorated every year, every October, every day. We have seen the world grow, yet racism seems to always remain the dictator. Let's remember what our black brothers and sisters have gone through because of the corruption of human beings."

By Sarah Manu 9MCI

This week we celebrated Black History Month with Year 9 by discussing why it is important to celebrate Black History Month and learn about Black history. We also read the poem 'Checking out me history' by John Agard and considered the importance of identity and looking at our own histories and cultures.

Here are some example paragraphs from Year 9 about why Black History Month is so important:

By Mrs Mann

"It is important that we celebrate Black History Month because of the impact people have on history. Did you know that 1.2 million black people served in the war? Even though black people have had massive impacts on society, they still get discriminated against; how would you feel if you were treated differently because of your race?"

By Salah Alameen 9RES

"Imagine a world where you're seen as inferior due to something you have no control of and because of that people judge you before they even get to know you. This was the reality for a lot of people, and is an ongoing situation. Despite this, many black people have gone on to do amazing things, such as; inventing things we use in our daily lives, standing up against racism despite what it may cost. This is why Black History Month should be a celebration as well as a way to gain knowledge about how our world has been contributed to by a number of people and races."

By Nathalia Campbell-Bennett 9RES

"Imagine a world where we were all judged and discriminated over things we can't control, would you be alright with that? Well thanks to many black and people of colour that will not be something that is in the hands of us to deal with, as they fought for the rights that less advantaged people didn't have. Some of these people being the infamous Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr and Nelson Mandela. This is one of the main reasons that we should celebrate and try to learn about the cultures and pasts of black people, as without them the world wouldn't be as fair, or would've taken longer to achieve equality. Another reason is that it honours and celebrates all the black individuals who had to suffer and be silenced for so long. It's also a time to spread awareness to those who may come from conservative families and be unaware to what has been happening. Black history is the world's history as many things we see today wouldn't have been here without some of the influencers who stood up for their rights."

By Deborah Fadola 9BAR



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Black History Month

In English



"Whatever is bringing you down, get rid of it. Because you'll find that when you're free . . . your true self comes out." Tina Turner

On Tuesday, 10XS read and analysed the incredible poem 'Still I Rise' by black writer and activist Maya Angelou. We discussed the way in which it empowers black people, and other oppressed minorities, by reminding us of our value and power no matter where we come from or the narratives society places upon us.

By Miss Lake

Still I Rise 18/10/2022

STARTER

Who are these people?

Barack Obama- first black American president

Sislin Faye Walker- first black British policewoman

Tiger Woods- first black US Masters champion

Madame Walker- first black millionaire (1867-1919)

BIG QUESTION: what are the effects of the poem?

Still I Rise 18/10/2022

Still I Rise is an **empowering** poem.

Something **empowering** is something which makes someone stronger and more confident, especially in controlling their life and claiming their rights.

BIG QUESTION: what are the effects of the poem?

'Still I Rise' by Maya Angelou

In your opinion, what is the most **empowering** line from the poem?

The most empowering line is...

"Into a daybreak that's wondrously dear,"

Why is this the most empowering line?

As it's positive and represents how there will be a future without racism

M Hasan lowlo

Jakub Borawski 10GOS

'Still I Rise' by Maya Angelou

In your opinion, what is the most **empowering** line from the poem?

The most empowering line is...

"Up from a past that's rooted in pain. I rise."

Why is this the most empowering line?

Because it shows that she is proud of her descendants and wants to make her descendants proud. Despite the suffering, she rises.

Natalia B 10GOS

'Still I Rise' by Maya Angelou

In your opinion, what is the most **empowering** line from the poem?

The most empowering line is...

"You may kill me with my ~~my~~ your hatefulness, but still, like air, I'll rise."

Why is this the most empowering line?

She uses violent imagery to show how ~~black~~ ^{black} history was like and even when she dies, she will still rise, showing her **determination**.

'Still I Rise' by Maya Angelou

In your opinion, what is the most **empowering** line from the poem?

The most empowering line is...

"Does my haughtiness offend you? Don't you take it awful hard, 'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines diggin' in my own backyard."

Why is this the most empowering line?

