



NEWSLETTER

St John Plessington Catholic College



HEADTEACHER'S REFLECTION

Dear Parents, Students, and Staff,

Our commitment to Excellence in all we do remains at the forefront of our mission. This month, we have seen incredible achievements from our students, showcasing their talents and hard work. I am particularly proud of our Star Pupils, whose dedication and determination have set a wonderful example for all. A special mention to those students that were interviewed on Granada reports this week for Holocaust memorial day and represented our school in such a positive light. In line with our vision of Empowering an inclusive community based on Gospel Values, we have been actively promoting various initiatives that support our students' personal development. From extracurricular activities to community service projects, we are dedicated to providing a rich set of experiences that allow our students to thrive and grow. This week our local police teams delivered a session on 'Operation Prospect' to all year groups focusing on community violence and knife crime. While some of this was difficult to watch, we hope that students got a clear message on the challenges they face in the world today and how to avoid situations and get support should they need it.

I also want to highlight our ongoing efforts in improving attendance and reducing persistent absence across all groups. We believe that every day in school counts, and we are committed to ensuring that all students have the opportunity to learn and succeed. Poor punctuality to school and lessons is a real concern at the moment and I would ask for your support to ensure that

these concerns are addressed. Students should be on the yard by 08:30 and in all lessons before the 5-minute late bell sounds. Students who fail to meet these expectations will be issued with a detention.

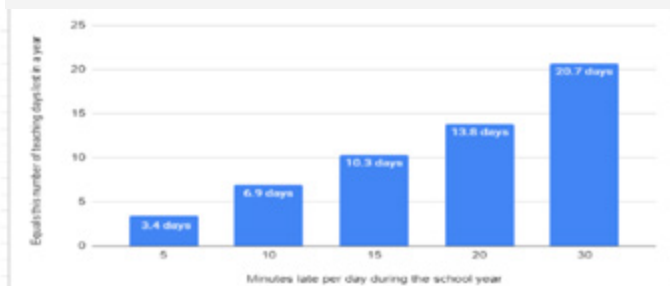
School has been buzzing today with parents and students from years 8 and 9 who are attending their review day. I hope that you all have managed to receive some positive comments and identified ways that you can continue to improve. Additionally, I would remind parents that attendance to school is a high priority backed by a high-profile Government agenda. While I understand that some parents may see letters sent regarding poor attendance as threatening and upsetting, these letters are the template letters provided by the LA and DfE. We are using a policy that has been ratified by a DfE representative. I would ask that you please support your child and school staff as much as possible to ensure that we continue to improve attendance for all pupils and narrow the gaps in learning that occur as a result of poor attendance.

I encourage you to engage with our school community through our social media platforms. We regularly share updates, photos, and important dates, ensuring that you stay informed about what's happening at St John Plessington. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in our journey towards excellence. Together, we can create a nurturing environment where every student can flourish. Warm regards,

Peadar McLoughlin
Headteacher

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

We want to remind you that regular and punctual attendance at school is crucial for your child's academic success and overall development. The table shows how being late to school can affect a child in terms of lost learning.



Please ensure your child attends school every day unless they are genuinely unwell, and always inform us of any absences by contacting the school office by phone or email schooloffice@stjohnplessington.com before 8:30am.

It is normal for children to feel anxious sometimes. They may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can make a child's anxiety about going to school worse. It's good to talk about any worries they may have such as friendship problems, bullying, school work or sensory problems. You can also work with us to find ways to help them.

We are committed to working with you to address any concerns regarding attendance and support your child's learning journey.

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



REFLECTION WEEK 2 OF THE JUBILEE YEAR, FEBRUARY 3-7, 2025

Luke 2 22-32

The Presentation of Our Lord

Who is God? What is he like? What does he do?

Where can we find him? How can we see him?

These are the questions everyone at some point asks. Some people expect God to be like a giant engineer in the sky, fixing and running things. Or perhaps a great King with a long beard sitting on a throne and making sure everything works out alright. Or a giant computer with a booming voice, like in a movie. Each person has their own imagined picture of what God must be like. And many people feel that they can't see God and that there is therefore little point in looking for him.

When Jesus was born, God came among us. But who noticed? When Mary and Joseph, being practicing Jews, brought him to the Temple to be initiated into his religion, they were so poor they could only pay for some doves to be sacrificed. The priests, the kings, the writers, the bankers, the teachers, the philosophers, the rich people, and the busy people. Not one of them noticed him.

