

# 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 18

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 23 January 2026



**Catholic Life Annual Theme:**  
**Termly Catholic Social Teaching:**  
**Termly SJW Values:**

**Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers**  
**Solidarity**  
**Attentive and Discerning**

### This week in Celebration of the Word...

"We focused on Achievement. In school, achievement is about working hard and trying your best to achieve something. We can do things to achieve in something - for example, by attending school every day to learn something new and achieve in our studies. We can take examples from our school values, especially thinking about Excellence, Achievement and Respect."

**By Evelyn Adeyeye 7BAI**

### This week in Afternoon Prayer...

"We prayed for Martin Luther King Day. He believed in a world where everyone should be treated with fairness and **compassion**. This means that a small change for someone could make a big difference for someone else. We also prayed for Christian Unity Week where no matter your background, we can all come together in **love** and respect. Finally, we prayed for Achievement, thinking about how we can use our gifts and talents to do the right thing."

**By Monica Agyemang 7BAI**

### Class Mass

"This week at class Mass, we listened to a reading from the Book of Samuel, we also listened to a Gospel reading from Mark. At the end of Mass, Fr George let us ask questions about the Church, such as about the different candles and the statues of Jesus around the Church."

**By Seth Holder 9AHM**

### Important Dates to Note

- **The University of Birmingham Trip – 10 Year 8 Pupils**  
Tuesday 27 January 2026 – 9.45am to 4.45pm approx.
- **Alton Castle Residential – 20 Key Stage 3 Pupils**  
Monday 9 February 2026 to Wednesday 11 February 2026  
Leaving at 2pm – Arriving back at 4pm approx.
- **Year 10 Parents' Evening**  
Wednesday 11 February 2026 – 4pm to 6pm
- **CBSO at Symphony Hall Trip – Year 7 (All Pupils)**  
Friday 13 February 2026 – 12pm to 3.45pm approx.,
- **Half Term**  
Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026
- **Year 11 Mock 2 Examinations**  
Monday 23 February 2026 to Friday 6 March 2026

### Year 10 and Year 11 Catch-Up/ Revision

Selected pupils in Year 10 and Year 11 will be receiving letters this week to invite them to attend Saturday catch-up/revision sessions as part of our continual drive to support all pupils to achieve the best possible results. The sessions are on the following dates:

- **Saturday 7 February** (GCSE Music/ Engineering/ Performing Arts)
- **Saturday 14 February** (Business and Enterprise/ GCSE P.E./ I.T./ Engineering/ GCSE Art)

We hope that parents/carers will support us during this important stage of your child's life. This is an opportunity for them to improve their possibility of success. **By Miss Lally**



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## Message from Head of School

It has been another busy and productive week at Saint John Wall. We were delighted to welcome *The Fix Up* team, who worked with our Year 11 pupils as part of their exam launch. Feedback from pupils has been extremely positive, and this was echoed by our external visitors, who commented on the excellent engagement and attitude shown by our Year 11 cohort.

I have also been particularly impressed with Year 8 and Year 10 pupils during their recent assessment week. Their focus and hard work have been evident, and I am confident this effort will be reflected in their results.

I was especially pleased to receive an email from Handsworth Grammar School praising the actions of several of our pupils on their journey home. Niyah (Year 7), Rhia (Year 8) and Remaya (Year 9) found a mobile phone outside the school and responsibly took it to the Handsworth Grammar reception to be handed in. It is wonderful to see our pupils demonstrating our school values beyond the school gates.

### Homework at Saint John Wall Catholic School

Homework plays an important role in supporting pupils' learning. It helps pupils to recall previous learning, reinforce current knowledge, and develop effective study habits, while also allowing parents and carers to engage with their child's education. Research consistently shows that pupils who complete homework make greater progress than those who do not.

At Saint John Wall Catholic School, there are **three types of homework**:

*Developmental, Examination, and Weekly Compulsory.*

### Developmental Homework

Developmental homework is **optional** and is designed to encourage independent learning and foster a love of learning. Subjects provide a range of activities through a resource menu, allowing pupils to broaden their curriculum knowledge and build cultural capital. Pupils can access these tasks via the school website:

**Saint John Wall Catholic School – Developmental Homework**

### Examination Homework

Examination homework is **compulsory** and is set in preparation for calendared assessments. Pupils will receive this homework several weeks prior to their Assessment Week, often in the form of a booklet covering most subjects.

The booklet is divided into tasks with clear deadlines. These tasks are designed to develop effective revision skills, support retrieval of prior knowledge, and build the habits needed for examination success. Pupils are expected to complete this work independently, with teachers monitoring progress during lessons. Positive rewards will be used to recognise completion and effort.

### Weekly Compulsory Homework

English and Mathematics are key subjects that underpin learning across the curriculum. To support progress in these areas, weekly compulsory homework is set as follows:

#### Weekly Maths Homework

- Year 7: Sparx (approximately 30 minutes per week)
- Years 8–11: Sparx (approximately 60 minutes per week)

#### Weekly English Homework

- Years 7–9: Bedrock Learning  
Pupils must gain **20 points across the week**, which can be completed in shorter sessions or one longer session. This should take no longer than **60 minutes** in total.