Maya Angelou doesn't accept judgment from anyone at all. She uses a metaphor for her value and power.

Wiktorina Pizova 10H4



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Stars of the Month

Humanities, MFL, EAL, Geography & Travel & Tourism

Kimora Williams 7JAS & Gracia Ikombi 7ESM - For being learned and wise by making fantastic contributions to lesson on Anglo Saxons.

Vivien Pulkova 7RAH - An excellent start to Year 7 History.

Kacper Skomski 7LEV - Hard work and effort in History.

Dimitre Vernon 11SIM, Amritpal Khela 7JAS & Lilly-May Harrison 7JAS - For being learned and wise by making fantastic contributions to geographical questions.

Lena Le 9MCI - An excellent start to Year 9 Geography.

Talhah Munawwar 10HAL - For resilience and completing an exam practise question fully in his Geography lesson.

Crystabel Owusu 11SIM - For putting extra effort in Geography this week.

By Ms Levine

Manmeet Khosa 11BAT, Ellie Mai 8AHM - For being learned and wise by making fantastic contributions to historical questions.

Zephaniah Lebert 9MCI - For being active and curious by making fantastic contributions to discussions in his History lessons.

Denzel Okyei 9MCI & Kamron Graham 9MCI - For being active and curious by completing History work to a high standard.

By Miss Lally

Ernesto Breton Johnson 7LEV & Sharnie Dennis-Hayes 9MCI - For making an excellent start to History at Saint John Wall.

Tennice Wright 9MCI - For being learned and wise by showing good knowledge of medieval crime and punishment.

Ihsan Yassir Sadique 8PAW - For being eloquent and truthful in History lessons.

By Mr McIntosh

Asia-Lei Waller 7ESM - For being learned and wise completing Geography examination homework.

Kemissa Ible 8PAW, Kai Nguyen 9MCI & Sharnie Dennis-Hayes 9MCI - An excellent start to Year 9 Geography.

Lydia Binyam 7ESM - Excellent quality development homework.

Inderpal Khela 10GOS - For being learned and wise and a super Year 10 assessment result.

By Mr Woodward

Denzel Okyei & Jacob Boahene - For being curious and active in attempting all challenge tasks.

Ishmael Clarke 8FOR - For being attentive and discerning in Spanish by completing all tasks set.

Hubert Wolant 7RAH - For being learned and wise in spotting and applying patterns in language.

Tyreike Bailey 11LAL - For being curious and active by completing his examination homework.

Sara Yemane 8HAY - For being faith-filled and hopeful by regularly completing extension and challenge tasks.

Jahmone Hamilton 11HIR - For being learned and wise when revising the future tense.

By Mrs Wallace





Stars of the Month

Richard Oye & Gloria Osazemwinde - For going above and beyond expectations and making a positive start in French.
Dominik Gruszczynski 8FOR - For being curious and active and going above and beyond in his Spanish lessons.
Maja Karwanska 8PAW - For completing an excellent piece of homework and for her consistent effort in her French lessons.

By Miss Gosselin

Amrita Gill 11LAL - For being attentive and discerning in Spanish by always attempting to do her best.
Chelle John Omozee 10WIO - For being attentive and discerning in Spanish by always attempting to do her best.

By Mr Rosellon

Rihana Guesh 8FOR - For her great commitment and involvement in EAL lessons as well as her continuous effort.
Sheraz Rafaqat Begum 9WOO - For his great commitment and involvement in EAL lessons.

By Mrs Kawecka & Mr Rosellon

Maths

Sehaj Singh 7RAH	- For being Compassionate and loving
Hoodo Omar 9BAR	- For being Compassionate and loving
Jakub Borawski 10GOS	- For being Compassionate and loving
Meerab Hussain 11BAT	- For being Compassionate and loving

By Mr Hussain

Performing Arts – Music

Rachel Owusu 7ESM	- Hard work and helpful to others in every lesson.
Alina Mathews 8PAW	- Creative and motivates herself in every lesson showing great progress.
Natasha Glenn 9BRK	- Focused, dedicated and creative in every lesson.
Ranveer Mall 10JON	- Hard work and great progress.
Hardi Pembele 11LAL	- Being a motivational team leader, working to his best in every lesson

By Miss Antonucci

Performing Arts – Drama

Andrej Balog 11BAT	- Great progress and effort in his coursework and classwork.
Jasmeet Kaur 10HEA	- Great ideas and creativity in lessons.
Milcah Yosef 9BAR	- Great progress and effort in lessons.
Maya Borkowska 8GRE	- Working as a team and having creative ideas.
Sidia Saidy 7LEV	- Great ideas and teamwork.