Everyone was looking in the wrong direction. They were so full of themselves that they did not really notice ANYTHING. They expected a king, a ruler, a powerful, mighty, even frightening person and leader. So they failed to notice. That is because God chose to be with us humbly. Jesus is humble. He does not shout, he does not come in a fancy

chariot or with flash clothes, he is not rich, he does not hang out with the influencers and the celebrities. He does not seek power or attention. He slips in to the world in a very ordinary way as a baby. Two people do notice. Elderly, forgotten, poor and humble people. People who no one had noticed. They had patiently waited and relied on God. They were looking in the right place, from their humility and their reliance on God not themselves they noticed Jesus, noticed his importance and understood that humility is the path for God, and therefore it is the path for us. Their humility allowed them to see Jesus and recognise him.

Humility does not mean thinking badly of yourself or pretending to be worthless or being shy. Humility means depending on God and looking for him patiently, quietly, serenely. It means knowing who you are and humbly looking for God who gives us everything, every moment, every day.



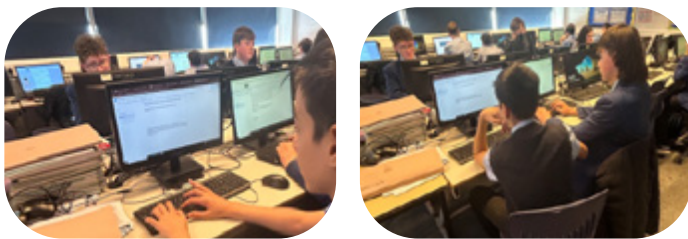
NEW KS3 CODING CLUB LAUNCHES WITH SUCCESS: STUDENTS LEARN EXCITING NEW SKILLS EVERY WEDNESDAY

Computing Coding Club - Mrs Kennedy began her new Coding Club for KS3 on Wednesday. The students absolutely loved the club and were all able to learn new coding skills. This club will happen every Wednesday after school from 3.15pm to 4.15pm.



YEAR 10 BUSINESS STUDIES STUDENTS EXPLORE LOCAL ENTERPRISES AND THE KEYS TO ENTREPRENEURIAL SUCCESS

Year 10 Business Studies students are analysing local Enterprise's and finding out what makes them successful. They are looking at their promotional methods and financial planning. They are researching the entrepreneur and finding out what skills and characteristics they have and what it takes to be successful.



MFL DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES CHINESE NEW YEAR WITH CREATIVE ACTIVITIES AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

This week the MFL department have been celebrating Chinese New Year. This year is the year of the snake! Pupils have enjoyed a wide range of sessions including ink blowing, Chinese calligraphy, dragon mask making, lantern making, paper cooking and cooking Chinese dumplings. The work created has been very impressive and we are already looking forward to next years celebrations!



YEAR 12 WALKER GALLERY ART TRIP

We are thrilled to share a wonderful experience from our Year 12 Art class, who recently visited the prestigious Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool. Led by Miss Curtin, the students took part in a series of hands-on drawing workshops, refining their skills across various techniques and styles. The visit provided the perfect opportunity for students to explore a wide variety of artwork, from contemporary pieces to timeless historical masterpieces. This immersive experience not only enhanced their practical abilities but also deepened their understanding of different art movements and the cultural significance behind the works on display.



YEAR 11 WIRRAL CUP TRIUMPH OVER CALDAY

The Year 11 boys' football team played their first round fixture in the Wirral Cup this week against Calday. A brilliant team performance meant that the boys won 3-1 taking them through to the next round! Well done Year 11.



YEAR 9 WIRRAL CUP WIN OVER BEBINGTON

The Year 9 football team played their first round fixture in the Wirral Cup this week against Co-op. The boys put on an emphatic display winning 7-0. They are looking forward to the next round! Well done Year 9!

CHALKING OF DOORS TRADITION MARKS 2025 JUBILEE YEAR: EMBRACING THE THEME 'PILGRIMS OF HOPE'

The tradition of chalking doors is associated with the 2025 Jubilee Year, which has the theme "Pilgrims of Hope". The tradition involves writing a special message on doors using blessed chalk. Staff have been chalking their doors with 20 + C + M + B + 25 as a reminder of God's continual presence.

RE STUDENTS LEAD SCHOOL'S FIRST ACT OF HOPE FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR WITH WIRRAL FOODBANK DONATIONS

This week a number of Miss Marriott's Core RE Class went to Wirral Foodbank to drop off food donations we have collected as a school as our first act of hope for The Jubilee Year. This year is intended to be a time of hope for the world and this is our first commitment as a school, putting our faith into action, supporting people in our local community.



What Is the Financial Services Sector?



Banks



Investment houses



Lenders



Finance companies



Real estate



Insurance

CAREERS FOCUS - 19-25 FINANCIAL SERVICES

The UK-based financial and related professional services industry supports individuals and businesses in their day-to-day activities through familiar services like saving, mortgage provision and business lending.

