



NEWSLETTER

St John Plessington Catholic College



HEADTEACHER'S REFLECTION

Dear Parents, Staff, and Students,

As we enter the second week of Advent, I want to take a moment to reflect on the significance of this season and how it aligns with our school's values of Pride, Respect, and Determination. Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation, both in our spiritual lives and in our school community. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together, embrace our faith, and support one another as we prepare for the joyous celebration of Christmas.

This week, we have lit the first candle of our advent wreath in our Collective Act of Worship. We have taken time to reflect on how we need to prepare ourselves during this season of Advent. In addition, we have set up our Christmas Nativity scene in our college canteen. This is a focal point and opportunity for all our students to be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas. Of course, we also have our beautifully decorated tree in the Atrium for all to see. A huge thank you to all of the pupils who participated in our Design a Christmas Card Competition. It was so hard to select the final few that made it to our wonderful community Christmas card. Have a look inside to see our winners.

Today we have our Christmas Fair and encourage all from our community to attend – it promises to be an exciting afternoon.

Next week we take time out to celebrate the achievements of our school community through our annual awards evening celebration. We also have our HFCMAT Carol service at the cathedral

in Liverpool on Monday 16 December and our own school service on Thursday 19th December. Further details are available in the newsletter. School Christmas dinner will be served in our canteen on Thursday 12th December.

Also in this week's newsletter is a consultation for our resource base provision. Please see the link and website for more information.

I remind parents that school is closed next Friday 13th December for all students. We will finish on Friday 20th December at 12pm for our Christmas holidays.

The coming weeks it can be a time where the busyness of life can cause us stresses and burn out. As we move closer to Christmas, I encourage everyone to take time to reflect on the values of Advent—hope, peace, joy, and love. Let us carry these values into our daily lives, fostering a spirit of generosity and kindness within our school community and families.

Please remember to check our school website and social media channels for updates on upcoming events, including our Christmas Concert and the end-of-term celebrations.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in our mission to provide an exceptional education grounded in our Catholic faith.

Wishing you all a blessed Advent season.

**Warm regards,
Mr McLoughlin**

Attendance	Days absent	Weeks absent	Lessons missed
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons



ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Your ongoing support in encouraging your child to attend school until the end of half term is greatly appreciated. Every day counts, with each day of absence equating to 5-hours of lost learning for your child. Good attendance not only impacts academic outcomes but also helps develop essential life skills such as time management and responsibility. Your encouragement and reinforcement of attendance expectations are invaluable. Thank you for your support.

TWENTY DAY COUNTDOWN!

Pupils in school for the next 20 days leading up to the Christmas break will be entered into a prize draw to win some goodies on the last day of term! They must be in school every day from Friday 22 November to Friday 20 December to be entered. Two lucky winners will be drawn from each form.

THEME OF THE WEEK

Advent

In this, the first week of advent, our theme was hope. Hope is not the same as optimism. When we hope, it is for a reason outside ourselves not because we like to be positive or prefer being optimists to being pessimists. When we hope, we are affirming that there is something good for us out there, that the world is good. The reasons for hope differ for all of us. Usually, our hope comes from good people and good things around us, teaching us that even when things are not going well, there is still something and especially someone good that will come to us. It is a sad reality that many teenagers in the world feel hopeless. They do not feel there is a reason to hope or affirm that there is something good for them, that the world is good. We can, each of us, be a source of hope for others, by being a witness and an example of goodness in the world.

IT'S ALL HANDS ON DECK FOR ADVENT SEASON!

It's all hands on deck for the Advent season! Our choir is preparing for two Advent services: Monday, December 16, at the Cathedral and Thursday, December 19, at St Anne's Rock Ferry at 7 pm.

The art department has created countless cards, angels, stars, and gifts. We are also collecting for various good causes, including a pupil-led initiative to gather coats and hats.