By Miss Antonucci





Stars of the Month

SEND

Amunra Tameray 7LEV – Great reading and focus during reciprocal reading.
Sidra Hamarahim 7LEV – Great enthusiasm during reciprocal reading intervention.
Erica Fosua Agyemang 8FOR – Good Focus during reciprocal reading intervention.
Siya Aziz 9RES – Perseverance during reading intervention.

By Mrs Chand

Janelle Ajay 10WIO – For learning core subject key words.
Stefan Dahorea 10JAN - For learning core subject key words.

Natnael Desta 7ESM - For practising their handwriting and have been using their special handwriting pens.
Oskar Krzeminski 7REG – For practising their handwriting and have been using their special handwriting pens.
Harjot Singh 7RAH - For practising their handwriting and have been using their special handwriting pens.
Dante Blair 7LEV - For practising their handwriting and have been using their special handwriting pens.
Gracia Ikombo 7ESM - For practising their handwriting and have been using their special handwriting pens.
Isaac Masamuna 7REG – For practising their handwriting and have been using their special handwriting pens.

By Mrs France

PE Girls

Gloria Osazemwinde 7JAS - Brilliant work ethic in Pe lessons and extra-curricular.
Aangelinah Antonio Pereira 7REG - Creating dance choreography and taking a leadership role.

Alisha Khokhar 8PAW - refining technique in football.
Catherine Onodyova 8HAY - Developing confidence in physical activity.

Elisa Breton-Johnson 9WOO - 100% effort every lesson.
Mercedes Johnson 9WOO - Always compassionate and loving to peers.

By Miss Young

Science

Kacper Skomski 7LEV - for overall good Progress and effort in Science.
Sara Anthony 7ESM - for being consistent hard-working and well-behaved pupil in Science.
Hayden Sidhu 7LEV - for being consistent hard-working and well-behaved pupil in Science.
Martyna Wrukowska 7REG - for overall good Progress and effort in Science
Zaman, Asim 7ESM - for being consistent hard-working and well-behaved pupil in Science.
Dante Blair 7LEV - for being consistent hard-working and well-behaved pupil in Science.
Wendy Thompson 7LEV - for overall good Progress and effort in Science.
Billy Harrison 7REG - for being consistent hard-working and well-behaved pupil in Science.
Lena Nowak 7REG - for being consistent hard-working and well-behaved pupil in Science.





Stars of the Month

Africa Beauty 8HAY ,Jahari Brou Walker Smith 8PAW, Ishmael Clarke 8FOR, Borys Morawski 8PAW, Arjan Badhan 8GRE, Riya Bains 8FOR- for overall good Progress and effort in Science.

Ashshani Edwards 9BRK - for being consistent hard-working and well-behaved pupil in Science.

Ameira Peart 9MCI - for being consistent hard-working and well-behaved pupil in Science.

Sami Qasim 9MCI - for being consistent hard-working and well-behaved pupil in Science.

Kelly Odiase 11LAL - for being consistent hard-working and well-behaved pupil in Science.

Mercedes Johnson 9WOO - for being consistent hard-working and well-behaved pupil in Science.

Siya Aziz 9RES - for being consistent hard-working and well-behaved pupil in Science.

Rehan Safdar 9WOO - demonstrating great improvement in behaviour and attitude.

Lovinnia Rose 10HEA, Samra Mohamed 10JON, Kyra Mills 10HAL, Emmanuel Ifeosame 10HAL, Darren Omali Okonkwo 10GOS, Zaida Khanon 10HAL & Ali Mirshekarikazerouni 10JON - for excellent achievement in Assessment results.