### How Can You Support Your Child with Homework?

- Please ensure your contact details (email address and phone number) are up to date on our school system and that notifications are enabled on MCAS. You will receive reminders and updates about weekly Maths and English homework.
- Encourage your child to engage with developmental homework, particularly in subjects they enjoy or would like to develop further.
- Establish regular weekly check-ins to support compulsory Maths, English, and examination homework. This can help identify whether your child is managing their workload effectively or needs support with organisation.
- Check both the completion and quality of homework. Encourage pupils to complete work to the best of their ability and independently, without the use of AI tools.

**As always thank you for your ongoing support.**

**By Mr Holder**



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## Year 11 Exam Launch

On Wednesday 21 January, our Year 11 pupils took part in inspiring Exam Launch Workshops led by Jay and Rory from the FixUp Team (*Focus Into Xtraordinary Untouched Potential*). The sessions were designed to motivate, empower and equip pupils with the mindset and tools needed for success as they prepare for their GCSE examinations.

Through engaging activities and powerful discussion, pupils explored key messages, including the importance of perseverance and commitment, captured in the reminder that revision is temporary, but results are forever. Pupils were also encouraged to reflect on their personal goals by asking themselves, "What is your why?"—helping them to maintain focus, build confidence and stay motivated throughout this crucial preparation period.

The workshops provided pupils with valuable strategies and a positive mindset to support them on their journey towards achieving their full potential in their GCSEs.

*"The exam launch was a wonderful experience, the team from FIX UP delivered valuable lessons and shared motivating stories which have encouraged me to give 200% into revising for the mocks and GCSE's. Specifically, the assembly in the morning was fun to attend with Jay's (member of FIX UP) hilarious storytelling, and the message resonated with me heavily. They also taught us a unique way of revising using storytelling/pictures, which is engaging and more effective for memory retention. The assembly was followed by workshops where we created revision timetables that will help me manage my time more efficiently."* **By Kritika Basra 11KIY**

*"I really enjoyed the exam launch as I was able to have a great opportunity to hear from someone who went through similar situation as us which was relatable as well. Furthermore, we received great advice on how to overcome obstacles we may face not just of right now but also the near future. One key information that I was able to obtain was that "Revision is temporary, results are forever" and I would encourage everyone that has this opportunity to engage and learn from it."* **By Erica Fosua Agyemang (Head Girl) 11GUE**

**By Miss Lally**





## Year 7 Indoor Athletics Competition

On Tuesday 20 January, 12 Year 7 pupils represented SJW and the Sports hall Athletics Competition. During the event they took part in a variety of running and field events including, sprinting, relay, shot put, speed bounce and obstacle races.

The pupils showed incredible behaviour throughout the day. Every pupil demonstrated huge levels of support to their team cheering each other on and congratulating them at the end of the race. They gave it their all and showed some amazing talent.

A huge well done to the following pupils for having the motivation and courage to represent the school in an unfamiliar and new environment.

- Oluwadarasimi Olawoyin
- Arriv Kumar
- Natasha Ejianrah
- Mikal Abraha
- Malvin Ewi
- Harleen Kaur
- Monica Agyemang
- Henon Yosef
- Adam Sharafpiani
- Graham Coffie
- Halc Kouami
- Vincent Nguyen

By Mrs Padmore



## Steps to Success Trip

Our Year 7 leaders led a variety of sports-based sessions in their first school games festival on Wednesday at Nechells Wellbeing Centre. They were tasked with planning, delivering, and keeping the scores for their sessions. There were over 50 primary school pupils that they had to teach and every one of our SJW pupils did an amazing job at leading.

Well done to:

- Arteer Kaur
- Patryk Kardel
- Bok Man Sin
- Mariam Kimba Musah
- Ayaana Khan
- Viliam Gazi
- Alisha Bangar
- Blessing Sarayi

By Mr Arshad



## Visit to St Mary's Coffee Club

Pupils have taken part in a Tai Chi class today at coffee club which they described as challenging! We then had a discussion about difficulties faced by an aging community when it comes to mobility. We decided that more exercise classes are needed! Next week is fundraising for a summer outing, so if there are any unwanted gifts we would happily use them in the bring and buy sale.

By Mrs Clayton





## NEA Success: Plagiarism, AI & Referencing Guide

*"Plagiarism is the failure to acknowledge sources properly and/or the submission of another person's work as if it were the candidate's own." – (JCQ)*

### 🚫 Examples of Plagiarism

- Submitting work that isn't your own.
- Changing a few words and claiming it's original.
- Letting others access your coursework (SharePoint, email).
- Helping another pupil produce their work.
- Using books, websites, or AI without referencing them.
- Using AI tools to generate work without declaring them.