Finally, there is the rather hectic, ad-hoc, but thoroughly joyous process of building the nativity. Old boxes are opened, the search for straw begins, and various lights—fairy and strung—are unfurled.

The enthusiasm on display, the large number of volunteers to read at the Advent services, and the collective desire to transform the school through charity and decoration into a place of Advent hope are all signs that Christmas continues to move the hearts of both the young and the old.



YEAR 10 FOOTBALL V CO-OP ACADEMY

The Year 10 Football Team played their final match of 2024. Having been Wirral Cup finalists for two consecutive years, they have started preparations early in an effort to finally secure the title as the Wirral Cup begins in 2025.

On a cold December evening, the game started strong, with SJP dominating possession and creating several good chances. Coop's goalkeeper kept them in the game with a series of excellent saves. However, the pressure eventually paid off as Isaac Kennedy, who had been lively throughout, struck a powerful shot that the keeper struggled to keep out.

Half-time: SJP 1 - 0 Co-op.

The second half was equally lively, and the game was sealed with a brilliant goal by Jack Patterson.

There were impressive performances from the entire squad, who rotated during the friendly, but special mentions go to Corbyn, Franc, Isaac, and the defensive duo—Olly and Ben—who were solid at the back.

In an interview with SJP Sport News, Captain Seb McArdle said he was pleased with the team's preparations so far and is looking forward to 2025.

We are awaiting updates from the medical team regarding Tom "OB" Maguire and Ben Schoon.



CELEBRATING OUR DESIGN A CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION WINNERS!

We are delighted to announce the winners of our Design a Christmas Card Competition. This year's entries showcased incredible creativity, artistic talent, and the true spirit of Christmas.

The winning designs, which beautifully capture the joy of the festive season, will feature on our official school Christmas card. Additionally, the designs of the

runners-up have also been included, making this year's card a truly special keepsake.

A heartfelt thank you to all the students who participated and took the time to create such lovely designs. Your effort and imagination have made this competition a festive highlight.

The winners will each receive a set of cards featuring their artwork, and we look forward to sharing these wonderful designs with the wider school community. Congratulations to all!



EXPERIENCING TRADITION: YEAR 10 AND 11 EXPLORE JEWISH WEDDING CEREMONIES

This week, in RE, Years 10 and 11 had the opportunity to watch a re-enactment of a Jewish wedding. As part of the GCSE curriculum, students are required to understand the importance and features of a Jewish wedding, as well as the terminology associated with the ceremony.

The pupils enjoyed actively participating in the re-enactment, which helped them gain a deeper understanding of what takes place during a Jewish wedding ceremony.



CAREERS FAIR

This week, in the main hall, our annual Careers Fair took place once again, with thirty exhibitors contributing to the event. Alongside established partners such as LJMU, University of Chester, and Edge Hill, we also welcomed universities from Glasgow, Manchester, Leeds, and Durham.

In addition, Further Education providers such as Wirral Met, Liverpool Life Sciences, and Liverpool Business College offered valuable advice, while organisations such as Airbus, Markhams Solicitors, The Army, and The Police provided guidance on future apprenticeship opportunities.

The Careers Fair is a key part of our programme to provide students with information about future opportunities. We remain committed to enhancing their knowledge to help them make the best-informed choices for their futures.



HFCMAT CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE 'THE JOURNEY'

On **Monday 16th December** children from across the Trust will be performing in our HFCMAT Carol Service 'The Journey' at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool.

This promises to be a really special evening with children from across all our family of schools coming together to perform and celebrate their faith together.

Tickets for the event are available from the link below and are free of charge.

[Click here to get your tickets now!](#)





CAREERS FOCUS 13-24 - SOCIAL CARE – WRITTEN BY JACK LALLY – YR. 12

A career in 'social care' involves supporting different individuals who often require a better quality of life, due to age, illness, disability or other circumstances. Social care professionals' work with individuals of all ages ensuring they're catered for, depending on what they're going through, be it physical or mental issues.