Ivie Imadonmwinyi 11LAL, Roland Ofori 11BAT , Azailea Tweede 11BRE, Rachel Ohene-Williams 11SIM, Darin Diako 11LAL, Jarhle Ingram 11LAL & Naima Choudhury 11SIM - for being consistent hard-working and well-behaved pupils in Science.

RE

Fnan Habte Merhawi 8GRE - thoughtful contributions to class discussions

Monique Smikle 8FOR - excellent effort in RE with verbal contributions and excellent quality work.

Ellie Mai 8AHM - for good contributions to discussions and Kodi Brown for good listening and focus.

Ranveer Mall 10JON - for an excellent assessment result.

By Mr Price



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Department News

Music

During this week, Year 11 have been practising their main meals for their final practical. Pupils took great pride in making Beef patties.

The beef patty is originally from Jamaica, mixing a Cornish pastie with cumin, curry and cayenne pepper introduced by Indian indentured labourers and African slaves who arrived to the country. Amari had made the pastry at home from scratch, a lovely yellow colour from the curry and cayenne pepper.

I look forward to seeing your final dish.

By Mrs Crooks

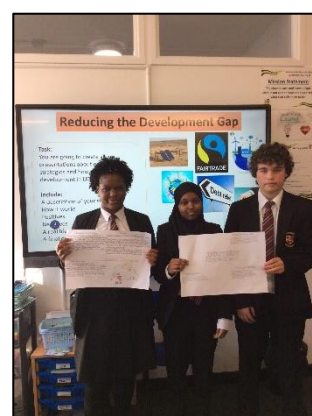
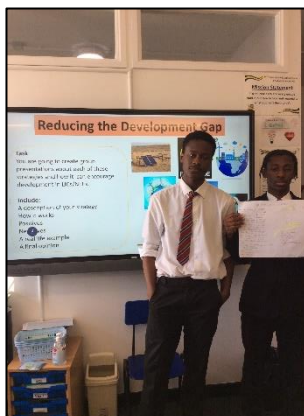
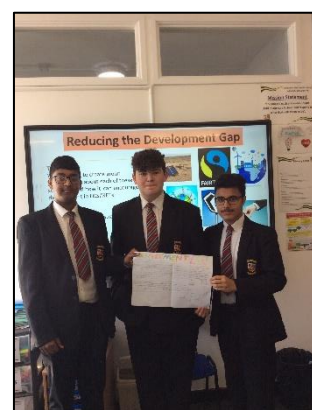
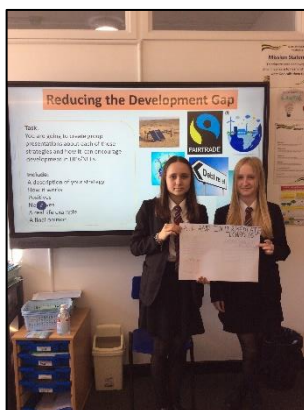
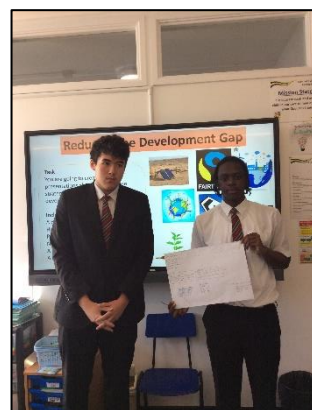
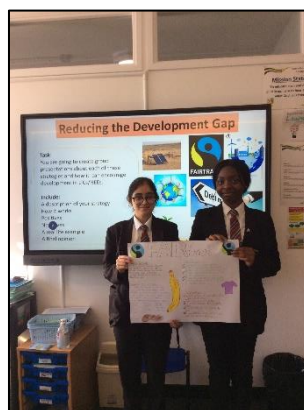


Geography

In Year 11 Geography this week we have been studying strategies used to reduce the global development gap and some of the things we can do on a local scale to help bridge this gap and help people living in LICs (Low-income Countries). The methods we looked at included: fair trade, tourism and debt relief.

Below are photos of presentations pupils created on their strategy for reducing the development gap.

