

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 5

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Friday 9 October 2026

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

Kind Hearts
Peace
Loving and Compassionate

Celebration of the Word

This week in Celebration of the Word, we focused on Black History Month.

Loving God, Thank you for the diversity of our school and our community.

May we honour our communities through our **kindness**, respect and our ability to bring others closer.

Help us to be **faith-filled and hopeful** for future diversity.

We are **grateful** for the diversity of Handsworth and our St John Wall community.

Guide us to listen to those of other cultures and to honour our communities by fighting against discrimination together.

Amen.

By Seth Holder 10ILY

Afternoon Prayer

This week in Afternoon Prayer, we prayed for two special days, with both being a time to show kindness and respect to those around us.

Mahatma Gandhi Day celebrates the actions of Mahatma Gandhi and his non-violent and **peaceful** approach to the actions he took. Even when we may be angry or upset towards others, we can still follow in Gandhi's footsteps by showing **kind hearts** and respect to others.

I like Afternoon Prayer as it is both a time of **peace** and a time of unity, where all pupils come together to listen and pray.

By Edward Ung 10JAS

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

'My Child at School' (MCAS)

If you have not already done so, please ensure that you have made an account so that you will be able to pay for your child's lunch/trips and also to view your child's academic performance, attendance, behaviour and class charts. You will also receive important information like the Weekly Bulletin/Monthly Newsletter.

Please follow the guidance on our website [Saint John Wall Catholic School - MCAS \(sjw.bham.sch.uk\)](https://www.sjw.bham.sch.uk). The guide is designed to give you a sense of how the website works, as well as some basic information about how to use the messaging service on the app. If you download either the Apple or the Android app, it is important that you **enable your notifications**.



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Mental Health Awareness Day Hello Yellow!

It was a sea of yellow sunshine at Saint John Wall Catholic School today as both pupils and staff wore a splash of yellow to raise awareness for World Mental Health.

Hello Yellow, is an annual UK-wide campaign by the children and mental health charity Young Minds. Mental Health is something to protect and we pride ourselves as a school to collaborating with our young people, staff and ensuring that we do everything we can to make them happy, feel safe and seen in our school community.

During these darker and longer Autumnal days let's bring kind hearts to each and every person we meet. Mental health can be seen or unseen. Together we can make the world a brighter and happier place to live. **By Miss McKenzie**



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Gymshark

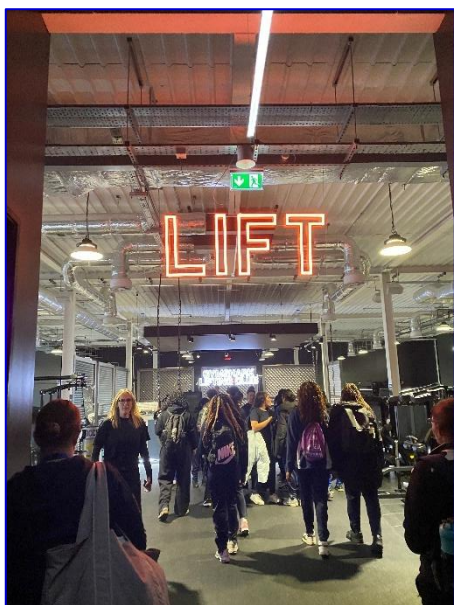
On Thursday 8 October, we took 10 Year 9 girls to Gymshark Headquarters in Solihull to attend an inspiring female empowerment event. The event featured a range of guest speakers who shared their personal journeys, discussing the challenges and struggles they had overcome to get to where they are today. There was a particular focus on body image, social media and the importance of building confidence and a positive self-image.

As part of the visit, the girls enjoyed a tour of the Gymshark headquarters, including the opportunity to visit the production area and see where the garments are made. They also had the chance to experience the Gymshark Lifting Club and take part in a fitness class, making it an exciting and hands-on experience.

The students had the best time and thoroughly enjoyed the day. They came away feeling inspired by the speakers and the positive messages around female empowerment, confidence and wellbeing. As a lovely added bonus, each student was also gifted two Gymshark tops to mark their visit!

It was a fantastic opportunity for the girls to learn beyond the classroom, try something new and hear from inspiring women who are making a difference in their industries.

A big thank you to Gymshark for hosting such an engaging and empowering event! **By Mrs Ratcliffe**



