

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 8

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 24 October 2025



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

Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers
Dignity
Loving and Compassionate

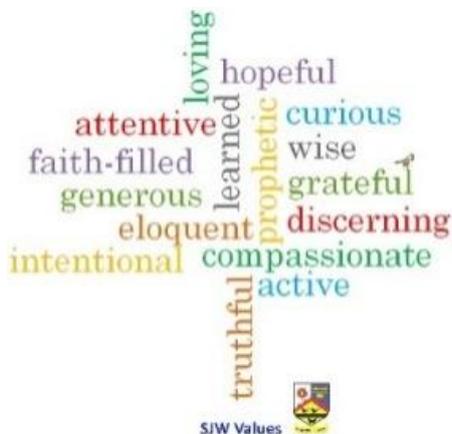
Prayer

Loving God, As we pause at the end of this first half term, we thank You for the journey we've shared. For the lessons learned, the friendships formed, and the challenges overcome — we are **grateful**.

In our diversity, You have shown us unity. In our differences, You have taught us **compassion**. Help us to continue building bridges of understanding and breaking down barriers of prejudice and fear.

May our school be a place where every voice is heard, every story valued, and every person cherished. As we rest and recharge, keep us safe and joyful. Prepare our hearts to return renewed, ready to grow in wisdom, faith, and **love**.

Amen.



Important Dates to Note

- **Half Term**
Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025
- **Year 11 Mock 1 Examinations**
Monday 3 November 2025 – Wednesday 12 November 2025
- **Values@Day**
Friday 14 November 2025

Year 11 Mock 1 Examinations

Year 11 Mock 1 examinations will commence in the first week following the half-term break. These assessments play a vital role in preparing pupils for their final exams and serve as a key indicator of academic progress.

We strongly encourage pupils to use the half-term period to revise thoroughly, ensuring they return well-prepared and confident.

Please ensure that all Year 11 pupils come back equipped with the correct equipment and ready to engage fully with the examination process.

A copy of the examination timetable is displayed later in this newsletter.



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Awards Evening – Year 8 and Year 9

Wednesday 22 October 2025

This week we hosted our annual awards evening to recognise and honour our fantastic pupils in their achievements across the curriculum. A big thank you to our special guests of Lord Mayor of Birmingham – Councillor Zafar Iqbal MBE, JP, Lord Mayoress – Mrs Farooq Akhtar, Councillor of Handsworth Wood Ward – Narinder Kaur Kooner OBE and from South and City College Faculty Head Care Science & Academic Studies Kaussar Bashir. Thank you also to all the staff who made the evenings a great success and to the Prefects and performers.



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Awards Evening – Year 10 and Year 11

Thursday 23 October 2025



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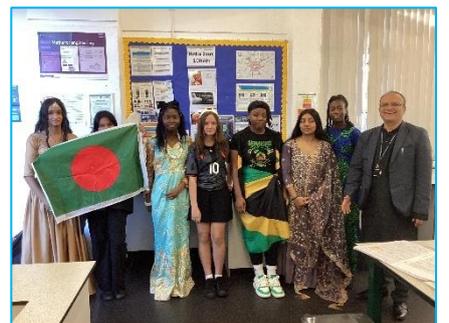
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Cultural Heritage Day

Friday 24 October 2025

Today we celebrated Cultural Heritage Day where pupils and staff were given the opportunity to wear clothes from their culture. As you can see from the photographs, we have a diverse school with pupils celebrating together and enjoying the day.





Cultural Heritage Day

Friday 24 October 2025



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Year 11 Mock 1 Timetable

Period	Monday 3 November	Tuesday 4 November	Wednesday 5 November	Thursday 6 November	Friday 7 November
Form and Period 1 9:00 Start	English Lit 45 mins	Maths Non Calculator 1h 30m	RE 1 hour	Geography 1h 30m	History 2 55m
Break					
Period 2 and 3 10:50 Start	History 1 1h 20m	Computer Science 2 hours	Combined Science 1h 10m	English Language 1h 45m	Combined Science 1h 10m
			Science Biology (Y10) 1h 45m		Science Chemistry 1h 45m
Lunch					
Period 4 13:50 Start	Spanish Reading F 45 mins H 60 Mins	Business Enterprise 1h 15m	GCSE PE 1 1 Hour	Community Languages 1 hour	
	French Reading F 45 mins H 60 Mins		Sport 1h 15m		
	Italian Reading F 45 mins H 60 Mins				

Period	Monday 10 November	Tuesday 11 November	Wednesday 12 November	Thursday 13 November
Form and Period 1 9:00 Start	Maths Calculator 1h 30m	Catering & Hosp 1h 15m	Art Day	Music and Drama Day
		Engineering 1h 15m		
Break				
Period 2 and 3 10:50 Start	IT 1h 30m	Combined Science 1h 10m		
	Health and Social Care 1h 15m	Science - Physics 1h 45m		
Lunch				
Period 4 13:50 Start	GCSE PE 2 1 Hour			





Catholic Life

Visit to St Mary's Coffee Club

Pupils have had a great experience playing bingo for the first time today. They picked it up so quickly that they were able to help other people which was lovely. One guest also commented on how polite and efficient pupils were collecting tea and coffee orders so well done to them.

By Mrs Clayton



Little Way Week

At the start of the month, pupils in our Chaplaincy Team delivered a Celebration of the Word on Little Way Week. Little Way Week is inspired by St Thérèse of Lisieux, who helps us to understand that through small, **loving** actions, we can deliver God's **love** to the world. As part of this Celebration of the Word, pupils from Y7 to Y10 reflected on what small action they can carry out to show **love**. Thank you to the pupils in the Chaplaincy Team for standing up and delivering this Celebration of the Word so confidently.



Fairtrade Fortnight

At the end of September into the first week of October, we celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight. This fortnight was a reminder that the choices we make everyday can make an impact globally. Over these two weeks, pupils and staff helped to design a Fairtrade Fortnight community tablecloth, raising awareness for global trade justice. This tablecloth is going to be displayed on our altar each week during Celebration of the Word and for our school Masses and services. Thank you to the pupils and staff who were **curious and active** and for giving their time to design this tablecloth!