By Mr Woodward



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Department News

At Saint John Wall we strive to provide and maintain excellence in the delivery of Physical Education and Sports within the PE department. The high expectations of our department allow our pupils to flourish and develop a passion for sports and overall physical health and mental well-being. Through our whole school values, we encourage our pupils to develop a sense of curiosity, compassion, generosity and wisdom in the sports they take part in.

PE Curriculum

Our PE curriculum has been designed to challenge and support our students in becoming future athletes and professionals within the sporting sector. Some of the sports we offer at St John Wall include:

- Football - Basketball - Volleyball
- Dance - Fitness - Badminton
- Cricket - Athletics - Rounders



Extra-curricular

Extra-curricular sports clubs are very popular amongst students at Saint John Wall. With a range of sports clubs available to pupils each day, our passionate teachers/coaches have been able to form sports teams which are now competing in local and district level competitions.

Our promising young talent Emmanuel Erikowa in Year 9 said:

"It is my dream to become a professional footballer. Playing for the Year 9 football team has brought me one step closer to that dream".

Panathlon Tenpin Bowling

Within the PE department, inclusion for all has been at the forefront of everything we do. As a result, our staff are always finding creative ways in allowing our pupils to take part in a range of activities inside and outside of the school.

This year our PE department teamed up with Panathlon Foundation, which gave six of our SEND, EAL and Pupil Premium pupils from Year 7, the opportunity to take part in a Ten Pin Bowling competition.



July 2022 Sports Day

July 2022 saw pupils take part in our annual Sports Day Festival. This was an opportunity for our pupils to showcase their sporting ability and knowledge acquired through their engagement in PE lessons.

Pupils had the opportunity to compete in events such as 100m, 200m, 400m, javelin, high jump, long jump and discus throws. It was great to see our amazing young talents shine on both the track and field throughout the day.

Our PE department staff are now eager to produce the next batch of stars for Sports Day 2023. Who will shine on the big stage?





Department News

Dear Numeracy Champions

I am so overwhelmed with joy while writing this letter, as I have received the Numeracy Ninja and Numeracy Skills results. Congratulations on your great achievements.

That, surely, is an accomplishment to applaud. It's hard work and dedication that have impacted your results.

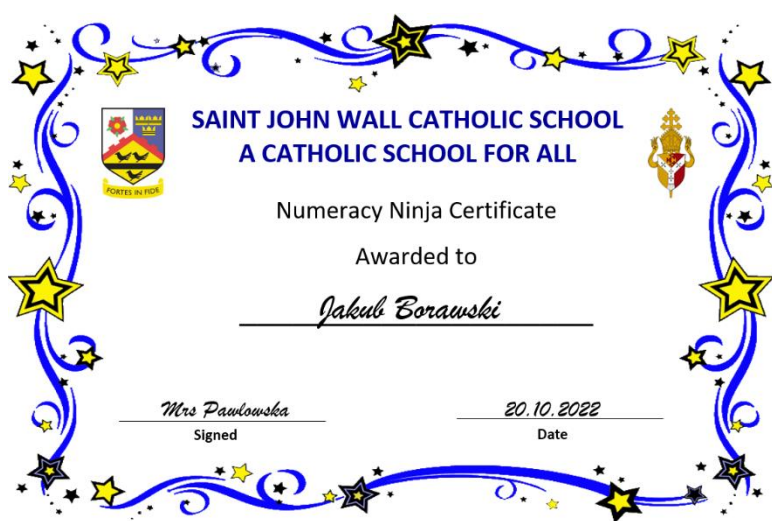
You are not just a source of inspiration for your friends but also a source of pride for your family. Everyone has intellect and presence of mind, and you have certainly chosen to use yours.

Well done!!!

By Mrs Pawlowska

Certificates will be awarded to everyone!

