

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 6

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 16 October 2026

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

Kind Hearts
Peace
Loving and Compassionate

Celebration of the Word

Dear Lord,

This week in Celebration of the Word, we focused on World Mental Health Day.

It is important to pray for Mental Health to make sure we all feel safe and healthy.

May we all be self-aware of how we can look after ourselves and the people around us.

May our pupils and staff always feel confident to speak about their mental health so we can build God's kingdom here on earth.

Amen.

By Lily Hulme 7HEW

Afternoon Prayer

This week in Afternoon Prayer, we prayed for Mental Health Awareness Week. We reflected on our school being like an open house, a place where everyone can find welcome, **dignity** and **hope**. It is important to pray and raise awareness for this as people can suffer with mental health and so raising awareness can help people to feel supported. We also prayed for Black History Month. This is important as many Black people have done great things in history, so it is important to celebrate them. I like Afternoon Prayer as we always pray for different themes and spread awareness.

By Liyah Nadeem Rani 9RES

Dates to Note

- **Awards Evening – Year 8 and Year 9**
Wednesday 21 October 2026
- **Awards Evening – Year 10 and Year 11**
Thursday 22 October 2026
- **Teacher Training Day – School Closed to all Pupils**
Friday 23 October 2026
- **Half Term**
Monday 26 October 2026 to Friday 30 October 2026
- **Year 11 Mock 1 Examinations**
Monday 2 November 2026 to Wednesday 11 November 2026



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Message from Headteacher

I was really pleased to hear about our theme of **Kind Hearts** being demonstrated beyond the school gates this week. Halc and Malvin (Year 8) were fantastic examples of this when they stopped to help a lady who had fallen in the local community on her way to Mass. The boys helped her to her feet, checked that she was okay and stayed with her until further support arrived. What wonderful ambassadors they are for Saint John Wall Catholic School! Their actions truly embody not only our theme for this half term but also our school values of Excellence, Achievement and Respect. Well done, boys – we are incredibly proud of you!

On Wednesday, Year 10 completed our first **searched entry** of this academic year. I was extremely pleased with the maturity and respect they demonstrated throughout the process. Searched entries will continue to form part of our proactive approach to safeguarding, helping us to maintain a safe and supportive environment for all pupils. Thank you to the staff involved, who approached the process with care, compassion and professionalism. I would also ask parents and carers to continue supporting us by periodically checking their child's school bag and equipment to ensure that no prohibited items are brought into school.

I also had the pleasure of watching our Year 9 football team in action against Fortis Academy in a cup match this week. Despite suffering a narrow defeat in extra time, I was incredibly proud of the team. Their effort, determination, encouragement of one another and, perhaps most importantly, the dignity and sportsmanship they demonstrated in defeat were outstanding. Whilst winning is always enjoyable, the character we show when things do not go our way is equally important. The boys were excellent representatives of Saint John Wall Catholic School.

Finally, we have launched our exciting new **SJW Attendance Streak Competition** this week! Pupils who attend school for **14 consecutive school days without a single absence or late mark** will be entered into a prize draw to win a... *drum roll please...* **Google Chromebook!**

There will be two separate prize draws, one for Key Stage 3 and one for Key Stage 4, meaning two lucky pupils will each have the opportunity to win a Chromebook! This is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate pupils who demonstrate excellent attendance and punctuality, recognising the importance of being in school every day and making the most of every learning opportunity.

A huge thank you to **Titan Partnership** for generously gifting the Chromebooks to Saint John Wall Catholic School. Your support is greatly appreciated and will make a real difference to our pupils.

Good luck to everyone taking part – let the attendance streaks begin! **#TeamSJW**

By Mr Holder

Year 10 Work Experience

Saint John Wall Catholic School will be partnering with Learn to Work Ltd to help organise and deliver our Year 10 Work Experience Programme, which will take place from **Monday 3 May 2027 to Friday 7 May 2027**.

The benefits for our pupils in searching for and engaging in effective work experience are significant and we are keen that Year 10 pupils have the opportunity to confirm their own placement with an employer, whether that is through a family contact or their own search. The **deadline** for pupils to confirm their own placement is **Thursday 17 December 2026**.

Should you require advice or information regarding work experience please do not hesitate to get in touch with the 'Learn to Work' Limited team on 0121 446 2781

Link to letters on our website:

- [Further information for parents](#)
- [Own placement form](#)

By Mr Rathbone



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Examination Homework

Pupils in Years 7 and 9 will now be receiving their **Examination Homework** to help them prepare for Assessment Week, which takes place from **Monday 30 November to Friday 4 December**.

Examination Homework is compulsory for all pupils.

Most subjects will provide a **homework booklet** to help pupils revise. In Music, Drama and Art & Design, homework may look a little different to reflect the practical nature of these subjects. In Maths, pupils are expected to complete their revision homework on **Sparx**.