Year 7 Welcome Mass

Today, we officially welcomed our Year 7 pupils to our St John Wall community through the celebration of their Welcome Mass. Parents of our Year 7 pupils, as well as their primary school headteachers and staff were invited, and some joined us in the school hall for this Mass. A big thank you and welcome to our new Parish Priest, Fr George Waraich, who celebrated this Mass for us. Fr George has recently begun his new ministry at St Augustine's Catholic Church, and we are **grateful** for his support with this Mass.

Thank you to all the pupils that read and to our Year 10 dhol drummers for their opening performance. Thank you also to Mrs Ellis, Mrs Crooks, Miss Antonucci and Mr Price for their help and support in preparing for this Mass.



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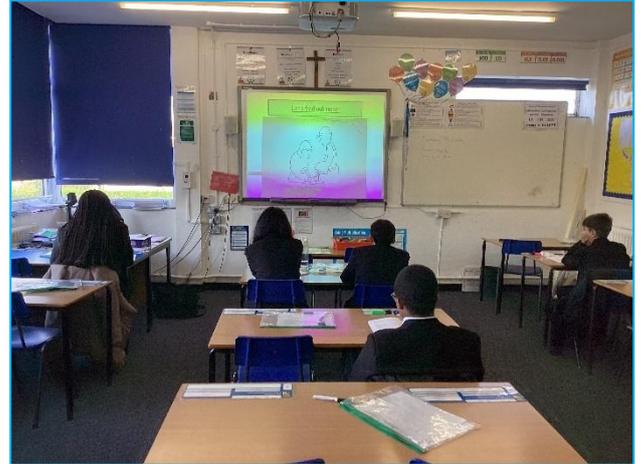
Awards Evening

This week, we celebrated our Awards Evening for pupils from Year 8 to Year 11. Here at St John Wall, Catholic Life is present in all aspects of school life. The pupils that received the Catholic Life award have embraced the opportunities that have been available to them. The pupils have shown that they are **faith-filled** and **hopeful** through their fantastic citizenship, teamwork and co-operation. Well done to Kirandeep Taal, Jayden Gordon, Patrick Westwood, Safah Akhtar, Khaleel Cunningham, Princela Manu, Deborah Agbolade and Rayna Jassal who received the award.



Lifestyle

This month in Lifestyle, some pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 have been continuing to explore Catholic Social Teachings. This week pupils thought about **Human Dignity** and **Dignity of Work and Participation**. Pupils reflected on what these terms mean and designed a building **dignity** poster, thinking about how they can ensure they are always respecting the **dignity** of others.



By Mr Lysaght





Head of Year News

Year 7

As we approach the end of our first half term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly positive and energetic start for our new Year 7 cohort. The transition from primary to secondary school is a significant one, and I'm delighted to say that our pupils have embraced the challenge with enthusiasm, kindness, and a growing sense of independence.

Assessment Homework: Pupils have been issued their assessment homework booklets, which contain subject-specific tasks designed to consolidate learning and prepare them for upcoming assessments. We encourage pupils to pace themselves and seek support if needed. There is an opportunity to attend homework club in the library every day after school should pupils need support with their booklets. Pupils can also speak with their class teacher before the homework is due should they need any clarification on what they need to do.

Ready to Learn: Equipment Reminder: A gentle reminder that pupils should return after the holidays with all the correct equipment: 2x pens, 1x pencil, 1x purple pen, ruler, eraser, and any subject-specific items (such as AR book/PE kit). Being properly equipped is essential for a smooth start to lessons and helps foster a sense of responsibility and readiness.

Celebration of Mass: Today we gathered as a year group for a beautiful celebration of Mass. It was a moment of reflection and unity, and I was incredibly proud of how reverently our pupils participated. It was a lovely way to mark the end of the term and remind ourselves of the values we hold as a school community.

A Visit from David Graham – The 'Natural High Guy': We were also privileged to welcome David Graham, known to many as the 'Natural High Guy'. His engaging and heartfelt presentation encouraged pupils to seek joy and fulfilment through positive choices and natural highs, rather than substances. His message about the dangers of drugs was delivered with warmth and humour, and our pupils responded with maturity and curiosity. It was a powerful and memorable experience for all.

Thank you for your continued support. Wishing you and your families a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

By Mrs Ellis

Year 8

It is hard to believe we've already reached the end of our first term.

Year 8 have made such a positive start to the new academic year, and I am proud of the effort, energy, and attitude you have shown over the past few weeks.

A huge well done to everyone as together, we have earned an incredible 26,567 positive Class Chart points this term. That is a real credit to the hard work happening every day in lessons, and around school.

Of course, there are always things we can keep working on. We're continuing to focus on good attendance, making sure everyone comes to school ready to learn with the right equipment, and leaving the playground promptly after break and lunch so lessons can start smoothly.

Overall, it's been a brilliant start to the year. Thank you to all the parents and carers for your ongoing support as it really does make such a difference.

I am excited to see what the rest of the year brings for this shining year group.

Well done, Year 8 and keep it up.

"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out."

By Mr Hussain





Head of Year News

Year 9 - Staying Safe & Meeting Expectations

As we head into the half term break, we'd like to take a moment to thank pupils and families for their continued support this term.

With the darker evenings now upon us, it's important that pupils are taking extra care when travelling to and from school. Please ensure your child:

- Wears an appropriate coat – ideally waterproof and warm, with reflective elements to help them stay visible.
- Sticks to well-lit routes and avoids shortcuts through poorly lit areas.
- Travels safely whether walking, cycling, or using public transport.

We also want to highlight upcoming seasonal events such as Diwali and Bonfire Night. These are wonderful celebrations, but they also come with safety risks. Please remind your child to enjoy these events responsibly, stay with trusted adults, and follow safety guidance around fireworks and public gatherings.

