

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 12

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 2 December 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

O Lord Jesus Christ, true God and true man, you died for our sins on the cross and you rose again from death, and live and reign forever as our mediator and gracious King. Bless, O King of generous kings, myself and everything near me, bless me in all my actions, and guide me always to be safe. May we be enlightened, governed and directed so that we may always remain faithful to our righteous King. Amen.

Important Dates to Note

- **Christmas Variety Performance and Exhibition**
Monday 12 December and Tuesday 13 December
5pm to 6pm. This is a ticketed event.
- **Year 7 and Year 9 Parents' Afternoon**
Wednesday 14 December 2022 – 1pm to 3.30pm
- **Christmas Jumper Day and Reading Relay**
Thursday 15 December 2022
- **Christmas Holiday, School closes to pupils at 12.30pm**
Friday 16 December 2022
- **Inset Day – School Closed to all Pupils**
Tuesday 3 January 2023
- **School Opens**
Wednesday 4 January 2023

Teacher Trainees from Woodrush Consortium

On Monday, we had a visit of Teacher Trainees from Woodrush Consortium. The ITTs had an opportunity to experience teaching some of our EAL pupils and visit some lessons to observe EAL Good Teaching Practice. As always, our pupils were very well behaved and worked to the highest standards. The ITTs enjoyed their EAL Experience Day at Saint John Wall!

By Mrs Kawecka



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SJW Christmas Variety Performance and Exhibition of Talent

- Doors open at 4:30pm for the exhibition and light canapes. Performance starts at 5pm- 6pm.
- Tickets are free but you must have a seat allocated. Please get your ticket from the school office from Wednesday 7 December or call to book over the phone.
- Talents being showcased include, Art, Humanities, Computer Aided Design, Steel Pans, Keyboard, SJW band, solo artists, Dance, Acting, Catering



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My Child At School (MCAS)

As part of the ongoing effort to improve the information and communication the school provides, we are happy to inform you that you will soon be able to access a Parent Portal called 'My Child At School' (MCAS).

MCAS enables parents to view their child's academic performance in real-time via a web browser or via an app. This facility allows exclusive access to your child's Attendance and Behaviour whenever you wish. As well as performance data, the portal also provides general useful information about school such as the Academic Calendar and Announcements.

Today, Friday 2 December, you will have received an email link so that you can set up for your account and begin to access the features of the portal.

To login to the MCAS Parent Portal you have been sent an Invitation Code via the email that the school has for you on our system. If you do not receive an Invitation Code please contact the school for one, as you will NOT be able to access the Parent Portal without one.

Apprenticeship Masterclass

On 22 of November, pupils in Year 7 and 8 took part in an apprenticeship masterclass to give them more information about apprenticeships. This was an online masterclass by rate my apprenticeship and had panels of people who gave their experience with apprenticeships and how they changed their lives and careers, as well as useful information on how to apply for apprenticeships, the benefits of apprenticeships, and how it helps build and develop their career skills. It also gave them an insight into the different types of post-16 options they have when they leave school after their GCSEs. After the masterclass, the pupils had a quiz to test what they had learnt, and from our many entries, Valentina Opoku 8HAY won a £5 voucher a box of chocolates. All other pupils who entered also won some house points. **By Mr Hayaat**

"The interesting thing about it was the University of Law Employability Session and "My Apprenticeship Changed My Life." By **Valentina Opoku 8HAY**

"People can choose what type of apprenticeships and paths they want to do and can gain more qualifications." By **Arjan Badhan 8GRE**

"I liked learning about the options I have after SJW."
By **Sidia Saidy 7LEV**

Duke of Edinburgh Award

There are still places for Year 9 and 10 pupils to sign up to the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is an incredible experience and qualification which involves a range of activities and requirements in order to be gained. The award is made up of four sections.

1 Skill Section – A new life skill (outside of school lessons). There are hundreds of different activities that young people can choose from. Popular choices include music, art, drama, cooking, DJing, committee skills, graffiti art and sign language.

2 Volunteering Section – This section requires young people to spend approximately one hour per week doing voluntary work. This gives young people the opportunity to get out into their communities and give something back.

3 Physical Section – This section requires young people to spend one hour per week of their own time engaging in physical recreation. It can be any form of activity and does not need to be in a team or competitive environment.

4 Expedition Section - Walking, camping, map reading, team work, survival.

If you are interested in the award please see Mr Woodward or the school office to register.

The TV presenter on the BBC, Jonathon Ross, completed his award when he was in school and has the following glowing endorsement of the award:

"I've been an admirer of the DofE for many years. Throughout this time, I've met lots of people who've done it and they're the type of people you'd like to know and employ – employers are always keen to meet people like you. I know the experience you've had will be an enormous benefit – it's an incredible achievement, it's exciting, impressive and fills me with a lot of hope for the future. You're the best of your generation!" **Jonathan Ross**

By Mr Woodward



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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



School coats

White plain shirts

Blazers

PE navy shorts
PE navy joggers

SJW ties

Black school skirts

Any donations will be very much appreciated.



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Digital Resilience Toolkit

internet
matters.org

Advice for parents of teens (14+ year olds)

Help children become more digitally savvy
and get the best out of their online world

What are they doing online?

- Most teens turn to **video content** first for all types of content that are important to them

1 in 10

12-15s who go
online have 'gone live'
on a social network



What are they concerned about?



1 in 8

12-15s with a social media
profile say there is pressure
to look popular all of the time

Source: Ofcom Children's and parents'
media use and attitudes 2017

What challenges can they face?

At this age your child might be starting to date and growing their network of friends through social media.

As they increase their exposure and consumption of the online world, there is the potential that it may affect their body image, or how they form their identity on and offline and potentially be exposed to cyberbullying and sexting.



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Have conversations about sex and relationships in the online world

- Discuss how the changing nature of relationships can affect trust
- Get them thinking about their feelings around being pressured to send images online or offline
- Encourage them to stand their ground and not to follow the norm among friends if they feel uncomfortable
- Share your views on sexting and reinforce the fact that it's always a bad idea in the long run

Discuss managing their online identity and critical thinking

- Help them critically assess what other people say about them online
- Remind them about the dangers of body shaming and making trivial comments on social media posts
- Teach them to question the importance of seeking comments and likes on social media
- Get them thinking about possible sub-text associated with some comments

Talk about the time spent online and health implications

- Talk about what you consider as appropriate
- Encourage them to spend time away from their device to help create a healthy norm
- Get them thinking about the health implications this can have on their sleep and memory

How do I get them prepared to deal with these challenges?

"First step – Having open and honest conversations"



"Second step – Have an open door policy"

Encourage them to talk to you if they feel concerned or worried about an issue

- Reassure them that you're here to support them and not judge if they have an issue they feel embarrassed to share
- If they feel they can't talk to you make sure they know that they can talk to a specialist organisation like [Childline](#) or another trusted adult



Even with the best intentions, there may be times that a child get's off track and is affected by something they've experience online. Like falling off a bike, it's the recovery and getting back on the bike that often matters more than the fall.



"What happens if things go wrong?"

Assess the situation and find ways to deal with it together

- Try and understand what has gone on and who is involved
- Don't overreact, show your support and make a point to give them the confidence that you will deal with it together
- Depending on the situation seek advice from specialist organisation or your GP to give them the best chance to recover and regain their confidence
- Agree a course of action together with your child so they feel supported