This career takes place in different environments such as schools, hospitals, homes and community centres. The key skills required include empathy, compassion, patience, communication, resilience and organisation.

Why choose social care as a future career?
This job can be very rewarding, as you're able to make a difference to people's lives. Healthcare is becoming a more focused issue. Jobs in this sector offer a range of diverse opportunities with many roles and career progression pathways.

Different roles in 'social care' require different educational degrees, but most require A-levels and GCSEs within the subject. Some jobs may offer on the job training.

Jobs in the 'Social Care' sector include:

- Care assistant
- Support worker
- Residential care worker
- Social worker
- Youth worker
- Family support worker
- Rehabilitation worker

Introduction to social care and what it is:
What is social care?

Social care jobs and what they look like:

My Career in Social Care: Sarah Joyce, Project Worker, Peter McVerry Trust
Social care careers government article

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-categories/social-care>



St John Plessington Catholic College
P R E S E N T S

OUR HOUSE

A LONDON
LOVE
STORY

NW1

THE NEW HIT MUSICAL

GLADSTONE THEATRE, PORT SUNLIGHT
11TH AND 12TH FEBRUARY 2025

7PM

TICKETS: £12.50 AND £9.00 CONCESSIONS

OUR HOUSE WAS FIRST PRODUCED AT THE CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, LONDON ON 28TH OCTOBER 2002. PRODUCERS WERE TIGER ASPECT PRODUCTIONS, RUPERT LORD, ANDRÉ PTASZYŃSKI AND PHIL MCINTYRE IN ASSOCIATION WITH MADNESS THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL. ALL AUTHORISED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI WWW.MTISHOWS.CO.UK

OUR HOUSE BY TIM FIRTH • MUSIC AND LYRICS BY MADNESS BULLET POINT

Tickets available from www.gladstonetheatre.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

Here's a brief overview of the key events scheduled for next week at St John Plessington Catholic College:

Tuesday, December 10th

World Human Rights Day: Activities led by Mr Jones.

Y11 Hospitality & Catering NEA Assessment: Practical assessment for Year 11 students led by Ms. Stearne.

Wednesday, December 11th

Everton 'She Inspires' Goodison Park Stadium Experience Visit: Empowering event for selected students led by Mrs Murphy

Thursday, December 12th

MEP Year 8 Intensive Study Event at Calday: Special study event for Year 8 students led by L. Yang.

Canteen - Christmas Dinner: Festive meal for the school community.

Awards Evening: Celebration of student achievements.

Friday, December 13th

School closed

SAFEGUARDING NEWS:

Setting Boundaries for New Devices

Many families will be considering getting their child a new device this month. Whether it's an upgraded mobile phone or a new console, putting boundaries in place from the beginning is important.

Asking yourself how your child uses technology now, and how you would like them to use the new device, is a really great place to start.

Establishing New Tech Boundaries for Children

Before you give your child a new piece of technology or device, there are five boundaries that can be very useful to set up:

1. Establish clear expectations beforehand: It's important to help your child understand that the boundaries you are putting in place are for their own benefit. You care about the time they spend on their devices and the content they access.

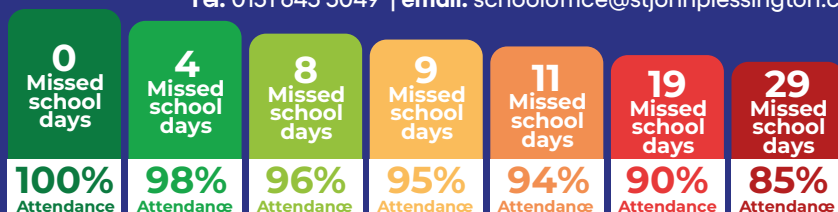
2. Set parental controls before handing over the device: Research the device you have so you are aware of the safety features. Have these in place before your child gets the new device.
3. Agree on a level of monitoring: Your child should agree to you monitoring their device regularly, having access to their passwords and controlling which apps they download.
4. Schedule screen-free time and limit usage: This could include setting aside time before bedtime, during family meals and during specific family activities.
5. Model healthy device behaviours: This could include setting aside your own screen-free time and putting your phone down when interacting with your child.