Name	Surname	Form
Awais	Khan	8PAW
Sandra	Lustrzykowska	8PAW
Gabriel	Mendoza	7REG
Joshua	Michael Berhe	7REG
Riya	Bains	8FOR
Ricardo	Sfeta	8FOR
Dylan	Bhandari	10HEA
Muhammad	Esa	10HEA
Zaida	Khanom	10HAL
Krystian	Mendrykiewicz	10HAL
Rayan	Nawaz	10 WIO
Ashpreet	Kaur	10 WIO
Yousma	Mustafa	9WOO
Emmanuel	Erikowa	9WOO
Lovepreet	Guru	8GRE
Kritika	Basra	8GRE
Muhammad-Sahil	Adam	8AHM
Bhagwant	Singh	8AHM
Borawski	Jakub	10GOS
Muhammad	Hasan	10GOS



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Lifestyle Lessons

Throughout this half-term, Year 7 pupils had the opportunity to experience lifestyle lessons at SJW. Lifestyle lessons have been designed to support our pupils in building an understanding of aspects of life that are not covered in the KS3 curriculum. Some of these areas include:

- Keeping Healthy
- Personal Development
- Citizenship
- Mental Health
- Stewardship and Community

Emergency First Aid

As part of the 'Keeping Healthy' topic, pupils learnt about the importance and procedures involved in emergency first aid situations. Pupils developed an understanding of the primary recovery position, as well as, how to safely perform CPR.

In these lessons, pupils had the opportunity to apply their knowledge using first aid dummies. It was great to see how well pupils engaged in these lessons, with some pupils now already considering future careers in the health care profession.

By Mr Ahmed



Remembrance Day

Every year in November, we sell poppies in school as symbols of Remembrance to remember the fallen of the Armed Forces. Poppies will be sold in school starting on the 31st October. Look out for them during form time and buy a poppy to support the Royal British Legion so that they can continue to support the Armed Forces community.

If you have any questions about what the Poppy Appeal is and why it is important then please ask Mr Woodward, Mr McIntosh or Miss Lally.

Finally, look out for a form time activity coming up after half term focusing on Remembrance Day!

By Mr Woodward



Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre

On Wednesday 19 October, a group of Year 8 pupils visited the Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre to watch a performance of 'She's Royal' as part of celebrating Black History Month. They were accompanied by Miss Lally, Mr Holder and Mr Lysaght. 'She's Royal' revealed the untold relationship between Her Majesty Queen Victoria and two extraordinary women of colour, Sarah Forbes Bonetta and Sophia Duleep Singh. The play followed the lives of these extraordinary women of colour who became subjects of the Queen's court, how they were nurtured to become aristocratic high society English ladies, and became so close to one of the world's most powerful monarch's that they were referred to as the Queen's goddaughters. But the play also discussed the struggles that these women faced at being accepted into society and losing their native identity, while linking it to the modern day where many of the issues raised still continue to be apparent in the world. All of the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the performance and had lots to talk about on the bus journey back to school. Here is what some of them said:



By Miss Lally

"I really enjoyed the play! I learned a lot about the past through the stories of Sarah Forbes Bonetta and Sophia Duleep Singh and how black people weren't treated the same, even though they were the same social class, because of their race. I also really liked when the play was finished because they sang a song and we were all dancing."

By Success Ihaza 8FOR

"I really enjoyed 'She's Royal' as it talked about race issues that still hasn't changed over the time. I would encourage people to see this play during black history month."

By Erica Fosua Agyemang 8FOR

"What I enjoyed about the trip was seeing how inspirational our black female and men can be, especially those we have heard less about in history. Today while watching 'She's royal' I enjoyed how the actors performed and used a lot of body language to explain emotions during the period in time when black people were in slavery and treated differently to other races."



By Monique Smikle 8FOR





House News

It has been an exciting first half term as house coordinator. It has been great to see so many of our pupils putting passion and hard work into each competition entry and event we have held so far.

Our house leader board currently:

1st - Mandela
2nd - Luther King
3rd - John Paul
4th - Pankhurst
5th - Gandhi

This term we have had our Macmillan bake sale where we raised an amazing **£200!** A great contribution from all staff and pupils. We then ran our Black History Month competition where pupils had to create a song or rap around the theme - Time for change: Actions not words. We had some great contributions across and our winners are as follows:

1st - 9MCI
2nd - Denzel Okyei 9MCI
3rd - 7REG

For the first time in house, we have created an effort and achievement honorary reward for 8PAW. A brilliant entry following the exact brief of the competition and using the skills and techniques they have learnt in music with Miss Antonucci. Well done 8PAW!