Line-Ups & Behaviour Expectations

Line-ups have continued this week and, while we've seen **positive improvements from most pupils**, we remain concerned about several pupils who are not consistently meeting our expectations. We ask for your support in reinforcing the importance of respectful behaviour, punctuality, and following school routines.

This term, we've seen fantastic effort and resilience from our pupils. As we look ahead, we want to continue breaking down barriers to learning and building bridges between home and school to help every child thrive.

- **Communication is key** – please don't hesitate to reach out to us if your child needs support.
- **Encourage curiosity and confidence** – every question asked, and every challenge faced is a step forward.
- **Celebrate progress** – no matter how small, every achievement matters.

Together, we can create an environment where every pupil feels supported, inspired, and empowered to reach their full potential. Wishing you all a safe, restful, and well-deserved half term break! **By Mrs Chand**

Year 10

It's been a fantastic start to the year, and I'm delighted to share that pupils have already received over 18,000 positive points for their hard work, effort, and contributions!

Recently, we launched Work Experience which will happen in May, so please keep searching for suitable placements and make sure to secure one as soon as possible.

As we head into the half-term break, it's a good time to check that uniforms meet school expectations and to replace or adjust anything that's not quite right. Please also ensure that you return fully equipped and ready for learning.

Finally, with reports going out this week, take a moment to reflect on your current progress and think about the steps you can take to continue improving ahead of the next assessment week.

Have a great Half Term and Stay Safe!

By Miss Cummings





Head of Year News

Year 11 – End of Half Term Update

As we reach the end of a busy and productive first half term, we would like to congratulate our Year 11 pupils on their continued focus, effort, and commitment. This half term has been all about preparation, perseverance, and showing what it truly means to #RiseUp to the challenges of Year 11.

Mock Examinations

Pupils have been working hard in lessons and at home to prepare for their first set of mock examinations, which will take place from Monday 3 November to Wednesday 12 November 2025. Please note that there will be no after-school revision sessions from 3rd–7th November to allow pupils to focus on their exams and rest between sessions. We are confident that this preparation will pay off and that pupils will approach their mocks with determination and maturity.

Awards Evening Success

A huge congratulations to all those who received awards at our recent Awards Evening. It was wonderful to celebrate so many achievements and to see such strong family support from our school community. A special thank you goes to our prefects, who helped the evening run smoothly, and to Veer and Erica, our Head Boy and Head Girl, for their outstanding hosting and leadership. You all continue to #RiseUp as role models for your peers.

Post-16 Progress

Well done to the many pupils who have already attended college open days, participated in interviews, and even received conditional offers. This is an exciting time, and we encourage all pupils to keep exploring opportunities, applying to a range of courses and pathways to find the best fit for their future goals. For further information on local open days, please visit

www.birminghamcareersservice.co.uk/open-days.

Rest, Revision, and Balance

As we head into the half-term break, we wish all our Year 11 pupils a restful and balanced holiday. Use this time wisely—combine revision with moments of relaxation and family time. Balance is key to success, and we want all students to return ready to #RiseUp to their mock examinations with confidence and positivity.

By Miss Reynolds

Family Support Practitioner

My name is Miss Wilkes and I am the new family support practitioner working with Saint John Wall Catholic School. I am employed by an independent charity called School Home Support and I work in partnership with your school to support children and their families to get the most from educational opportunities on offer including regularly attending school.

I can also help with advice and information and can offer practical and emotional support. It is my role to break down any barriers that may result in poor school attendance so that your child can get the most out of their education.

Bethany Wilkes

Family Support Practitioner



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Lateness to School

We are experiencing a considerable number of pupils who are arriving late to school each morning. On Friday 24 November, there were 35 pupils who arrived after 8.50am. The reasons were mainly as pupils had overslept or leaving home late.

Please speak to your child about the timeline of their mornings, so they have a greater awareness of what time they need to wake each morning, how long it will take to get ready and what time they need to leave the house to travel to school and arrive before 8.50am.

Parents should ensure they are engaging with messages sent via MCAS and on class charts where you will find out if your child has been late to school. Pupils are required to make up this time in breaktime detention on the same day.

Punctuality is important to establish good habits and prepare for life after school. It also means that pupils arrive feeling organised and refreshed for the day.

Take a look at the punctuality poster for top tips to improve punctuality.

By Miss Lally

Attendance

Pupils at St John Wall participated in an attendance challenge from Monday 29 September - Friday 24 November. The challenge was a team response amongst each form group to get the best attendance for this period of time.

The winning forms from each year group of the attendance challenge for this half term are:

Year 7: 7ANT - 97.6%

Year 8: 8PHA - 94.7%

Year 9: 9HEA - 96.1%

Year 10: 10CAL & 10BRO - 93.2%

Year 11: 11GUE - 96.1%



After half term each form will be awarded the House attendance trophy, 50 house points for their house and a treat.

Congratulations to all! Keep a look out for the next challenge

By Miss Lally

TOP TIPS

Top Tips to improve your punctuality to school

- ✓ Know your timetable - make sure you have everything ready the night before e.g. books, equipment, bag, homework, uniform etc.
- ✓ Get into the habit of doing your homework in the evening - avoid rushing to complete it in the morning which may make you late for school.
- ✓ Make sure you have a good bedtime routine. Get plenty of rest and avoid struggling to get out of bed in the morning.
- ✓ Invest in a reliable alarm clock or use the alarm on your phone, make setting it part of your bedtime routine. Ensure you stop using your phone at a reasonable time.
- ✓ Try to have a good breakfast to get you ready for the day. Our canteen opens at 8.20am.
- ✓ Allow plenty of time for your journey to school.
- ✓ If you are finding it difficult to get to school on time, talk to your Head of Year.

ATTENDANCE

MORE TIME IN SCHOOL = MORE TIME TO LEARN

0 days off school	100%	Perfection
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%	Good
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Satisfactory
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Concerned
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Very Concerned
Equates to 30 plus days a year	Less than 90%	Severe/Persistent Absence



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Stars of the Month

Music

Taivien Cole 7BAI - Hard work and dedication to music.
Divine Dike 8HAS - Progress in music.
Ondrej Zajac 9HEA - Progress and focus in music.
Nathanael Byfield 10ESM - Commitment and attainment in music.
Godson Omenma 11JON - Focus and effort in music.

