

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 14

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 12 December 2025



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

Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers
Dignity
Loving and Compassionate

This week in Celebration of the Word...

"We focused on Advent Reconciliation. During this time, we listened to a piece of scripture that reminded us of the importance of turning away from sin and selfishness. It also allowed us to reflect on why we should apologise for our wrongdoings. This Celebration of the Word taught us to think about the times that we have hurt others and to show **love** and **generosity** to everyone. I like Celebration of the Word because it is a chance for everyone in the year group to come together and pray."

By Gurjot Singh 10ILY

This week in Afternoon Prayer...

"We prayed for the Immaculate Conception. During this prayer, we celebrated Mary, who was chosen by God to carry his son into the world. We reflected on the challenging times in our own lives and how saying yes to God's plan is important, even when it may feel difficult. Doing this shows **love** and **peace** to God. We also prayed for **peace** during Advent. Advent gives us the chance to reflect on how we can bring **peace** into our own lives and into the world. I like Afternoon Prayer as it is a nice opportunity for everyone to come together.

By Ibraheem Jagun 9HEA

Important Dates to Note

- **The Birmingham Rep Theatre Trip – 20 Year 8 Pupils**
Tuesday 16 December 2025 – 9.20am to 3.00pm
- **UCB Trip – 19 Year 7 Pupils**
Wednesday 17 December 2025 – 8.50am to 1.30pm
- **Year 7 Christmas Disco**
Wednesday 17 December 2025 – 5.00pm to 7.00pm
- **Jolly Jumper Day**
Friday 19 December 2025
- **Year 11 Rewards Trip to Solihull Ice Skating Rink**
Friday 19 December 2025 – 8.45am to 12.30pm
- **Christmas Holiday**
Friday 19 December 2025
Pupils will be dismissed from school between 12.30pm and 12.45pm
- **School reopens to all Pupils**
Wednesday 7 January 2026



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Year 11 Parents' Evening

Year 11 Parents' Evening took place on Thursday 4 December. It was wonderful to see so many pupils and families in attendance: 65% (77) pupils attended with parents/carers, while 31% (37) came independently.

The evening provided a valuable opportunity to review outcomes from the recent mock examinations and discuss strategies to close gaps, ensuring continued progress ahead of mock 2 and the summer GCSEs.

Feedback from parents/carers was overwhelmingly positive. Almost all reported that their child is happy and feels safe at school, with some expressing that they are "very happy with the education and support provided."

Year 11 pupils will receive their mock 2 examination homework booklets before the Christmas break on Friday 19 December. Please encourage them to use these resources effectively in preparation for the assessment week beginning Monday 23 February.

We look forward to welcoming you again on Wednesday 25 March to discuss mock 2 results and how we can work together to support pupils in the final run-up to their GCSE examinations.

By Miss Lally

Parents' Afternoon

Year 9 Parents' Afternoon

This will take place on Thursday 8 January 2026 from 1.30pm to 4.00pm. I am hoping to see all parents to discuss their child's progress and to address any concerns or issue which you may have. This is an important opportunity to meet your child's subject teachers.

Pupils will be receiving appointment slips to book your meetings with staff.

By Mrs Chand

Year 7 Parents' Afternoon

Year 7 Parents Afternoon will take place on Wednesday 14 January 2026 from 1.30pm to 4.00pm. Pupils will book a time slot with their teachers for parents to attend.

By Mrs Ellis

Christmas Showcase

Dear Parent/Guardians, we are having a Christmas Showcase on Thursday 18 December 2025 from 5.00pm - 7.00pm. The tickets are £1 each per person. You will be able to purchase the tickets through MCAS. We hope you will be able to attend.

Aston Schools Handball Tournament

The Year 8 girls took part in the Aston Schools Handball Tournament yesterday after school (11.12.2025), competing against a number of schools from both the St John Partnership and King Edwards Partnership.

The girls played brilliantly and demonstrated our core school games values of **teamwork, respect, determination, resilience, and honesty** throughout the competition. St John Wall finished in 4th place, just missing out on medals, but their effort and spirit were outstanding.

A big thank you from Mrs Ratcliffe to all the girls for taking part and showing such excellent sportsmanship.

By Mrs Ratcliffe

Water Bottle Vapes

Water bottle disposable vapes are the new trend in vaping. These are aimed at young people with inviting colours and a range of flavours. They can contain nicotine which is an addictive drug and harmful to health. People must be 18 years and over to purchase any vape merchandise. A Vape, water bottle vape or any variation of a vape or e-cigarette or smoking paraphernalia is classified as a banned item – please remain vigilant to this item with your children.