Upcoming Competition

Our next competition will be launching on November 7th - As Christmas is fast approaching each year group will create the following:

Year 7 - Creating a nativity

Year 8 - Jesse Tree

Years 9-11 - Advent calendars

More information about this will be shared with you after half term. I look forward to seeing all form groups working together to create work you are really proud of.

House captains will also be running a form time quiz competition with year 7 - Keep your eyes out for this next half term!

Spending of points

After the pupil voice survey, I have placed an order for house prizes which can be redeemed after half term. Continue working hard and collecting positive points to get yourself rewards from the house shop!

Finally, I would like to say a massive thank you to our Year 10 House Captains who have done a brilliant job in help organising and promoting competitions and encouraging pupils in their house!

House Captains

Mandela

Darren Omali Okonkwo.

Amelia Wrukowska

Pankhurst

Daniel Wainer Kodua

Khadijah Ceesay

Gandhi

Laaiba Akhtar

Rayyaan Afzal

Luther King

Faria Khan

Cairo Herbert

John Paul

Emmanuel Ifeosame

Janelle Ajayi

By Miss Young



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PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING THE OCTOBER HALF TERM 2022

COURTESY OF MONEY SAVING CENTRAL



ASDA CAFE

Kids eat for £1 all day, every day with no adult spend until the end of 2022

TOBY CARVERY

The Kids Eat For £1 offer will be available from October 24th to 28th with the App

FRANKIE & BENNY'S

Adults Eat Free with every under 11 child throughout all the UK Half terms

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

WHITBREAD INNS

Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

FUTURE INNS

Under 12's eat for free with any adult meal. During the school holidays

TABLE TABLE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

THE REAL GREEK

Kids eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

SIZZLING PUBS

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

TESCO CAFES

Kids Eat Free with any purchase of fresh fruit by an adult throughout all the UK Half Terms

MORRISONS

Spend £4.99 after 3pm daily & get one free kids meal (usually all day during half term)

HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat breakfast free with every adult breakfast, daily from 9am - 12pm.

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto during Half Terms

FARMHOUSE INNS

Kids eat for £1 when you sign up to their email list before October 26th 2022

YO! SUSHI

Kid's eat free all day, Monday to Thursday until 29th October 2022

SA BRAINS PUBS

Children can eat for £1 with any adult main. Only valid Wednesdays but on all day

IKEA

From October 11th kids get a meal for 95p or £1.50 from 11am - All day, every day.

ANGUS STEAKHOUSE

One free children's meal per paid adult meal 12-5pm daily throughout the holidays

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Monday to Thursday

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Donations of Uniform

Do you have any items of uniform at home?

Would you like to donate them to our school?



Black school trousers -
Girls or Boys

White plain shirts

PE navy shorts
PE navy joggers



School coats

Blazers

SJW ties

Black school skirts

Any donations will be very much appreciated.



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Dear Parent/Carer

We are delighted to let you know that from the week beginning **Monday 14 November 2022** students will be completing their Maths homework with Sparx Maths. Sparx is an exciting online platform that offers every student a personalised Maths homework.

We know that you want to support your child's Maths progress so we've put together this letter to explain how Sparx works and why it is important to make sure that Maths homework is 100% completed.

How does Sparx homework work?

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.

How can I help my child with their homework?

We appreciate that you will of course want to support your child with their home learning but please try not to help them with a question until they've had a go first! It is **really important that they complete their homework independently**, and that questions are marked as correct. They can watch the support video if they need to. This way, Sparx can make sure your child continues to see homework that's at the right level for them.

- Even if your child thinks they will answer incorrectly, they should make the first attempt on a question without assistance. This will enable the teacher to see what they are working on, and also helps Sparx and School correctly determine their level.
- Each question is accompanied by a help video. Watching the video with your child is a great way to support and encourage them with the question.
- If your child gets a question wrong three times, Sparx will suggest they seek help.
- The teacher will also be notified that they need help with this particular question.
- You can also contact the child's teacher for help using the teachers school email address.
- To help the teacher, we recommend supporting your child in writing down their workings clearly in their **Sparx book**. They can share this with the teacher to help them identify the problem.
- Parents whose children have been set Compulsory homework will receive a weekly email from Sparx, which includes an update on how much homework their child has completed as well as any they have outstanding from the previous few weeks. Most importantly, the email contains a link to a short video that parents can watch and use to help support their child in answering one of their Target questions.