By Miss Antonucci

Drama

Tafari Takawira 7THO - Great acting in Drama.
Simranpreet Kaur 8RES - Great ideas and leadership in Drama.
Iman Buttran 9HAB - Settling well into Drama and building her acting confidence.
Abdulhaadi Chaudhry 10ESM - Great start to Unit 2 in Drama.
Daiana Mancescu 11BRT - Great start to Unit 3 in Drama.

By Miss Cummings

English

Joshua Michael Berhe 10BRO & Lamario Wright-Ashley 10ESM – For outstanding achievement in Year 10 assessment.
Priya Chem 11GUE – For consistently hard-working.
Daiana Mancescu 11BRT – Contributions to English discussion.
Arjan Badhan 11MUH - Mature approach to revision and kindness.
Riccardo-Mario Sfeta 11GUE - Illustrating critical thinking skills in English.

By Miss Jones

STAC

Niyah Headley-Clarke 7ARD - For his continuous enthusiasm and engagement while learning in St Thomas Aquinas Centre.
Nadia Winczura 7WIO - Improved engagement and being active and curious in lessons.





Stars of the Month

Humanities and MFL

Ondrej Zajac 9HEA - Fantastic start to GCSE History - excellent effort and attitude to work.
Ryan Kanna 11JON - Great start to year 11 History - excellent focus and attitude towards learning.
Amrita Uppal 8HAS - Excellent effort and focus in History lessons.
Dilianne Levande 10BRO, Wendy Thompson 10CAL, Ameera Arogundade 10BRO & Rachel Owusu 10ESM - Seeking opportunities to continue to learn outside the classroom by attending Year 11 revision classes.

By Miss Lally

Z'Neah Williams 9PAD - Fantastic start to GCSE History - excellent effort, attitude to work and verbal contributions.
Maja Karwanska 11JON - Excellent effort with examination homework.
Hamza Mehmood 10BRO - Excellent effort and focus in History.
Anja Lamallari 9PAD - Excellent effort and focus in History.

By Miss Guest

Ameera Arogundade 10BRO - Excellent knowledge of Elizabethan England. Great work in lessons.
Kailen Graham 11KIY - Working hard in History and having a positive and proactive approach.
Darling Dikoko 11 MUH - Consistently working hard in History and producing a high standard of work.
Amelia Skomska 7ARD - Excellent effort in History - detailed work, good knowledge and understanding.

By Ms Thomas

Robert Gregoryan 11BRT - For a mature and hard-working approach to your studies in Geography - well done!
Lydia Binyam 10ESM - Well done on another great exam result in Geography; thank you for your continued hard work and perseverance.
Amritpal Khela 10ILY - Well done on your excellent exam result - thank you for your continued hard work in Geography.
Makda Abraha 10CAL - For always listening and giving your all in Geography and for striving to be the best you can through completing additional work.

By Mr Brayshaw

Jaskirat Sahota 11GUE - For trying hard with the higher tier reading comprehension.
Maja Majrowska 11BRT - Excellent effort with examination homework.
Matthias Makinde 8MAV - improved behaviour and excellent effort in French lessons.
Taivien Cole 7BAI - Excellent effort in lessons.

By Mrs Bigongiari

Vaibhav Kumar 8PHA - Excellent effort in lessons and well done for completing all work to a high standard.
Bwar Twana 8PHA - Excellent effort and enthusiasm shown in Spanish lessons, with a consistently positive attitude and strong engagement.
Sukhraj Gothra 8PHA - Excellent effort and enthusiasm shown in Spanish lesson.
Saniaya Munoz 8HAS - Excellent effort in lessons and well done for completing all work to a high standard.

By Miss Kaur





Stars of the Month

Science

Saffie Ndow 7BAI - For excellent contributions and hard work.
Ayaana Khan 7BAI - For always working well in lessons.
Ainda Aleksejava 7ANT - For excellent manners.
Kara Williams 8HAS - For completing additional science revision.
Marietou Fall 9BRS - For completing additional science revision.
Hamza Mehmood 10BRO - For excellent effort and participation.
Chisom Nwaichi 11MUH - For excellent focus and effort in lessons.

By Mrs Ilyas

Cherubim Tabien 9BRS and Seth Holder 9AHM - Both 100% attendance and 100% effort since September.

By Mr Callaghan

Rana Hassan 10RAH - Always trying hard.
Sarah Omenma 9HAB - Excellent attitude to learning

By Miss Kiyani

Maths

Nazakat Hussain 7ANT, Amelia Skomska 7ARD & Mohamed Elsdiiig 8RES - For consistent good effort and contribution in maths lessons.

By Mrs Gandhi

Yacob Binyam 11JON, Elaine Mensah 10CAL, Wendy Thomas 10CAL, Alexandu-Ionut Sultana 10ILY & Chloe Magala 8BRK - Outstanding Sparx homework record.

By Miss Allen

Favour Adigun 7THO - Enthusiasm and contribution to every lesson.
Rayaan Hassan 8HAS - Reliable and hard-working.
Abdulahakim Animashaun 8HAB - Attentive and discerning,
Amina Jahanzeb 10CAL - Curious and active.
Rako Hussain 11BRT - Always shares his best effort.

By Mr Jasat





Stars of the Month

Daiana Mancescu 11BRT - Attending every optional Maths afterschool session.

Kavishnan Sanker 10ESM - Completing extra independent learning in preparation for assessment.

Talha Javed 9PAD - Completing extra independent learning in preparation for assessment.

By Mr Mughal

Saara Islam 8RES - For excellent contributions and effort in lessons.

Adunoluwa Adesola 9PAD - Showing excellent resilience during her maths lessons.

Raheem Nadeem 10CAL - For excellent revision in run up to assessment.

