

# 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 20

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 7 February 2025



Catholic Life Annual Theme: Pilgrims of Hope on the Path of Peace

Termly Theme: 'In our care'

Termly Catholic Social Teaching: The Option for the Poor

Termly SJW Values: Eloquent and Truthful

### This week in Weekly Worship...

"We focused on Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. We reflected on the Greatest Commandment and thought about why we should **love** each other, our neighbours and our world. We focused on our values of being **eloquent and truthful**, as these values teach us to treat each other with kindness. Celebrating Children's Mental Health Awareness Week allows us to show the importance of **compassion and dignity** and speaking about this week shows that individuals are not forgotten".

By Mariya Miah 8AHM

### This week in Afternoon Prayer...

"We focused on Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. The theme this year is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. We reflected on the importance of growing as individuals. It is important to pray for Children's Mental Health Awareness Week and promote that children are still developing and learning more about the world they live in each day. My favourite part about Afternoon Prayer is the reflection and the fact that we pray for such important events".

By Nathanael Byfield 9ESM

### Class Mass

"This week, we went to Mass as a class. When I was there, I felt **peaceful** and calm. Fr Subba spoke about the importance of taking **care** of others and looking after them. He also spoke about Saints and how we can all be an example of a Saint through being kind and **loving** to others and the world".

By Saara Islam - 7RES

### Dates to Note

- **Rep Theatre Trip – 30 Performing Arts Pupils**  
Monday 10 February 2025 – 8.50am to 1pm
- **Year 10 Parents' Evening**  
Thursday 13 February 2025 – 4pm to 6pm
- **Half Term**  
Monday 17 February 2025 to Friday 21 February 2025
- **Alton Castle Residential - 35 Year 7 Pupils**  
Monday 24 February 2025 - Wednesday 26 February 2025  
Leaving at 2pm - Returning at 4pm
- **Year 11 Mock 2 Examinations**  
Monday 24 February 2025 to Friday 7 March 2025

### Year 10 Parents' Evening

Mark your calendars for an important event:

**Year 10 Parents' Evening** is happening next week on **Thursday 13 February from 4pm to 6pm**.

This evening is a fantastic opportunity to talk about your child's progress, celebrate their achievements, and address any concerns you might have. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible to make this evening a success!



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## School Attendance

### School Attendance Gap Day is a new Awareness Day led by School-Home Support.

By shining a light on the 'lost learning' as a result of school absence, School Attendance Gap Day aims to **promote positive collaboration** to build an inclusive education system and **encourage a laser-like focus** on tackling the school attendance crisis

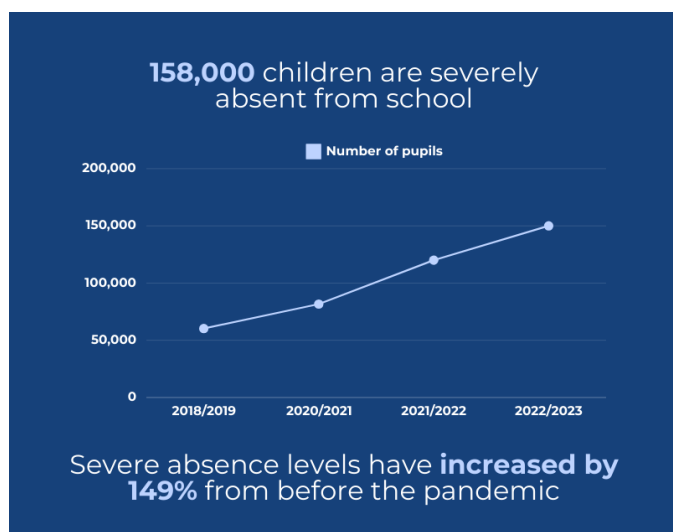
We will mark this day annually to track the country's collective progress in tackling school absence.

#### Why do we need to close the School Attendance Gap?

The School Attendance Gap represents the learning lost by children who miss school. It relates to learning of all kinds – including academic, social and practical.

