

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 21

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 13 February 2026



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

Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers
Solidarity
Attentive and Discerning

Prayer

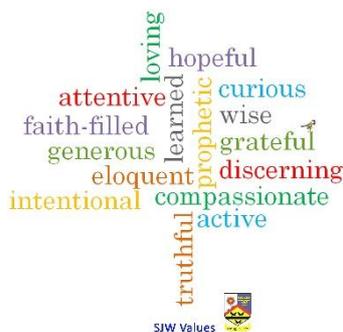
Loving God, As we come to the end of Children's Mental Health Week and reach the close of this half term, we pause to give thanks for the learning, the friendships, and the moments of growth we have shared.

Help us to continue to be people who **build bridges and break barriers**—between friends, between communities and between hearts. Where there has been misunderstanding, bring patience. Where there has been distance, bring courage to reach out. Where there has been hurt, bring healing and **hope**.

Guide us to stand in **solidarity** with one another, especially with those who feel alone, unheard, or unsure. May our words be gentle, our actions be kind, and our choices reflect the **dignity** of every person we meet.

As we step into the half-term break, keep us safe, restore our energy, and guide us to return renewed—ready to learn, to serve, and to continue building a school community where everyone belongs.

Amen



Important Dates to Note

- **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 8 Pathways Parents' Afternoon**
Wednesday 18 March 2026 – 2.30pm to 4.00pm
- **Carding Mill Valley Trip – 50 Year 10 Pupils**
Friday 20 March 2026 – 8.30am to 4pm
- **France Trip – 40 Year 8 and Year 9 Pupils**
Monday 23 March 2026 to Friday 27 March 2026
- **Year 11 Parents' Evening**
Wednesday 25 March 2026 – 3.30pm to 5.30pm

Year 11 Mock 2 Examinations

As we approach the half-term break, we would like to remind all Year 11 pupils that their mock examinations will take place immediately after the holiday. This is the final set of mock exams before GCSEs begin in the summer and they provide a crucial opportunity to identify strengths, address gaps, and build confidence ahead of the real examinations. **Attendance and punctuality are absolutely essential.** Pupils must arrive on time, fully equipped and ready to demonstrate their best effort in every subject. We encourage all pupils to use their time over half term wisely. **Consistent preparation and focused revision** will make a genuine difference to their performance and progress. A copy of exam timetable is displayed later in this newsletter. Thank you for your continued support. **By Mr Mull**



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Message from Head of School

As a school community, we must ensure that we are responsive to the needs of those around us, whilst also remaining proactive in addressing wider issues emerging across the country. In order to promote awareness and continue to ensure that our school remains a safe and secure place to learn, pupils will walk through a metal detection arch over the next half term. This will take place on a random basis, with different year groups on different days. As always, our priority is the safety and wellbeing of every member of our community.

As referenced in last week’s newsletter, our three Steps to Success are Excellence, Achievement and Respect. When we speak to pupils about Excellence, we emphasise striving for high standards in everything we do. We often remind pupils that “how you do anything is how you do everything.” Excellence is not limited to the classroom; it extends into our community. We encourage pupils to demonstrate excellence through their actions and choices, rooted in Catholic Social Teaching — particularly the principles of the Common Good and the preferential option for the poor.

This morning, I was delighted to welcome our next cohort of Hot Chocolate Friday pupils. It was a pleasure to hear about their highlights so far this academic year and the goals they have set themselves for the coming half term. Congratulations to the pupils listed in the table below.

Year Group	Pupil
7	Blessing Sarayi
8	Masuma Fatema
9	David Kadzik
10	Harjot Singh
11	Sarah Monthomas

By Mr Holder

Alton Castle Residential

This week, myself and Ms Hewett accompanied 18 pupils on a 2-night residential to Alton Castle with the Kenelm Youth Trust in Staffordshire. Alton Castle offers a residential that is designed to enable numerous opportunities for prayer and reflection as well as allowing all pupils to foster a deeper connection between themselves and God. The theme of our retreat was “Rooted”. Through different forms of prayer and activities, pupils explored the life cycle of a tree, understanding how they can use their gifts and talents to become their own unique individuals.

Pupils enjoyed a range of activities including a blindfolded night walk, bike riding, trekking and survival. All of these activities allowed the pupils to work together as a team, thinking about the gifts and talents that God has given to them. It was lovely to see all the pupils taking part, growing in confidence and not giving up, despite some challenges faced during the activities! As well as this, Fr Chris celebrated a lovely Mass for us as a group – a big thank you to those who read and brought up the gifts of bread and wine.

Thank you to all the team at Alton Castle for providing this experience for all our pupils who had a brilliant few days. Thank you to our pupils for behaving so well and for getting involved and for Ms Hewett for giving up her time to support me on this residential.