Examination Homework will help pupils to:

- Practise different revision techniques.
- Remember and recall what they have learnt in lessons.
- Prepare confidently for their assessments.
- Develop good independent study habits.

Pupils must complete their **homework independently and to the best of their ability**. Teachers will set tasks each week and check pupils' progress during lessons.

We will reward pupils with positive points on ClassCharts for completing their Examination Homework. Pupils who do not complete the required work may receive negative points or further sanctions, such as a detention.

We appreciate your support in encouraging your child to complete their homework each week and prepare for their assessments.

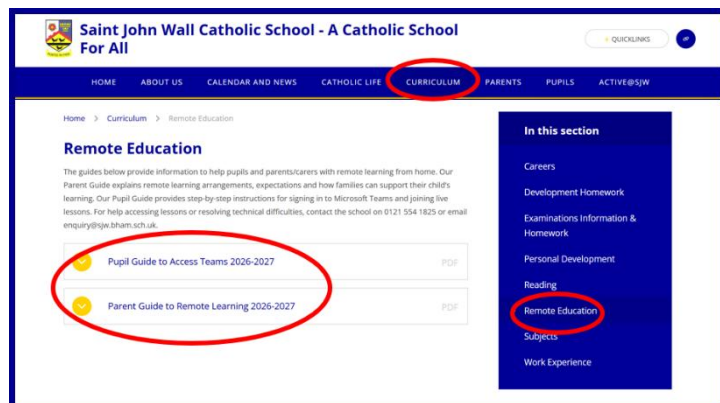
By Miss Lally

Remote Education

Remote Education is when the school moves to learning at home through Microsoft Teams. This may happen in the event of a Snow day or if there are issues with the school building. You will be notified via the normal communication channels (MCAS, SMS message). The School Website has guides on how to access remote learning in the rare event it takes place.

- [Pupil guide to access teams](#)
- [Parent guide to remote learning](#)

By Mr Rathbone



Year 8 Football

Date: Monday 12 October 2026

Fixture: U13 Aston Cup

Opponent: Prince Albert High School

Result: SJW 2 -4 PAHS

Our Year 8 team took part in their second football fixture of the season. This was a game with a lot on the line as it was our first cup game and also a result counting towards our league since PAHS are also in our division.

It was a very physical game with a lot of back and forth play from the very start. There were lots of heavy tackles and good team play throughout. The score level at 2-2 late into the 2nd half we conceded a goal of high quality from the star player in the PAHS team. This was topped off with another late goal when we were pushing all out for an equaliser.

While it is a tough defeat to take, the team showed incredible progress and a much improved performance compared to their season opener against AMA. The pupils showed fantastic resilience, kept their heads high, and are already focused on securing their first win in the next fixture which is yet to be dated.

By Mr Arshad



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Mental Health Champions

On Thursday, our newly elected Mental Health Champions took part in their training day led by Sian and Beth from Compass.

Our Mental Health Champions are:

- **Christina Morisho**
- **Roxana Karzan - Naser**
- **Sarah Omenma**
- **Aaiza Mukhtar**
- **Abel Keneni**
- **Ava Henry**
- **Gursirath Kaur**

As part of this training, pupils were able to:

- Understand what positive mental health and wellbeing means
- Discover strategies to support themselves and others
- Evaluate the current support offered in the school for mental health and wellbeing
- Develop as a new pupil leadership team

Pupils ended the day by presenting some of the ways in which their new roles could make positive changes to pupil experience and sense of belonging at St John Wall. There were some powerful ideas shared in these presentations which will form part of their first project.

Our Mental Health Champions will begin their work around school after half term.

By Mr Price

The Compass team stated that:

"Sian and I had a lovely day, and I feel it was one of the most successful ones we have run, that is down to yourself and the young people! They were an absolute pleasure to have in the group, and I know they're going to be fantastic in their new role - what a credit they are to your school!"

"In my training for mental health champions I learnt how to be the link between my peers and their problems and their journey to getting the help they need. It also gave me the opportunity to speak for my peers and their problems within the school and what improvements are needed to grow a more connected and safe school environment. I am grateful for the Mental health champions, and I see how it can be great move into helping my peers and growing closer with them while also making it more engaging for students and I am honoured to be a part of it."

By Sarah Omenma 10HAB

"The training we had on Thursday for mental health was very helpful in my opinion and I feel like it prepared me to be a mental health champion. It helped me to understand my role and what was expected of me. It was a very fun and interactive session, and we were all able to freely express our opinions and suggest possible changes. We had to do a presentation based on how we could improve the stigma around mental health and general wellbeing. It was very helpful."