The problem of 'severe absence' is getting worse rather than better. The number of children missing this much of school is 149% higher than pre-pandemic (2018/2019).

This means that collectively we are still failing huge numbers of children, who are out of school as often as they are in.



### The long-term consequences of absence

The long-term consequences of lost learning are significant, contributing to cycles of poverty, missed opportunities and lost potential.

- **Lower Attainment.** There is a proven correlation between school absence and school attainment. [Data](#) from the Children's Commissioner report 'Missing school, missing grades' reveals that 78% of pupils who were rarely absent in both years passed at least 5 GCSEs, including English and maths, in 2022. By comparison, just one in twenty pupils who were 'severely absent' met the same standards.
- **Reduced Social Mobility.** The Social Mobility Commission views NEET (not in education, employment or training) as a key indicator for social mobility. [Research](#) has found that 'persistently absent' children and young people (missing 10% or more of education) are 3.9 times more likely to be NEET and 6.3 times more likely to be persistently NEET.
- **Risk of School Exclusion.** The Who is Losing Learning Coalition has found that children who are 'severely absent' from school are also [five times more likely](#) to be permanently excluded than the national rate, suggesting that severe absence may correlate with behavioural problems that schools do not have the capacity to address.
- **Exposure to Harmful Influences.** School provides a strong protective effect from harmful influences. [Analysis](#) from the CSJ in 2023 indicated that the rising rates of school absences could create an extra 9,000 extra young offenders by 2027 if left unresolved.

### How can parents/carers continue to ensure their child has excellent attendance to school?

- Ensure your child attends school every day it is open, on time, escorting them into school if necessary and handing them over to a member of staff. **(Please be aware your child may get an unauthorised absence mark when they arrive after registration closes).**
- Contact school on the first day of every absence by 9.30am stating the reason for absence and the likely return date.
- Take your child to the doctor if unwell and provide the school with: medical appointment card with one appointment entered, letter from a professional, medication prescribed by a doctor, copy of prescription, print screen of medical notes, as well as letters concerning hospital appointments or any other relevant evidence. **(The Head Teacher will not authorise medical absence without evidence).**

By Miss Lally



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## Knife Crime and Safety

As a school community we extend our prayers and sympathy with those affected by the pupil stabbing at All Saints Catholic High School in Sheffield. We also think at this time of the Christ Church C of E Secondary Academy community as they mourn the loss of a pupil who was stabbed on his way home from school. Unfortunately, knife crime is on the rise and continues to affect communities all around the UK. Our priority at St John Wall is to ensure that all our pupils, staff, parents and visitors feel safe in and around our school.

In response to recent events, we will be working closely with the police to ensure that our pupils feel safe at all times. Our Values@Day next Tuesday will include sessions on anti-violence and 'knife or life' to ensure our pupils are aware of the dangers of knife crime. In the near future, we also look to work with the police to carry out searches on our pupil community to ensure that no banned or dangerous items are brought onto school site. We appreciate your support with this and hope that we can work together to ensure that Saint John Wall remains a safe space for all.

By Mr Price

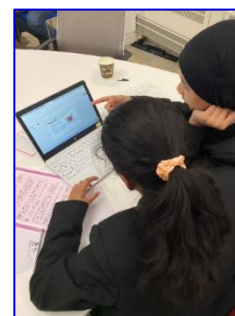
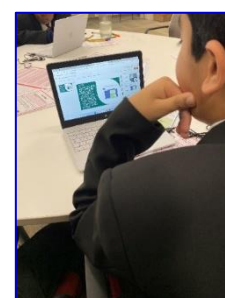
## University of Birmingham Trip

A group of Year 7 pupils were invited to take part in a workshop in December 2024 on Computing in Medicine at the University of Birmingham and had the opportunity to create an app. It was a fabulous day hosted by the University who made us all feel welcome. Pupils were thoroughly engaged and work extremely well together to decipher the activities. Pupils were taught by University Lecturers and given implicit instructions and worksheets. They worked in teams to decipher trends in heart rate, used coding and built/tested an app related to their results.