By Mr Lysaght





Ash Wednesday

As we begin the season of Lent - a special time in the Christian calendar focused on reflection, prayer, and preparation for Easter - families are warmly invited to attend Ash Wednesday services in our local parishes on **Wednesday 18 February**.

Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent and is a day when ashes are received on foreheads as a sign of repentance, renewal and hope.

Please see below the Ash Wednesday service times in some of our local parishes:

- St Francis – 10:00am
- Sacred Heart – 10:15am
- St Augustine's – 18:30pm

All of our staff, pupils and families are welcome to take part in this meaningful beginning to the Lenten journey.

By Mr Lysaght

Visit to St Mary's Coffee Club

Pupils have helped organise a darts tournament for guests today. Maths skills came in very useful along with the art of negotiation and communication! Jean, one of our regular guests who is visually impaired hit the bullseye which was met with a huge round of applause. She didn't win the tournament though unfortunately.

By Mrs Clayton



Utilita Arena Birmingham

As School Games Organiser, I had the pleasure of hosting a primary event at the Utilita Arena Birmingham in partnership with Sport Birmingham, ahead of this weekend's Indoor Championships (Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 February).

To support the 'Opening Ceremony,' I invited three Year 10 Dhol Drummers—Akhil, Parampreet, and Hayden to perform in front of more than 200 children representing 24 primary schools. They performed with exceptional confidence, brought fantastic energy, and filled the arena with an incredible sound.

I watched in awe of their composure and talent, and I could not have been prouder to introduce them and thank them for their contribution. The primary pupils had such kind words to share after the performance.

A huge well done and thank you to all three pupils!

By Mrs Ratcliffe

Sandwell College Visit to School

Sandwell College visited school today to speak with our CNAT Sport and GCSE PE pupils about the wide range of Post-16 sport pathways available. Pupils took part in informative sessions covering course options, career opportunities within the sports industry, and the next steps after Year 11. The visit sparked some really positive conversations, with pupils asking thoughtful questions and showing great enthusiasm for their future in sport. It was a valuable opportunity to help them start planning their next stage and to raise aspirations for further education and careers in the sector.

By Mrs Ratcliffe



Physics Big Quiz 2026

A number of our Year 9 pupils had a brilliant experience taking part in Physics Big Quiz at the University of Birmingham. The pupils threw themselves into each challenge, showing great teamwork, curiosity and enthusiasm throughout the day.

Our pupils spoke very positively about the visit and how it boosted their confidence and gave them a real taste of science beyond the classroom. Staff at the university were full of praise for how engaged and polite our pupils were.

A big thank you to the staff who accompanied the group for their time and support and to the school for continuing to make enriching opportunities like this possible.

Our pupils did us proud and it was a fantastic learning experience for all involved.

By Mr Hussain
HAPS Ambassador





Home Language Writing Competition

- The idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day was the initiative of Bangladesh. It was approved at the 1999 UNESCO General Conference and has been observed throughout the world since 2000.
- UNESCO believes in the importance of cultural and linguistic diversity for sustainable societies. It is within its mandate for peace that it works to preserve the differences in cultures and languages that foster tolerance and respect for others.
- Multilingual and multicultural societies exist through their languages which transmit and preserve traditional knowledge and cultures in a sustainable way.
- Linguistic diversity is increasingly threatened as more and more languages disappear.
- Globally 40 per cent of the population does not have access to an education in a language they speak or understand. Nevertheless, progress is being made in multilingual education with growing understanding of its importance, particularly in early schooling, and more commitment to its development in public life.

2026 celebrations

- This year's International Mother Language Day highlights the role of young people in shaping the future of multilingual education. Youth voices on multilingual education emphasizes that language is more than a means of communication: it is central to identity, learning, well-being and participation in society. The celebration underscores the importance of education systems that recognise and value every learner's language to support inclusion and learning outcomes.

Home Language Writing Competition

Celebrate who you are. Celebrate your language. We are inviting all pupils to create a piece of writing in your home language.

Tell us how your home language makes you feel, why it matters to you, or what it means in your life, your family, or your identity.

It can be:

- a poem
- a short story
- a letter
- a reflection
- or any creative piece that expresses your voice

It **MUST** be handwritten.

Prizes

The three most powerful and meaningful pieces will win a prize.

How to Enter

Submit your writing to Mrs Bigongiari (Room 23).

Deadline

All entries must be handed in by **Thursday 5 March**.

Your language is part of your story. Share it proudly. We can't wait to read your work.

By Mrs Bigongiari

International Mother Language Day
21st February 2026

What My Language Means To Me

Writing Competition

Create a piece of writing, written in your home language, to tell everyone how you feel about your home language.