Nadim Amdad 1KIY - For consistent effort and engagement in maths lessons.

By Mr Greedy

PE

Graham Coffie 7BAI - Great enthusiasm in lesson and also playing well in Y7 football club. Showing lots of good signs for a great PE student in the future.

Ondrej Zajac 9HEA - Doing well in his PE lessons and taking a real lead in his own personal fitness development. Has shown a lot of progress in the last 10 months. This month Ondrej has shown a lot of self-reflection and interest in his fitness and badminton.

Jahari Brou Walker-Smith 11GUE - Great work in lesson and in interventions. Jahari has also shown good work with his revision out of lesson and scored top marks in a recent practice paper.

By Mr Arshad

Oluwadarasimi Olawoyin 7ARD - Excellent effort in dance, showing leadership skills and real independence completing HW to support her dance within her group.

Antoni Kozlowski 10ILY - Working well in lessons and attending intervention to support his own development.

Jayden Tyrell 9HEA - Commitment to GCSE PE and working hard to answer exam questions resulting in a great first try in his end of unit test.

Gill Isabella 11BRT - Showing amazing resilience in core PE lessons and taking an interest in learning new skills (and tricks).

By Mrs Padmore

Chevonne Oluwadamilola Jolayemi 8BRK - Excellent effort in both Handball and Football, organised for every lesson and supportive with peers.

Khoi Nguyen 11MUH - Has worked hard to make improvements to both pieces of coursework, always asking for further advice and attending intervention Friday afterschool to gain those maximum marks.

By Mrs Ratcliffe

Health & Social Care

Kimora Williams 10ILY - Completing all exam homework before assessment week helping to show growth in her knowledge and understanding of the subject since coming back in September.

By Miss Reynolds



Black History Month in Humanities, Languages and STAC

In the UK, Black History Month happens every October. It gives everyone the opportunity to share, celebrate and understand the impact of black heritage and culture.

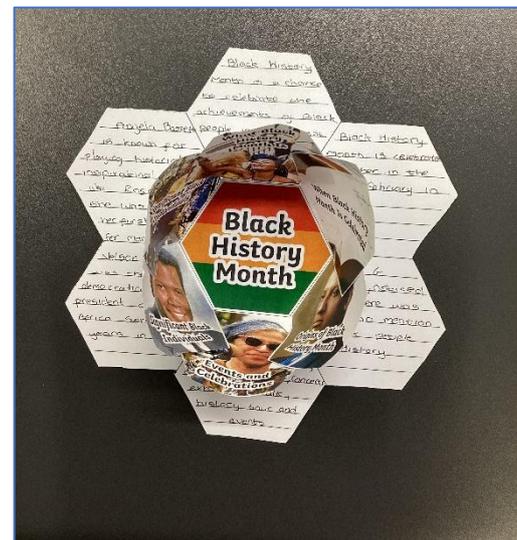
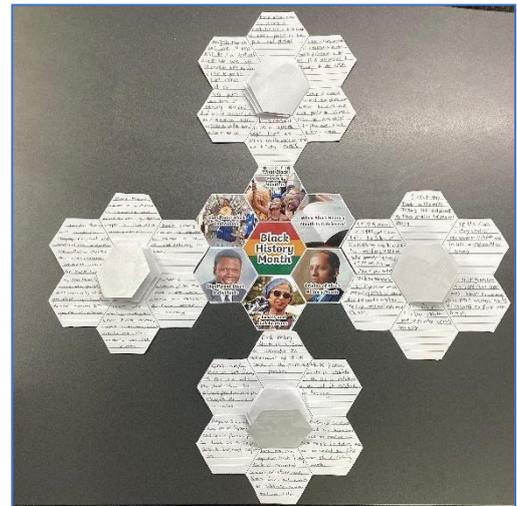
Over the last few weeks, pupils in Humanities, Languages and Saint Thomas Aquinas Centre lessons have completed activities linked to Black History Month. Year 9 History pupils learnt about Ignatius Sancho who was born on a slave ship in 1729 and later brought to England, where he taught himself to read and write. He used his education to speak out against slavery through letters, poetry, and music. In 1773, he opened a grocer's shop in Westminster, which became a meeting place for influential figures. As a financially independent man, he became the first Black person of African origin to vote in British elections. After his death in 1780, his published letters helped support the movement to end slavery.

In Year 10, History pupils studied a poem by Benjamin Zephaniah and practised the skills of inference and using evidence and KS3 History pupils studied Mary Seacole.

In the Saint Thomas Aquinas Centre, pupils created some beautiful work about the key features of Black History Month. In Languages, pupils completed translation and listening activities.

By Miss Guest

Work from STAC pupils



B:M2025
Black History Month: Benjie Astley

The theme for Black History Month UK 2025 is "Inspiring lives in power and pride". The theme highlights the contributions made by Black people who have shaped history. Read the poem below from Benjamin Zephaniah who was born in Handsworth. He was an author and a writer who wrote books to inspire awareness and inspire action.

Task: read the extract on the right from the poem called "No Problem" by Benjamin Zephaniah and answer the questions below.

Work out!

What can you learn from the poem about the experiences of what Ben Zephaniah experienced?

I can see that Ben Zephaniah was a person who was discriminated at school. This is shown when he says "But I had to work or sit by playground fountains in school streets".

What evidence from the poem supports your inference? (Write a quote)

"But I had to work or sit by playground fountains in school streets".

Why is this poem useful in teaching people about racism and stereotyping? (Think about: nature, right answers)

This poem is useful in teaching people about racism and stereotyping because it is a first hand account so he is likely to be honest.

B:M2025
Early Modern England: Ignatius Sancho

- Why was it dangerous for enslaved people to become literate, and how did Sancho defy this?

It was dangerous because they could be punished or even killed if they were caught. Sancho defied this by teaching himself to read and write.
- What actions did Sancho take after becoming literate to stand firm against slavery?

He wrote pamphlets along with his letters.
- Why was Sancho's ability to vote in Britain historically important?