If you need any further information on keeping your child safe online, or setting boundaries for new devices, the following link has some useful information: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

St John Plessington Catholic College

Old Chester Road, Bebington, Wirral, CH63 7LF

Tel: 0151 645 5049 | email: schooloffice@stjohnplessington.com | Website: www.stjohnplessington.com



Vision - Excellence in all we do

Mission - Empowering an inclusive community founded on Gospel Values

Values - Pride, respect & determination

Headteacher: Mr P McLoughlin BSc (Hons) NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mr B Nunnery BA (Hons) & MA in Education | **Deputy Headteacher:** Mrs E Donohoe BSc (Hons) NPQH

A Catholic Aided Academy, part of the Holy Family Catholic Multi Academy Trust | Company No: 08269066



4th December 2024

Significant Change:
Consultation to open a 12 place Resource Base at St John Plessington Catholic College with effect from February 2025

Dear Stakeholder

We are excited to announce a proposal for a significant change at St John Plessington Catholic College to establish a 12-place resource provision on our existing site. This provision will specifically cater to students with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and/or Social Communication Needs (SCN). Our aim is to enhance the educational experience for these students while promoting inclusivity within our school community. The PAN for the resource provision is 12.

Purpose of the Consultation

This consultation seeks to gather feedback from all stakeholders, including parents, staff, local authorities and other schools, regarding the proposed resource provision. Your insights and opinions are invaluable to us as we strive to create an environment that meets the needs of all students.

Whilst there is a decreasing trend in pupils in the school age population in Wirral, there is an ongoing increase in the demand for special school places across the age range. There has been a significant increase in the number of children requiring smaller, specialist resourced provision, placing an unmanageable demand on our special schools.

The Local Authority has requested for all local schools to consider the creation of a Resourced Provision Base to cater for the extra demand on places.

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The resource provision will accommodate existing space in the school building and any necessary works will be undertaken using capital spend. It would be separately funded, and additional staff would be recruited to ensure that the provision of a provision would not impact the quality of education currently provided.

The resource provision will be designed for pupils who meet the following criteria:

- Commissioning by Local Authority: Places will be commissioned by the Local Authority for pupils who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) with a primary need of Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and/or Social Communication difficulties.
- Mainstream Integration: Pupils must be able to access at least 50% of lessons in the mainstream school. They should also be able to participate in other elements of the wider school community, such as collective worship and extracurricular activities.
- Placement Limitations: We cannot offer a place to a pupil who requires a full-time base placement or full-time small group teaching. The focus will be on supporting students in a way that allows them to thrive within the mainstream environment.
- Initial Year Groups: Initially, we will only be accepting consultations for pupils in Year 7 or Year 8.

We invite you to share your views on this proposal. The consultation period will run from 4th December 2024 to 17th January 2025. Feedback can be submitted via:

- Email: headteacher@stjohnplessington.com - **Subject: Resource Provision Consultation**
- Online Survey: [Link to Survey](#)
- In-Person Meetings: Should you wish to speak to someone regarding the consultation please call 0151 645 5049 and ask to speak with the Headteacher's PA Chris Lamb.

Conclusion

We believe that this resource provision will significantly benefit students with ASD and SCN, providing them with the support they need to succeed in a mainstream educational setting. Your feedback is crucial to the success of this initiative, and we encourage all stakeholders to participate in the consultation process. Following the consultation period, the governing Body will consider all responses and take these into account.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the success of all students at St John Plessington Catholic College.

Yours sincerely



Mr Peadar McLoughlin
Headteacher
St John Plessington Catholic College