- Who do you speak it with?
- Where did/do you learn it?
- Why is your language important to you?
- What would you like people to know about it?

It MUST be handwritten.

Writing should not exceed one A4 page.

German
Hallo!
Hallo (Hello!)

Arabic
السلام عليكم
As-salāmu 'alaykum (Peace be upon you!)

Mandarin
大家好
Nǐ hǎo (Hello!)



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Year 11 Mock 2 Examinations

Monday 23 February 2026 to Monday 9 March 2026

Period	Monday 23 February	Tuesday 24 February	Wednesday 25 February	Thursday 26 February	Friday 27 February
Form and Period 1 9:00 Start	English Lit 1 hour	Maths 1 Non Calculator 1h 30m	RE 1 1h 30m	Geography 1 Physical 1h 30m	Maths 2 Calculator 1h 30m
Break	Break				
Period 2 and 3 10:50 Start	History 1 1h 30m	Computer Science 1h 30m	Comb Science - Biology 1h 10m	English Language 1h 45m	Comb Science - Chemistry 1h 10m
		Catering & Hosp 1h 20m	SScience Biology Y10 1h 45m		SScience Chemistry 1h 45m
		Panjabi Writing F 1h 10m H 1h 15m			
Lunch	Lunch				
4 13:50 Start	French Reading F 45 mins H 1 hour	Sport 1h 15m	History 2 55m	Bus Enterprise 1h 15m	Spanish Listening F 40 mins H 50 mins
	Italian Reading F 45 mins H 1 hour	GCSE PE 1 1 Hour		Extended Maths 1h 15m	Italian Listening F 40 mins H 50 mins
	Spanish Reading F 45 mins H 1 hour				





Year 11 Mock 2 Examinations

Monday 23 February 2026 to Monday 9 March 2026

Period	Monday 02 March	Tuesday 03 March	Wednesday 04 March	Thursday 05 March	Friday 06 March	Monday 09 March
Form and Period 1 9:00 Start	RE 2 1h 30m	Maths 3 Calculator 1h 30m	French Writing F 1h 10m H 1h 15m	Drama/Music	ART	PE Practical
			Italian Writing F 1h 10m H 1h 15m			
			Spanish Writing F 1h 10m H 1h 15m			
Break	Break					
Period 2 and 3 10:50 Start	Comb Science Physics 1h 10m	IT 1h 30m	Geography 2 Human 1h 30m			
	SScience Physics 1h 45m	Engineering 1h 15m				
		GCSE Statistics Y10 1h 30m				
Lunch	Lunch					
4 13:50 Start	GCSE PE 2 1 Hour	French Listening F 40 mins H 50 mins	Polish Writing F 1h 10m H 1h 15m			
	Health and Social Care 1h 15m					





Living Well
Consortium

Contact Number: 0121 663 1217
www.livingwellconsortium.com

FEBRUARY HALF TERM WORKSHOPS

Running Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February at grounded.
Selly Oak 11 Bournbrook Road, B29 7BL

WORKSHOPS INCLUDE



AND MORE...

Walk-in self-referrals welcome

- Where? grounded. 55 St. Pauls Square, B3 1QS
- When? Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February

Want your child to attend? By signing up, you are referring into our Youth Counselling Service and will be sent a booking link shortly after registration.



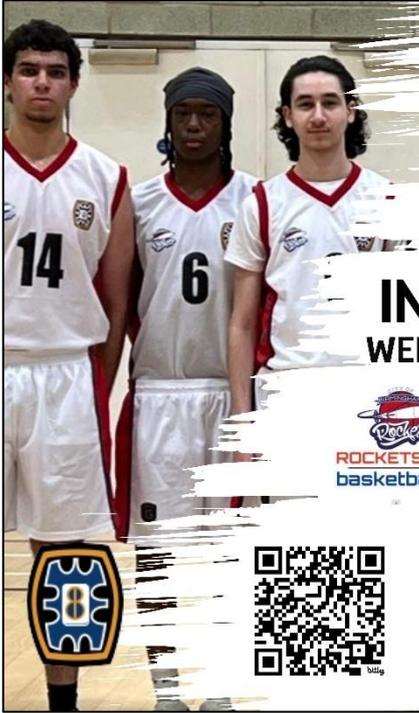
Disclaimer: Our staff are not medically trained and cannot assist with medications or diagnoses. We are unable to offer crisis support.



Broadway Academy **SIXTH FORM**

ONLINE

INFORMATION EVENING WEDNESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 4PM-5PM



- ✔ Strong Academic Support
- ✔ Volunteering Opportunities & Enrichment
- ✔ Sporting Academies
- ✔ Wide Range of Subjects
- ✔ Community and Belonging

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