It shows that he was a free man and not a slave.
- How did Sancho's letters contribute to the abolitionist movement after his death?

His letters were used to support the movement to end slavery.
- What does Sancho's quote about "money-money-money" reveal about his views on slavery?

It shows that he thought slavery was wrong and that people should be paid for their work.
- How does Sancho's life reflect the theme of "Standing Firm in Power and Pride"?

He stood firm in his beliefs and was not afraid to speak out against slavery.

Black History month: Mary Seacole

- Mary Seacole was a nurse who helped soldiers in need wounded in the Crimean war.
- Mary Seacole faced challenges like lack of money, racism and the risk of getting injured during her journey.
- Mary Seacole helped the soldiers by saving for them and their needs.

★ 5A. She is a role model for not giving up on her journey even after being turned down.

★ 5B. She is remembered today because of a statue built in 2016 in front of St Thomas Hospital with the help of 2 nurses who wanted to help more diversity in her story.

Los orígenes de Lamine Yamal

He was born in Spain to a Moroccan father and a Spanish mother. He is a professional footballer who plays for FC Barcelona.

Did you know?

- 1. Home: Gambia, Senegal ✓
- 2. Age: 23 ✓
- 3. Birthday: November 22 ✓
- 4. Name: Lamine ✓
- 5. First team: Arsenal ✓
- 6. Career: 1st division, 2nd division ✓

The following few days and content to build a digital representation that focuses on the representation of the Black travel experience.

Black History Month: Significant People
Nelson Mandela, Angela Bassett

ANGELA BASSETT

THE ROSA PARKS STORY

Date of birth: 16 August 1949
Date of death: Still alive

Angela Bassett is significant because her impactful career as an actress, particularly for portraying being historical and iconic Black women, earning numerous awards and breaking barriers in Hollywood. She was making her guest actor to receive one for a Marvel film.

Interesting Fact
She is also known for playing historical and inspirational figures like Rosa Parks.



Black History Month in Geography

Year 8 Geography pupils have completed a reading and questions on Martin Luther King's ideal of the 'Beloved Community'. Pupils reflected on how this ties into what they have been learning in Geography about world hunger. They also reflected on the ways in which St John Wall School shares the same values through our Catholic Social Teaching.

By Mr Brayshaw

Martin Luther King Jr. was a civil rights leader in the United States during the 1950s and 1960s. He is best known for his non-violent campaigns to end racial segregation and promote equality. But King's vision went beyond changing laws. He **imagined a world built on justice, love, and cooperation**. He called this vision the **Beloved Community**.

In his speeches and writing, King described the Beloved Community as a place where people live together peacefully, no matter their race, religion, or background. Everyone would have access to decent housing, education, and opportunities to thrive. Violence and poverty would be replaced by fairness and respect.

King once said:
"The Beloved Community is a realistic, attainable goal that can be attained by people committed to the philosophy and methods of non-violence... It is a community in which poverty, hunger and homelessness will not be tolerated, because international standards of human decency will not allow it."

This idea connects closely to Geography, because Geography is about how people interact with places and with each other. King's Beloved Community asks us to imagine what our towns, cities, and countries could look like if they were designed for fairness and belonging. It encourages geographers to think about how housing, transport, and public spaces can help create communities where everyone feels valued and included.

1. **Equality to love:** that says the government should pay what the poorest citizens can afford.
2. **Equal to a beloved community:** we need equality and we need that a national housing, etc. and we should **invest in ourselves**. **Beloved communities** is a social as diversity.



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School Games September/October Newsletter 2025

School Games 2025 – Your Reason WHY

School Games 2025: Vision, Mission & Values Vision

To make a positive and meaningful difference to the lives of children and young people through sport and physical activity.

Mission

To put physical activity and school sport at the heart of school life, giving every young person the opportunity to enjoy competition, develop confidence, and achieve their personal best.

Values (Spirit of the Games)

- Determination – never giving up.
- Honesty – playing fairly and truthfully.
- Respect – valuing others and the rules.
- Teamwork – working together for success.
- Passion – showing enthusiasm and energy.
- Self-belief – having confidence in your ability.

2025 Pledges

- Tackle inequalities – ensure everyone can access sport.
- Empower youth voice – involve young people in shaping their sport experiences.
- Build physical literacy – develop competence, confidence, and motivation to move.

Youth Sport Trust – PE & School Sport Annual Report 2025 Highlights

- 2.2 million children in England do less than 30 minutes of physical activity daily.
- Only 48% of children achieve the 60-minute activity target.
- Girls, SEND pupils, and disadvantaged children are least active.
- 1 in 10 children experience obesity or poor wellbeing.
- 1 in 5 schools report cancelled PE lessons.
- 1 in 3 teachers say pupils start school with weaker physical skills.
- 70% of parents say digital distractions reduce children's activity.
- Awareness of the 60-minute guideline is low (only 34% of teachers and 32% of parents know it).

The positives:

93% of young people say PE is important.
71% want more physical activity.

96% of teachers believe sport improves mental health.





Why Engaging with the School Games Process Matters

Engaging fully with the School Games programme supports young learners in powerful ways:

1 Promotes Health and Wellbeing

Regular participation helps tackle inactivity, obesity, and poor mental health. Encourages lifelong habits of physical activity and self-care.

2. Builds Personal and Social Skills

Learners develop teamwork, communication, leadership, and resilience.

Values such as honesty and respect improve classroom and playground behaviour.

3. Supports Academic and Emotional Development Physical activity

improves concentration, memory, and mood. It fosters confidence and motivation that transfer into learning.

4. Reduces Inequalities

Inclusive competitions and accessible opportunities allow every child to succeed, not just the most able.

It helps bridge gaps for disadvantaged groups, SEND pupils, and those less engaged in traditional sport.

5. Empowers Youth Voice

Pupils take ownership through leadership and event planning, building pride and community spirit.

Thank you to the school that attended the SJW PE lead meeting Thursday 18 September 2025.