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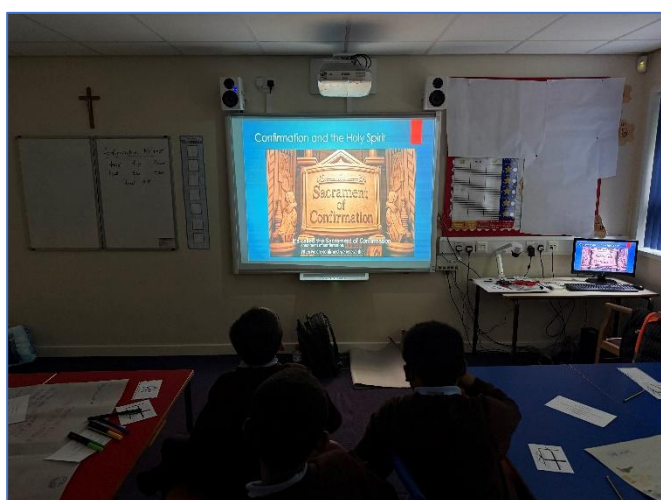
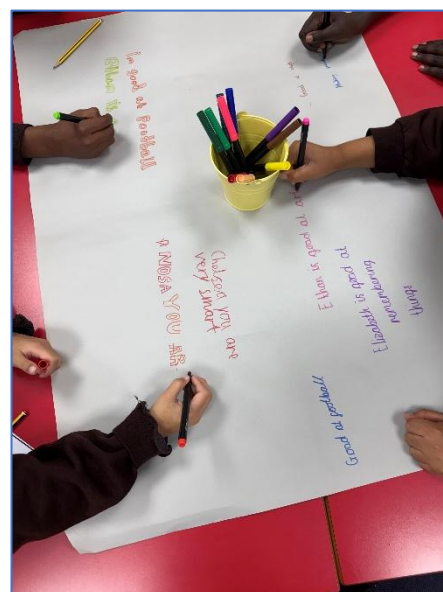
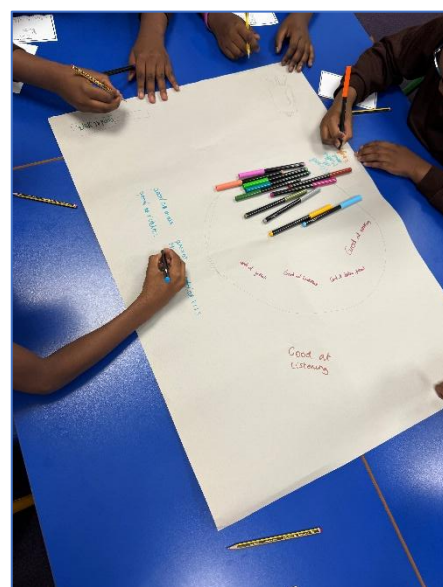
Confirmation Retreat at St Clare's

On Wednesday, I visited St Clare's Primary School in Handsworth to work with the 9 pupils from Year 5 and Year 6 who will be making their Confirmation in November. This retreat morning focused on St Paul's image of the Church as one body with many parts. Just as every part of the human body has a different role and is important, the pupils reflected on their own unique role within the Church and their wider community. Through a range of activities, the pupils had the opportunity to think about what makes them unique and spent time reflecting on the gifts and talents they have been given. Even though we may all have different gifts and talents, this allowed the pupils to understand that our differences make us stronger.

We also explored the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, including wisdom, courage and understanding, considering how these gifts can help us in everyday situations. The pupils thought about how the Holy Spirit will strengthen them during their Confirmation and how the Holy Spirit can guide them to make good choices. At the end of the retreat, pupils spent some time making their own prayers in preparation for their Confirmation.

A big well done to all 9 pupils for their hard work and contributions. We wish them every blessing as they journey towards their Confirmation next month, thinking about how they can use their gifts to make a difference to others. A special thank you to Mrs Rogers at St Clare's who helped to organise this retreat morning.

By Mr Lysaght



CAFOD Family Fast Day

Last Friday, our school community came together to support CAFOD Family Fast Day, a special day when Catholics are encouraged to fast, pray and give in support of people around the world who are experiencing poverty and injustice.

CAFOD Family Fast Day was an opportunity for us all to fast or eat simply to support the work of CAFOD who work all around the world in countries that are most in need of help. This year in particular, CAFOD are working in Zimbabwe and are helping children to stay in school by providing the food and safe water they need to live each day. Family Fast Day gave us an opportunity to think about the things that we can sometimes take for granted.

To mark this day, we provided soup and bread rolls at lunch time, giving pupils and staff the opportunity to enjoy a simple meal whilst donating money to the work of CAFOD. Thank you to all those staff and pupils who supported this cause, we raised a total of £25.34.

A special thank you to Mr Stanley and all the canteen staff for their help in providing the soup and bread rolls and also to Mr Lloyd-Price and Miss Cummings for their support.

By Mr Lysaght





FINDING THE BEST APPRENTICESHIP FOR YOU

Top tips to help you know when and where to look



With thousands of different apprenticeships to choose from - it can sometimes feel daunting to know where and when you should be looking - and what you should be looking out for.

Follow these top tips for finding the best apprenticeship for you:

Know what interests you most

A great place to start is to spend some time thinking about what interests you and the subjects, activities and tasks that you enjoy the most. It can be really useful to try and think about what you don't like as much as what you do like!

Take the [Which Apprenticeship Am I](#) quiz to help you to research the variety of apprenticeships available.

Listen to real apprentice stories

The range of apprenticeships is really huge. One of the best ways to help you to decide what you're interested in is to hear from other apprentices.

Research different employers

Apprenticeships are offered by large companies and small companies, right throughout England. The full range of apprenticeship job roles and levels that a company offers may not always be obvious to you, especially if that company is well-known for a particular product or service, or if you've never heard of the organisation before. Take some time to research the types of employers that offer apprenticeships and think about the kind of company you see yourself working in.