By Gursirath Kaur 10JAS





Year 11 Mock 1 Timetable

Period	Monday 2 November	Tuesday 3 November	Wednesday 4 November	Thursday 5 November	Friday 6 November
Form and Period 1 9:00 Start	English Lit 50 mins	Maths Non Calculator 1h 30m	GCSE Business 1h 30m	Geography 1h 30m	Maths Calculator 1h 30m
Break					
Period 2 and 3 10:50 Start	IT 1h 30m	Combined Science 1h 10m Science Biology (Y10) 1h 45m	History 2 1h 20m	Combined Science 1h 10m Science Chemistry 1h 45m	Combined Science 1h 10m Science - Physics 1h 45m
Lunch					
Period 4 13:55 Start	History 1 55m	Spanish Writing F 1h 10m H 1h 15m	Health and Social Care 1h 15m Sport 1h 15m	RE 1 hour	Community Languages 1 hour

Period	Monday 9 November	Tuesday 10 November	Wed 11 November	Tue 17 November
Form and Period 1 9:00 Start	Catering & Hosp 1h 20m Engineering 1h 15m	Art Day	Performing Arts Day	Music Day
	Break			
Period 2 and 3 10:50 Start	English Language 1h 45m			
	Lunch			
Period 4 13:55 Start				



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Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

HAPPY, SAFE HALLOWEEN/BONFIRE NIGHT – REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

With the darker nights fast approaching, it is important that students are reminded what we, as a school community, expect of them in terms of behaviour.

Parents/carers and students should already be aware that as part of our safeguarding arrangements, the school has a two-way information sharing agreement in place with West Midlands Police, and we are active members of the local Police & Schools Panel. This joint approach helps us to intervene early to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour involving our students and provide support and up-to-date safety messages.

In partnership with the police, we would also like to remind our students about the following: -

- **Anti-social behaviour:** Halloween can be a scary time for people who don't like surprises or callers at their door. Think about how your actions and behaviour affect others; elderly and vulnerable people may be frightened by 'trick or treat' – only approach houses that have been decorated for the occasion, as they are potentially inviting callers to the door.
- **Fireworks/Flares:** Young people are particularly at risk when it comes to fireworks. It is illegal for anyone under 18 to buy or carry these in public. Violating this law can lead to a criminal record and severe penalties, including a prison sentence. They can also cause serious injuries, including amputated hands, permanent scars, and blindness; be distressing to others, including pets and those with sensory sensitivities - It is important to be considerate of others and avoid causing harm.
- **Personal Safety:**
 - Be aware of your surroundings, take care of friends and family members and keep valuables (such as smartphones/watches/headphones) out of public view whenever possible.
 - For apple devices parents/carers can active 'Find My' which includes Activation Lock – A feature that is designed to prevent anyone else from using your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch, if it's ever lost or stolen. Activation Lock turns on automatically when you turn on 'Find My' on your device – more details on this feature are available here: [Activation Lock for iPhone and iPad - Apple Support](#) - Google have 'Find my Device' & android manufacturers also offer similar location apps (Samsung have 'Find' for example) these can be found on the Google 'Play store'.
 - Don't drink alcohol, take illegal drugs or unknown substances; they can have a big impact on your health and safety, behaviour, and your ability to do well at school and enjoy other interests and activities. They can also be addictive and have unpredictable side effects and could even have fatal consequences - Information is available at www.talktofrank.com
- **Social Media:** Don't allow your use of social media to put you at risk of grooming, exploitation, or regret in future. Use social media positively and avoid being negative about anyone online as comments/actions may be traced back to you and you will be held accountable.
- **Weapons in public places:** Carrying a knife or other weapon will get you a criminal record which can have life-long effects on travel and job prospects. Those who carry knives are also much more likely to be injured by them. Don't take BB Guns, Gel Blasters/Guns, or any other real looking toy guns into public spaces as these can cause alarm to the public - which could receive a Police Firearms response.



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- **Off-road bikes:** These can only be ridden on private land with the landowner's permission. Don't risk your life and future prospects by illegally riding these on the road.
- **E-Scooters:** In the UK, you must be at least 18 years old and hold a provisional or full driving licence to ride a hire e-scooter. A privately owned e-scooter can only be used in a private place with the landowner's permission; they are illegal to use on a road or in a public place.
- **Remember the company you keep:** If your friend breaks the law, your association with that person may have legal consequences for you, which could be very serious – even if you weren't the one directly responsible.

If a student is in a position where they need help, they should talk to an adult they trust. Crimes can be reported directly to the police via 101; alternatively, you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org. **If a crime is taking place or a life is in danger, call 999 immediately.**

Yours faithfully,

Mr S Holder
Headteacher
Saint John Wall Catholic School

Tom Joyce
Chief Superintendent
Birmingham Local Policing Area
West Midlands Police



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Compass
Birmingham
Mental Health Support Teams

Share your voice.
Shape our support.
Make a difference.