### 🔍 Plagiarism Detection & Punishment

- Teachers monitor your progress and check if you understand your work.
- Work is compared to earlier work for changes in tone, vocab, grammar, etc.
- AI signs such as mixed UK/US spelling, overly formal or vague writing.
- Unusual fonts or formatting that changes may raise flags.
- Work is scanned using tools like 'Turnitin'.
- Everyone must sign a no-plagiarism declaration NEA form.
- **Consequences include: 0 marks for the work and disqualification from the NEA or subject. In serious cases, disqualification from all subjects and being barred from re-entering exams for a period.**

### 💬 Referencing work

- Referencing means giving credit to the original source of any material you did not create yourself.
- Use quotation marks " " for anything copied, you then will need to explain it and show understanding to earn marks.

**Books: (Author, Year, Page)**  
(JK Rowling, 1997, p.63)

**Websites: (Date, URL)**  
(5/2/2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rubeus\\_Hagrid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rubeus_Hagrid))

**AI Tools:**

- Name of the AI tool and website URL.
- Date used.
- Screenshot of the prompt.
- Brief explanation of how it was used.

### 🤖 Using AI in Coursework

- Pupils must not use AI to generate work that isn't solely their own ideas.
- If AI is used, it must be referenced.
- Using AI without acknowledgement is classed as plagiarism.
- Pupils are expected to sign a declaration confirming this.







**Saturday 24th January | 10am - 2pm**

Open Days are the perfect opportunity for young people to explore their future options and discover the exciting courses and opportunities available at South & City College Birmingham. By attending, learners can make informed decisions about their next steps – and you can gather valuable information and resources to support them.

**Here's what's on offer at our Open Day:**

- **Take part in hands-on taster sessions** to experience our courses in action
- **Chat with our expert tutors** and find out more about our wide range of subjects
- **Tour our campus and facilities** to see where students could be learning and developing skills
- **Learn about the fantastic support available** to help every student thrive
- **Get application guidance** directly from our admissions team

**Together, we can help students feel confident and excited about their next chapter.**

[Click here to book](#)



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At **HSBC**, we believe apprenticeships are the future of the workforce – a gateway to valuable skills and meaningful careers. **National Apprenticeship Week** is a time to celebrate the incredible opportunities apprenticeships offer to young people, parents, and educators.

We are excited to invite your students to join us for our special **Open Evening** at our head office **Birmingham**, where they can experience the world of HSBC apprenticeships firsthand and meet the young people already thriving in their roles as apprentices.

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – 6.30 – 8pm**

**1 Centenary Square, Birmingham, B1 1HQ**

Spaces are limited so we kindly ask the students to register by visiting [Events | Students and graduates | Careers | HSBC Holdings plc](#)

Please note that students under the age of 16 will need a parent/guardian to accompany them.

We would also like to invite you to a range of virtual events designed to inform and inspire students, parents and teachers:

#### **Virtual Events for Everyone**

**HSBC & You** - Come and explore HSBC and the world of opportunity

Tuesday 10 February from 6pm until 7pm

Register [here](#)

**Be inspired by HSBC Apprentices** - Discover the experiences of HSBC Apprentices and gain insights into their professional journey. This event also offers a valuable opportunity to engage directly and pose questions to the apprentices

Wednesday 11 February from 6pm until 7pm

Register [here](#)

**Explore various career pathways and discover methods to identify potential opportunities** - An event for student and parents. Explore a range of emerging talent pathways and uncover ways to identify potential opportunities and selection methods.

Thursday 12 February from 6pm until 7pm

Register [here](#)

#### **Virtual Events for Parents**

**How to support young people** - Facilitating parental support in guiding their child's career initiation.

Monday 9 February from 6pm until 7pm

Register [here](#)

We look forward to inspiring all students and helping them take their first steps towards exciting career opportunities. Let's celebrate the National Apprenticeship Week together.



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# Parent/Carer Workshops

Join our free Parent/Carer Workshops for practical tips, simple strategies and up-to-date guidance to help your child thrive.

These friendly, expert-led sessions cover key topics such as online safety and emotional regulation, giving you the tools to feel informed, confident and supported.



## **Online Safety**

Learn about digital safety for kids including impact of screen time, apps, gaming, AI risks, cyberbullying and gain practical tips to create a safer digital environment at home

Date: Wednesday 25th February 2026

Time: 9:30–11:30am

## **Emotional Regulation**

This workshop covers emotional regulation in children, causes and signs of dysregulation, the nervous system's role, and practical strategies to support healthy skills.

Date: Wednesday 4th March 2026

Time: 9:30–11:30am

## **Managing Worries/Anxiety**

This workshop covers understanding anxiety in children, its causes and signs, and offers practical tips and strategies to help manage worries effectively.

Date: Wednesday 11th March 2026

Time: 9:30–11:30am

## **Register for the workshops here:**

Scan me



## **Stay Connected!**

**Compass  
Birmingham**  
Mental Health Support Teams

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 0121 227 8254  
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**[WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](http://WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK)**



**APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH MARCH 2026**



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