INSPIRE ME!

To hear from real apprentices, explaining how they found their apprenticeship and what they love most about their job roles, scan the QR code with your phone or visit: amapps.uk/apprentice-story-films



Discover more about apprenticeships:
amazingapprenticeships.com



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FINDING THE BEST APPRENTICESHIP FOR YOU

Top tips to help you know when and where to look



Be clear on what matters to you

The best apprenticeships are not necessarily the ones paying the highest salaries or the biggest global brand. There are many other factors you can consider when researching your options and the different programmes available. Being clear about what is most important to you can really help in your decision-making process. For example, you could consider:

- What does the company do?
- Do the company's values and ethos fit with your own?
- What level is the apprenticeship?
- What progression are they offering?
- Is the position fixed-term or permanent?
- How many apprentices do they employ?
- How long will the apprenticeship last?
- Do they support apprentices to join networks of other apprentices?
- How far away is the apprenticeship?
- What kind of tasks will you be doing day to day?

Know where to look

There are lots of ways you can search for apprenticeships, including:

- Find an apprenticeship website
- Company websites
- Social media
- Through friends and family
- Local job sites

If you have a particular employer in mind, you can always send in your CV.

Understand the recruitment cycle

There is not one fixed application date for apprenticeships. Vacancies are advertised throughout the year and the employer will decide when they want to recruit. Some employers will advertise almost a year ahead of the planned start date (this is typical for large schemes) and other employers will advertise with a fairly short application window and closing date.

TOP TIP

Never wait for the closing date before submitting your application. If an employer receives a lot of applications, they may decide to close earlier than expected and you don't want to miss out!

Discover more about apprenticeships:
amazingapprenticeships.com



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KING EDWARD VI COLLEGE
STOURBRIDGE

Open Events 2026

Thursday 15 October (5pm - 9pm)

Saturday 17 October (10am - 3pm)



38
SUBJECTS

Select 3 or 4 subjects
to create your own
perfect combination



Bespoke support
for Oxbridge,
medicine and other
selective routes



More 1st class
degrees gained at
university than state
or independent
schools



99.1% pass rate
2025



Award winning
careers guidance



Amazing trips
around the globe



College transport for
remote areas with
insufficient public
transport



Over 80
enrichment clubs
and societies



Top industry guest
speakers



Top 50 Sixth
Form in the UK

Our Courses

Accounting
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Classical Civilisation
Computer Science
Criminology
Dance
Drama & Theatre Studies
Economics
English Language & Literature
English Literature
Film Studies
Fine Art
French
Geography
Geology
Graphics
History - Early Modern

History - Modern
History of Art
Law
Mathematics
Maths and Further Mathematics
Media Studies
Medical Science
Music
Music Technology
Philosophy
Physical Education
Physics
Politics
Psychology
Religious Studies
Sociology
Spanish
Statistics
Textile Design



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BOA
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES
ACADEMY

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

**THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER
5.30PM – 7.30PM**

If you're considering your next step after GCSEs, join us at our Open Evening to discover our specialist Academic, Technical and Vocational pathways, designed to prepare students for careers in the fast-growing digital and technology industries.

BOA Digital Technologies
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Birmingham,
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**YOUR
DIGITAL
FUTURE
STARTS HERE**



BOA
STAGE & SCREEN PRODUCTION ACADEMY

**CREATIVE
FUTURES**

WEEKEND WORKSHOP

**Saturday 14th November 2026
10am – 2pm**

We are offering free workshops for teens aged 14 – 17!

This is a fantastic opportunity to get hands-on and explore various creative fields, including Screen Acting, Film Making, Lighting and Sound, Makeup and Theatre Crafts.

SCAN ME!



trainbackstage.co.uk

BOA Stage and Screen
Stour Street, Birmingham, B18 7AJ



BOA
STAGE & SCREEN PRODUCTION ACADEMY

Open Event

**Saturday 17th October 2026
11am – 2pm**

**Interested in working behind the scenes in
Film, TV, Theatre and Live Events?**

Our 16+ Academy is the perfect place to begin your journey! This open event is for all prospective students and their families.

Explore our state-of-the-art spaces, meet our staff and students, and hear directly from the Principal.

A great chance to get hands-on and explore creative career paths.

SCAN ME!



trainbackstage.co.uk

BOA Stage and Screen
48 Stour Street, Birmingham, B18 7AJ





Hello, we hope you are well and are having a great week!

We're delighted to announce that our **October 2026 Soccer Schools** are now live and available to book!

BOOK NOW

Dates and locations:

Monday, October 26 - Friday, October 30 2026 (5 Days)

Available at the following venues:

- ⚽ Aston Soccer School - Aston Villa FC Inner City Academy
(Ages 5-12)
- ⚽ Bromsgrove Soccer School - Bromsgrove School
(Ages 5-14)
- ⚽ Harborne Soccer School - Lordwood Girls Academy
(Ages 5-14)

BOOK NOW



Link to book: [Buy Tickets: Aston Villa Ticketing](#)



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