Become a Parent/Carer Representative

Have experience of Compass, or an interest in the work we do?

Join us as a Parent/Carer Representative and help shape how Compass supports children, young people and families across Birmingham.

Your voice can make a difference.

Who are we?

Compass Birmingham Mental Health Support Teams provide early help and prevention support to children, young people and families in schools across Birmingham.



Who can be a Representative?

Your experience as a parent or carer is what matters. No additional qualifications are needed. We welcome different voices, backgrounds and perspectives that reflect the families and communities we support.



What's involved?

- Join our online Focus Group twice a year for around 1 to 1.5 hours.
- Choose to get involved in other opportunities that interest you, such as training, events or helping us create resources for parents/carers.



SCAN ME!



What will you gain?

- Be recognised as an official Compass Parent/Carer Representative.
- Build your experience and access training and events.
- Have your voice heard and help shape better support for children, young people and families in Birmingham.



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FREE Physics Lectures at UoB - suitable for GCSE & A Level students



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IOP Institute of Physics

Physics Public Lectures 2026/27



Each month a physicist, mainly from the University of Birmingham School of Physics and Astronomy, gives an hour-long talk about their current exciting physics research. **They're free, there's no need to book, and everyone is welcome!** Talks are on a range of interesting topics – see programme below and our website. Students are very welcome to come in school groups, on their own or with family or friends. The talks build from a general science background at GCSE level and are ideal for 6th form and GCSE students looking to broaden their knowledge of physics beyond the curriculum and engage more deeply with current physics in a historic university setting. Particularly suited to those considering further study in a physics related discipline.

PROGRAMME – (ALL LECTURES START AT 7.30PM)

Tue 6 October 2026	Mysteries of matter: new experiments to unpick the nature of dark matter Dr Dan Johnson
Tue 3 November 2026	The Invisible Scanners Jim Grozier
Tue 1 December 2026	<i>Title to be announced — check the website nearer the time</i> <i>Speaker to be confirmed</i>
Tue 2 February 2027	Creating the hottest place in the universe: extreme matter and the quark–gluon plasma Dr Martin Völkl
Tue 2 March 2027	Seeing the invisible: using light as a tool of discovery Dr George Smetana
Tue 13 April 2027	How to Film the Life of an Electron Dr Tom Siday
Tue 4 May 2027	Neutron Detectors: No Charge? No Problem! Dr Joseph O'Neill

**Poynting Large Lecture Theatre, 2nd floor, Poynting Physics Building (R13),
University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, B15 2TT**

Doors open at 7pm with tea, coffee and biscuits; the talk runs 7.30–8.30pm. Campus parking is free after 6pm. The University railway station is on campus, around ten minutes from Birmingham New Street and on the cross-city line.

Teachers: no need to book, but it is helpful to let us know if you are planning to bring a large group. Contact: Dan Cottle d.cottle@bham.ac.uk

Lectures are organized in partnership with the Institute of Physics - West Midlands Branch



Full details, directions and
recordings of past lectures



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Paediatric Dentistry

Public Health and Oral Surgery
Dental Hygiene, Dentures, and Difficult Discussions

When you complete the full 4-month programme you will be awarded a Work Experience certificate to add to your UCAS application!



Get Into Dentistry. FREE! CONFERENCE

As a member of the NHS Confederation, Dental Mentor is a trusted organisation that can provide the most comprehensive guidance on working as a dentist and the UCAS application process, including:

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- Overview of the personal statements
- Structure of the NHS and medical wider-reading
- Interview skills
- Application timelines
- Free work experience
- Free volunteering with a dental charity
- How to strategically choose dental schools
- Advice on dental relevant extracurricular activities
- Access to Mentorverse Academic Scholarships

You'll also hear from a recently successful applicant on what it takes to make your candidacy to dental school stand out!



Medical Work Experience

A 6-month immersive virtual work experience programme created and delivered by practising doctors. You will follow several patients through primary, secondary, and tertiary care. A new free virtual work experience session is released every month!

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Intensive and Critical Care
Obstetrics and Gynaecology

General Practice
Surgery
Geriatrics and Palliative Care

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Get Into Medicine. FREE! CONFERENCE

As a member of the NHS Confederation and a GMC Designated Body, Medic Mentor is a trusted organisation that can provide the most comprehensive guidance on working as a doctor and the UCAS application process, including:

- GMC duties of a doctor
- Overview of the changes to personal statements
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- Interview skills
- Application timelines
- Free work experience
- Free volunteering with a medical charity
- How to strategically choose medical schools
- Access to Medic Mentor Academic Scholarships to study Medicine at university
- Advice on medically relevant extra-curricular activities

You'll also hear from a recently successful applicant on what it takes to make your candidacy to medical school stand out!