One pupil commented:

*"I wanted to let you know how much fun I had at the university. The activities offered to us was fun and I can speak for everyone when I said it was enjoyable."*

By Jenifer Demeterova 7RES



As a result of them taking part and conducting themselves so well, they have received a further invitation to join the University at the Thinktank Science Museum for a Workshop Celebration on Saturday 15 February 2025.

By Ms Brooks



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## Year 11 Mock 2 Timetable

Period	Monday 24 February	Tuesday 25 February	Wednesday 26 February	Thursday 27 February	Friday 28 February
Form and Period 1 9:00 Start	English Lit 1 hour	Computer Science 1 hour 30 mins	Maths 1 Non-Calculator 1 hour 30 mins	RE 1 1 Hour 30 mins	Maths 2 Calculator 1 hour 30 mins
		IT 1 Hour 30 mins			
		French Listening F 40 mins H 50 mins			
Break	Break				
Period 2 and 3 10:50 Start	History 1 1 Hour 30 mins	Geography 1 Physical 1 Hour 30 mins	English Language 1 hour 45 mins	Science - Chemistry 1 Hour 10 mins	Science Physics 1 Hour 10 mins
		Single Science Biology Y10 1 Hour 45 mins		Single Science Chemistry 1 Hour 45 mins	Single Science Physics 1 Hour 45 mins
Lunch	Lunch				
4 13:50 Start	Science - Biology 1 Hour 10 mins	Sport 1 Hour 15 mins	French Reading F 45 mins H 1 hour	Bus Enterprise 1 hour 15 mins	Health and Social Care 1 Hour 15 mins
		GCSE PE 1 1 Hour	Italian Reading F 45 mins H 1 hour		Spanish Listening F 40 mins H 50 mins
			Spanish Reading F 45 mins H 1 hour		



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Monday 03 March	Tuesday 04 March	Wednesday 05 March	Thursday 06 March	Friday 07 March
RE 2 1 Hour 30 mins	Maths 3 Calculator 1 hour 30 mins	Ash Wednesday	PE Practical	Art/Drama/Music
Break				
History 2 EEE/SP 1 Hour 50 mins	Geography 2 Human 1 Hour 30 mins			
Lunch				
GCSE PE 2 1 Hour	French Writing F 1 hour H 1hour 15 mins			
Catering & Hosp 1 Hour 20 mins	Italian Writing F 1 hour H 1hour 15 mins			
	Spanish Writing F 1 hour H 1hour 15 mins			



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## Year 7 Football Club

The Year 7 Football Club continues to go from strength to strength with more than twenty pupils from Year 7 turning up each week to enjoy some time after school playing football with the two primary objectives of having fun and developing as individuals both on and off the pitch. We also have two games booked in to the calendar now, the first of which this coming Monday 10 February, a league game against our neighbours at Holyhead school, Kick off at 4pm. Those pupils not selected in this game will have their chance to showcase their ability by taking part in a development team fixture against Phoenix Collegiate in West Bromwich on Tuesday 4 March. Good luck to all those involved and a big thank you in advance to Miss Young for stepping in to coach the team on Monday in my absence.

By Mr Holden

### MORE


Let your kids try out their tennis skills at our **Tennis Roadshow sessions on Saturday 8th - Sunday 9th February!**

Suitable for kids aged 4-10, the event's totally **FREE**, we'll provide the equipment and the fun. No need to book, Saturday sessions are at 10-11am, 11.30am-12.30pm & 2-3pm, Sunday 10-11am & 11.30am-12.30pm. Call us to find out more.

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OFFERS



 | [birminghamleisure.com](https://www.birminghamleisure.com) | Tel: **0121 796 2221**

 **Billesley Tennis & Fitness Centre** Wheelers Lane, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0ST



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