If you are passionate about numbers and keen on turning your analytical skills into a rewarding career, the finance sector in the UK offers plenty of opportunities. The sector employs over 1 million people across various roles, including banking, insurance, investment management, and financial advisory services. Earning potential is high and, as you might expect, this job market is a very competitive one.

The most sought after qualifications for key roles include:

- A Bachelor's degree in Finance, Economics, Business, or a related field
- Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) certification
- Certified Financial Planner (CFP) certification

One of the top financial companies is Deloitte. They are running a webinar during National Apprenticeship Week (NAW), which starts week commencing 10/2/25. If you are in Year 9 to Year 12 and you are interested in what you have read so far, sign up for the webinar on Thursday 13th Feb (5.30pm start) to find out more about this sector and what it could offer to you in the future.

Sign up now to secure your place on our NAW Webinar:

At Deloitte, we're a big four professional services firm offering a range of business & finance Early Careers programmes.

We are delighted to invite school students, parents and teachers to our National Apprenticeship Week Webinar. The session will be particularly relevant to students in Year 9, 10, 11 and 12.

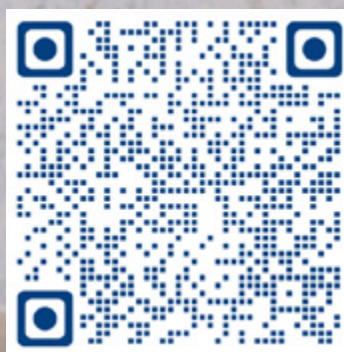
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ST JOHN PLESSINGTON SCHOOL

Expedition to

MALAYSIA



Join our zoom call to find out more

THURSDAY 6th FEBRUARY

at
7PM



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, ANDRE PTASZYNSKI 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



Have you ever considered a career in teaching?

Lead School Partner Route is a great way to gain the skills you need to join the best profession in the world!

Ignite Institute are delighted to be working in partnership with St John Plessington Catholic College to offer secondary routes into teaching.

We currently offer teacher training for Art and design, Biology, Business studies, Chemistry, Computing, Drama, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Modern Languages (French and Spanish), Music, Physics and Religious education.

For any information regarding Ignite Institute's Teacher Training programme, please contact: rhiaijones@hfcmat.com

Train to teach through Ignite Institute...

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 27th January 2025

Next week, as a College, we will mark Children's Mental Health Week - this year's theme is Know Yourself, Grow Yourself. Pupils will learn about Mental Health and Mental Health Support in Personal Development Sessions throughout the week.

The TRFC Personal Development sessions continue next week - pupils involved are asked to meet at 14.10 and bring their PE kits.

Monday 3rd February 2025

Bidston Careers Carousel NCS - Year 12
Cheshire Farm Assoc Talk- Year 7
World Challenge Expedition Malaysia - Launch

Tuesday 4th February 2025

International Day of Human Fraternity
Sixth Form Wirral Cup Football Match

Wednesday 5th February 2025

Y10 Wirral Cup Football Match

Thursday 6th February 2025

Outdoor First Aid Course (for DoFE)
School Netball Tournament
World Challenge Expedition Malaysia - Parents Information Event

Friday 31st January 2025

Outdoor First Aid Course (for DoFE)

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Over the coming weeks, Catch22 will be delivering information sessions on the issue of County Lines and its impact on young people. These sessions are designed to raise awareness among parents, carers, and the wider community about this serious issue and provide practical advice on how to keep our young people safe.

These information sessions will be held online and will cover:

- What County Lines is and how it affects young people
- Warning signs to look out for if a child is being exploited
- How to talk to your child about staying safe
- Where to seek help and support if you are concerned

When:

Wednesday 19th February 2025 - 12pm-1.30pm

- <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/county-lines-awareness-webinar-for-parentcarers-only-tickets-1217904066849?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Thursday 20th February 2025 - 12pm-1.30pm

- <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/county-lines-awareness-webinar-for-parentcarers-only-tickets-1217909021669?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Thursday 20th February 2025 - 6pm to 7.30pm

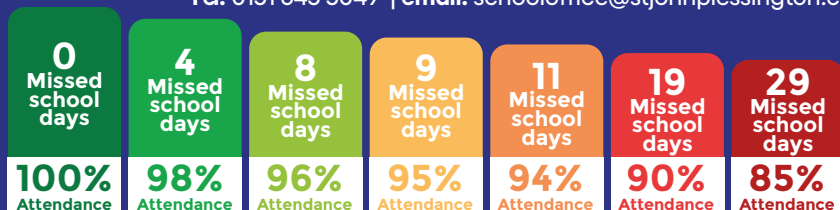
- <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/county-lines-awareness-webinar-for-parentcarers-only-tickets-1217942000309?aff=oddttdtcreator>

We strongly encourage all families to attend one of these sessions. The information provided will be invaluable in understanding the risks and working together to protect our children.

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

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