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Why does my child need to achieve 100% compulsory homework completion?

Sparx Homework is deliberately designed to **help students really get to grips with and understand the concepts and skills they are learning by ensuring they cover the essential building blocks needed to make progress in maths**. Sparx' research (sparx.co.uk/evidence) has shown that an average of 60 minutes a week of this type of personalised maths home learning leads to clear progress. It is therefore advised that students do their homework as early as possible, so they have the time to have a go themselves and seek help from their teacher if needed. Homework is not marked as complete until **all** of the compulsory questions have been answered correctly, so starting early is key to finishing before hand-in time.

Parent Emails

You can keep track of your child's homework completion in the weekly email you will receive from Sparx. If you would like to opt out of receiving any emails from Sparx, please email Mr Simmons at jsimmons@sjw.bham.sch.uk so he can arrange this.

We hope you agree that Sparx will play an exciting and important role in helping your child's understanding, success and confidence in maths to grow.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me, Mrs Forde or your child's maths teacher.

Yours sincerely

J Simmons

Mr J Simmons
Head of Mathematics



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Darker Nights Letter to Parents

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: -

- **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
- **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.
- **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.
- **E-Scooters:** In the UK, you must be at least 18 years old and hold a provisional or full driving licence to ride a hire e-scooter. A privately owned e-scooter can only be used in a private place with the landowner's permission; they are illegal to use on a road or in a public place.
- **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

Miss K Marston
Headteacher
Saint John Wall Catholic
School

Mat Shaer
Chief Superintendent - East
NPU West Midlands

Richard North
Chief Superintendent – West
NPU



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

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Advice for Parents & Carers

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CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2018/feb/26/teens-are-being-bulled-in-group-chats> | <https://www.npsoc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>

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ALL THINGS APPRENTICESHIPS

There are hundreds of apprenticeships to choose from and RateMyApprenticeship is a **great resource to view current vacancies.**

Apprentices work for a minimum of 30 hours a week for 30 weeks a year. The structure of each apprenticeship can vary depending on the type of scheme and employer that you work for.

An apprentice's time is **split between full-time work** with an industry leading company, and **time spent studying for a qualification.** Some employers ask you to work four days a week and study for the fifth day, while others will ask you to attend college for a few weeks at a time, in-between periods spent working for the employer.

An apprenticeship is a **fantastic option** for school leavers because they finish their course with a qualification and relevant work experience.

If you thought it couldn't get any better, you were wrong. **Apprentices are paid** for the duration of their apprenticeship.



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WHY SHOULD YOU DO AN APPRENTICESHIP?

If you're looking to start a career, and the thought of university bends your bones, an apprenticeship is a great alternative.

If you're the kind of person who wants to feel like you're **proactively up-skilling yourself and taking strides forward** in your development, apprenticeship programs are something to seriously consider.

While graduates leave university with a degree, their studies often **don't impart the skills** that employers look for. Degree programmes tend to be individual-centric. Apprentices on the other hand work in real **professional environments**; they develop the soft skills that entice employers.

On top of this, apprenticeships are designed by the employers to ensure that apprentices are developing the relevant skills for a job. Even if there isn't the promise of permanent position at the end of the course, apprentices are work-ready. They can make a **smooth transition between their apprenticeship and a skilled profession**.



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YOU'VE MADE YOUR MIND UP...

You've decided an Apprenticeship is for you - great! Now it's time to search for the right one. Use the **RateMyApprenticeship** website to browse through all **current vacancies** and filter based on your interests and skills.

So, you've found the perfect apprenticeship and written a CV fit for the job gods... Now it's time to apply.

The process usually begins with an **online application form**, where you'll need to expand on everything you've put in your CV and cover letter.

Just like your CV, you want to make sure **your application is the fairest of them all**, and the following tips and tricks will help you do just that.

[Find out more](#)



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GET IN TOUCH

If you want to find out more or have any questions we'd love to hear from you!

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