Information/powerpoints were shared post meeting, however if you did not receive the information, please let me know and I will email across 🍌

England Hockey – KS2 Festival

We kicked off our first School Games festival with an Engage and Inspire event led by England Hockey and our local club, Barford Tigers. Pupils from several schools attended King Edward VI Handsworth Wood Girls' School, where they learned new hockey skills, met new people, and took part in exciting, conditioned games.

It was a mixed-ability, mixed-gender event, with everyone fully involved and demonstrating the true values of the School Games — teamwork, respect, passion, determination, honesty, and self-belief.

A special thank you goes to King Edward VI Handsworth Wood Girls' School for hosting and providing fantastic young leaders to support the event. An extra big thank you to the Barford Tigers players for taking time out of their day jobs to inspire and motivate our young pupils to get active and try something new.





Thank you to the following schools for attending:

Cherry Orchard Primary

Nelson Junior School

Oasis Foundry

St Teresa's Catholic School



Netball Festival – KS2

A huge thank you to St Paul's Girls' Catholic School for hosting the KS2 Netball Festival. Pupils took part in an engaging skills carousel led brilliantly by St Paul's sports leaders, who were enthusiastic, supportive, and inspiring throughout.

As the session progressed, pupils developed their understanding of the game and showcased their new skills in two fantastic netball matches played to a high standard. The leaders were outstanding — stepping up as coaches, cheerleaders, and role models all at once!

Throughout the festival, pupils demonstrated the School Games values in action:

Teamwork – working together to make sure everyone was included.

Passion – playing with energy and enthusiasm.

Respect – supporting teammates and opponents alike.

Determination – never giving up, even when the games got competitive.

Self-belief – showing confidence to try new skills and take on challenges.

A brilliant event that captured the true spirit of the School Games — well done to everyone involved!

Thank you to the following schools for attending:

Nelson Junior School

Oasis Foundry

St Patricks/St Edmunds

The Oratory



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Future Prospects Leadership – Secondary

FUTURE PROSPECTS

SHAPING ASPIRATIONS THROUGH SPORT

A group of SJW GCSE PE Y9 students attended part 1 of the future prospects leadership trip at Trinity Road, Aston. To gain an understanding of different careers involved in sport.

The students had an amazing day and we received such positive feedback they are looking forward to part 2 already!

Basketball Festival – KS2

A group of pupils attended a KS2 Engage Basketball Festival hosted at King Edward VI Handsworth Wood Girls' School. The festival was designed specifically for Pupil Premium students, giving them a valuable opportunity to take part in basketball, develop new skills, and build confidence in a supportive environment.

Pupils took part in an exciting skills carousel led by the fantastic student leaders from King Edward VI Handsworth Wood Girls, who were encouraging, enthusiastic, and excellent role models. To finish, pupils showcased what they had learned in a friendly, non-competitive game against other schools — demonstrating great teamwork and enjoyment throughout.

Throughout the festival, pupils displayed the true School Games values:

Self-belief – having the confidence to try something new.

Determination – giving their best effort in every activity.

Teamwork – working together and supporting one another.

Respect – listening carefully to leaders and showing good sportsmanship.

Passion – playing with energy and enthusiasm from start to finish.

A huge thank you to King Edward VI Handsworth Wood Girls' School for hosting and providing such inspiring leaders — the event was a brilliant celebration of inclusion, confidence, and the power of sport!



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Thank you to the following schools for attending:

Cherry Orchard Primary School

Nelson Junior School

Oasis Foundry

St Clares Catholic School



Move Now Festival – Secondary

A number of SJW students attending the lets move festival at Neachells Well-Being Centre available for all scondaries within the partnership to sign up for. The festival was led/organised by the lead inclusion school – Stuart Wilson and BMET leaders support the festival.

Students played a number of different activities they had not played before .e.g. archery and boccia.

See below some of the comments made post trip:

"When I first walked in, I was a bit nervous but I really enjoyed it. I really enjoyed archery because I was able to practise my aim and the leaders cheered me on. I now feel more confident with activities." - Izaiah.

"My favourite sport was basketball because when I tried, I failed a few times, but the leaders kept believing in me, so I felt really motivated." - Vanessa.

"I enjoyed archery because it was fun and I enjoyed trying to hit the target. I now feel more confident and brave if I was asked to do it again." - Alice.

We even got to see a former SJW student who is now studying sports leadership at BMET 😊



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Barclays Football Conference

What is the Barclays Girls' Football School Partnership?

Launched in 2019 in collaboration with The FA and England Football, the BGFSP is a nationwide scheme to ensure girls have equal access to football in schools.

It's delivered through a network of "Girls' Football in Schools" programmes, with support from the Youth Sport Trust, local strategic leads, and participating schools.

The goal is to mainstream girls' football — making it a regular and embedded part of school life (not a fringe activity).

Achievements & Scale So Far

Over 20,000 schools are now participating in the BGFSP network.

Since the programme began, 3.8 million girls have been empowered to play football in schools.

As of 2023, 75% of schools have achieved equal access to girls playing football in PE lessons.

58% of schools offer equal extra-curricular football opportunities for girls.

In 2024, Barclays extended its partnership with the FA until 2028, doubling down on support for girls' football and expanding efforts especially in secondary schools.

More focus is now being placed on keeping girls in sport during adolescence, bridging school-to-club pathways, and deepening impact in secondary education.

Key Drivers Moving Forward & Strategic Focus

Secondary school engagement & retention: Many girls drop out of sport around puberty. The programme is shifting to ensure secondary schools are strong sites of support rather than points of loss.

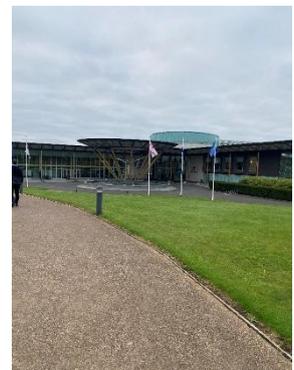
Pathway connections: Strengthening links from school football to grassroots clubs, talent programmes, and local structures so girls can transition and sustain involvement.