By Miss Timmins



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Boost Your Future with Extra Language Lessons!

Want to stand out and open more doors? Joining after-school lessons in **Punjabi, Spanish, French, or Polish** is a brilliant way to gain an extra qualification while having fun learning. These sessions give you extra practice to build confidence, improve your grades, and discover new cultures. An extra qualification looks amazing on college, university, and job applications—it shows you're motivated, hardworking, and ready to take on challenges. Plus, speaking more than one language helps you connect with people, travel the world, and succeed in different careers.

✨ Don't miss the chance to grow your skills, celebrate your culture, and become a global citizen. Sign up, bring your energy, and let's make language learning your superpower!

Well done to these pupils for attending regularly our community languages lessons during the autumn term and working towards an extra qualification:

Punjabi lessons

Harjot Singh y10 RAH Kirandeep Taal y8BRK
Tarandeep Singh y8HAS Kamalpreet Kaur 10CAL
Maninderdeep Sidhu 10RAH Prabhjot Singh 10BRO
Jaskirat Sahota y11GUE Veer Kaura y11JON
Balkaran Singh 11BRT

French

Njike Yomi Arielle Elise 10ILY

Spanish

Breton Johnson Ernesto 10CAL

Polish

Antoni Kozlowski 10ILY Kuba Szklarski 10BRO
Nikodem Jaron 10ILY David Kadzik 9BRS
Michal Chmielewski 10ESM Dominik Gruszczynski 11JON
Sebastian Prusak 10RAH Filip Daszkiewicz 9BRS
Patrick Chojnowski 9PAD Ksawery Winczura 9HAB
Sandra Dawicka 10ILY Natalia Szynekiewicz 9BRS
Maja Zdunkiewicz 9BRS Zuzanna Gruszczynska 9HAB
Maja Karwanska 11JON

By Mrs Bigongiari

Basketball Skills Camp for Year 10s and Year 11s

Year 10/11's have the opportunity to take part in a Basketball skills camp with former GB Professional and Skills Coach, Curtis Xavier, coach of numerous NBA, NCAA and professional athletes.

December 22-23

10:30am-1pm

Aston Manor Sports Hall, Thomas Street, B6 4TN

This fantastic opportunity is open to aspirational students in Year 10 and 11 with the following characteristics:

- 🏀 Passion for basketball (beginners welcome)
- 🏀 Outrageous work ethic
- 🏀 Willingness to learn

Students can register on the link below or email me for more information.

<https://forms.office.com/e/D2UaSCGyui?origin=lprLink>

We also hold FREE Skills Sessions on a Saturday – 12:30-2:30pm – Develop the fundamentals and skills required to compete at the Elite Level.

For more information, please contact Joshim Miah, JMiah@astonmanoracademy.com

Visit to St Mary's Coffee Club

Pupils have had fun joining in with a carol concert today organised by a visiting Ukelele band. There were musical instruments, mince pies and other Christmas snacks. Pupils looked after guests' tea and coffee orders as well as chatting about Christmas plans and traditions. Merry Christmas from everyone at St Mary's Coffee Club.

By Mrs Clayton



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Community Languages Lessons

In summer 2025
4 students
achieved
grade 9

Saint John Wall school encourages pupils with who are able to speak another language other than English to take a GCSE in that language. This is often completed earlier in Year 9 or 10 to gain the qualification before Year 11 examinations. EAL pupils can attain very good grades at GCSE.

Another benefit of taking a GCSE in your community language is it means you are eligible to fulfil the Ebacc. The Ebacc is a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people. By completing the Ebacc pupils have access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school. If pupils are thinking of going to university, the Ebacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.

We can offer lessons in French, Italian, Spanish, Panjabi, Polish, Urdu, Bengali, Arabic, Persian.

LESSONS FEATURES:

- ✓ Experienced tutors
- ✓ 1 hour per week
- ✓ excellent pass rates

'Completing a GCSE in my home language was a great opportunity. It opens many doors for the future. Who wouldn't want an extra GCSE?'

For more information:

✉ rbigongiari@sjw.bham.sch.uk



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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

Blazers



PE navy shorts
PE navy joggers

SJW ties

Black school skirts

Any donations will be very much appreciated.



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GOGNA

ESTABLISHED 1976

Wishing all of our families and parents a very

*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year*

A small gift from us to you



20 % Off

CODE GS20

gogna.me

g-storm.co.uk

EXP 11/01/26
Not applicable to packages



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