Deepening equality in opportunity: Pushing further to reach underserved groups (SEND, disadvantaged girls, schools in more deprived areas) and reduce participation gaps.

Sustainable school capacity: Building internal capacity within schools (teachers, leaders, resources) so that girls' football is embedded, not dependent on outside partners.

Monitoring, evaluation & evidence: Demonstrating the impact of girls' football on wellbeing, leadership, confidence, academic outcomes, and using evidence to refine approaches.

Elevating role models & cultural change: Using female leaders, ambassadors, competitions, and visibility campaigns to shift perceptions about girls in football.



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Girls Football – KS2

Thank you so much for joining us at the Y3+4 Girls Football Festival — it was truly wonderful to see so many girls out on the pitch, having fun and embracing the game with such enthusiasm! We hope everyone left feeling a little more positive about football and inspired to keep playing.

Apologies for dashing off towards the end — I had a secondary handball tournament to set up for a 3:20pm start. Not a complaint though — it's amazing to see so many students getting the opportunity to play and enjoy sport!

A massive thank you to **St Paul's Girls** for leading the festival so brilliantly, and an even bigger thank you to **Emma (Head of PE)** for organising the fixtures and ensuring the afternoon ran so smoothly. Your efforts made all the difference!

Hopefully you didn't get too wet towards the end — British weather never fails to surprise us! ☔

Thanks again for being part of such a joyful and energetic event — we look forward to seeing you at the next one!



Thank you for attending:

Cherry Orchard Dorrington Academy Grestone Academy Oasis Foundry St Clares Catholic School
St James CoE Primary Handsworth St Patricks/St Edmunds Catholic School The Oratory Roman Catholic School

Girls Football Updates – Tournaments

Y11 St Pauls Girls School – 1st Place

Y10 St Pauls Girls School & Holyhead School – 1st Place

Boys KS3 Handball Competition –

1.  Eden Boys
2.  Handsworth Grammar School for Boys
3.  Windsor Olympus
4. Hamstead Hall
5. St John Wall Catholic School

Up and coming events

Primary

Monday 24th November – Y6 1pm-3pm Engage and Inspire Festival

Wednesday 19th November – Y5+6; 10am-2pm at Windsor Olympus Basketball – Inspire and Engage Event

Secondary

Girls Basketball League (on going)

Boys Football League (on going)

Girls Football Tournament –

Yr7 at Holyhead – 12th November

Yr9 at Holyhead School – 24th November



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success
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Women in STEM at bp

04 NOVEMBER 2025, 6:30-7:15 PM

Join this online session and hear from the women thriving in bp apprenticeships. Not studying STEM subjects? Not to worry! This webinar is still relevant for you - bp are actively looking for students who are seeking a long-term career.

Benefits of working at bp include:

- ✔ Competitive salary (from £19,600 to £32,000 per annum).
- ✔ One-off settling-in allowance of £3,000 in your first month!
- ✔ Flexible benefits allowance.

Register for the webinar to find out about:

- ✦ Careers in Engineering, Science, Cyber Security, Data, Software, Supply, Trading &, Shipping & more...
- ✦ Hear real stories from current female apprentices.
- ✦ Get honest advice on how to stand out in your application.
- ✦ Ask anything in our live Q&A.
- ✦ You'll also receive a downloadable certificate for your LinkedIn!



Information for candidates AI (Artificial Intelligence and assessments)

What is AI?

AI stands for artificial intelligence and can be used to create text, images, videos, music and artwork based on instructions given to an AI tool.



What is an AI tool?

AI tools are applications, such as ChatGPT, Snapchat My AI, Google and Google translate. There are many more!



*The list of certain suppliers of AI-related products is for information purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement by JCQ and awarding bodies. It is each centre's responsibility to investigate and verify any suppliers they use, including any terms and conditions which govern the sale or use of the supplier's products. The list provided is not exhaustive.

When can I use AI?

- Your teachers may use it in class when teaching the course, but remember teaching in the classroom is not an exam!
- There are some assessments where you can use AI – your teachers will tell you if you can or cannot use an AI tool.
- Remember, the rules are different for different assessments and subjects, so always check with your teachers first!
- When an AI tool is allowed, **you must acknowledge**** the AI tools and the material produced by the AI tool that you have used in your work. If you do not acknowledge AI use, it will be **considered as cheating**.



When can I not use an AI tool?

- AI tools cannot be used in an exam or any other assessment where exam rules apply.
- This is what exam boards call **AI misuse and is a form of cheating**.



**Acknowledgment – When producing a piece of work, if you use the same wording as a published source, you must place quotation marks around the passage and state where it came from. This is known as referencing. You must make sure that you give detailed references for everything in your work which is not in your own words, for example, ChatGPT 3.5 (<https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/>), 25/01/2025.

IF YOU USE AN AI TOOL, YOU CANNOT GET MARKS FOR WHAT THE AI TOOL HAS PRODUCED, AS IT IS NOT YOUR OWN WORK

If I'm allowed to use AI, how is this breaking the rules?

- AI misuse is when you use an AI tool in an exam or assessment where you are not allowed to; and/or
- Where you use an AI tool to create work and then say it's your own.



How to make sure you don't misuse AI

DECLARE

- Remember to sign your declaration form when handing in your work for final assessment.
- Your signature on the declaration form tells your teacher and the exam board that you are saying all the work you're handing in is your own.
- If you have used an AI tool, **you must declare***** that you have used it before signing the declaration form!

***Declare – this means that when you submit your work for marking, the awarding body will normally require you to sign an authentication statement confirming that you have read and followed the regulations.

ACKNOWLEDGE

If you are allowed to use an AI tool in your assessment (remember to check!), you must do the following:

- reference the AI tool you have used
- give the date of when the AI tool generated the content
- give details of how you used it.
- save screenshots of what you have asked or instructed the AI tool to do and what answer the AI gave you, and include this with the work submitted.

LAST CHECKS



Know the rules



Check with your teachers



ACKNOWLEDGE and DECLARE



EFFECTIVE FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2025



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