



# NEWSLETTER

St John Plessington Catholic College



## HEADTEACHER'S REFLECTION

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and Staff

As we approach the half-term break, I would like to wish you all a very restful and enjoyable time. This week's newsletter is a bumper edition, reflecting the busy and successful two weeks we've had at St John Plessington Catholic College.

I am incredibly proud of our Students following the outstanding production of "Our House" at the Gladstone Theatre. It was a truly memorable event that showcased the talent and dedication of our Students.

We have also launched our Jubilee Year, "Pilgrims of Hope," with enthusiasm and anticipation. This special year will be filled with opportunities for reflection, celebration, and service, rooted in our Gospel values.

Last Friday, it was our pleasure to welcome all the Secondary Headteachers in the diocese to SJP, along with 180 Students from other secondary schools across the diocese, who attended the Mini Dash event. It was a fantastic day of collaboration and learning.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a wonderful half-term break.

School reopens for all Students on Monday, 24th February.

Sincerely,

Peadar McLoughlin  
**Headteacher**

# SJP Production of 'Our House'

This week, the Gladstone Theatre has truly become Our House in the middle of a Port Sunlight street, as our students took to the stage in their performance of the hit musical that featured the back catalogue of the band Madness. We've been asked multiple times why we picked this show for our students. The obvious answer would be the humour, catchy songs, and upbeat dance numbers, but the most important part is the message.

The story follows young Joe Casey who, like so many of us, makes an error in judgment in his youth. 'Our House' allows us to see what would happen if Joe made the 'right' or the 'wrong' choice, showing that although actions have consequences, there is always room for redemption.

The show itself wouldn't have been possible without the support of staff volunteers and the Senior Leadership Team, especially Miss Gibbons, Ms Patino, and Miss Wellman. In addition to the incredible talent shown on stage, Miss Ousey and Mr Payne were astounded by the level of commitment and professionalism shown by the cast during rehearsals and performances.

This praise also extends to our future students from St Joseph's, St Anne's, St John's, and Church Drive Primary Schools.

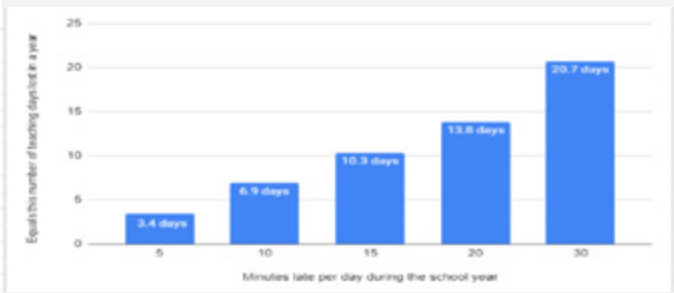
The Performing Arts Department wishes the entire cast a restful half-term. We look forward to seeing some of them in our next production with the National Youth Theatre.





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](mailto:schooloffice@stjohnplessington.com) before 8:30am.

FEBRUARY 10-14, WEEK 3 OF THE JUBILEE

The calling of Simon Peter and the disciples is a vivid scene full of challenge and also comfort for us.

Simon and his friends are just living their day to day lives. The scene is so every day and normal that Jesus’ request and suggestion that they go into the deep and throw out their nets so they can finally catch some fish is met with: no thanks, we tried that. We are tired. It did not work. Stop bothering us.

This is such a recognisable response. We also do not want to go into the deep water. We prefer the shore, the safety of what we know. Our disappointments may have led us, like Simon to conclude that nothing good is going to happen for us. Just leaver us alone we say to God and to eachother. I am tired. We feel this way. No point in going way out there. Let’s stay close.

But Jesus’ invitation is finally heeded by Simon and he received an abundance he could not have guessed at. He is literally overwhelmed, and has to call friends to take in the fish. His boat nearly sinks.

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	<div>89% or below Drastic effect on academic achievement</div> <div>96% - 90% Cause for Concern</div> <div>100% - 97% Excellent!</div>
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	

God wants us to have faith in his abundant goodness. He wants us to recover hope, and to go out in pursuit of everything he prepares for us. He is also asking us to go into the deep water. To trust him and to have courage. To believe that there is something good waiting for us.

For Simon and James and John and Andrew, this moment is decisive just as it is for us when we hear the call of Jesus to follow or to go into deep water. Now, they have recovered confidence. The courage of Christ has given them courage. They recognise they have met a game changer, a presence and person who can lead them to fullness of life. They now have the courage to follow him, to leave their old thinking behind, to think big, bold, beautiful, and full-life thoughts, and commit to the abundance they have received. They become fishers of men, founders of the Church, going on a journey with Jesus that will lead them to tragedy and triumph, but especially to life in its fullest sense.

YEAR 8 & 9 STUDENTS COLLABORATE WITH EMPIRE THEATRE ON MUSIC & SPOKEN WORD PROJECT

Some of our Year 8 and 9 have been working over the last few weeks with the Empire Theatre in how to use music technology to record and create their own live performances. Next they will have the opportunity to learn how to create and perform their own spoken word poetry and, similar to the musical ‘Hamilton, will be rooted in local history. This is building to an exciting performance at the Empire Theatre itself!

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND BUSINESS STUDIES BREAKFAST CLUB:

Year 10 Business Studies students are analysing local enterprises 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.



SJP STUDENT AMBASSADORS SHINE AS THEY WELCOME VISITORS FROM ACROSS THE DIOCESE

Our SJP Student Ambassadors were out in force this week, representing our wonderful Sixth Form, as they welcomed visitors from across the Diocese. Students welcomed staff and pupils from visiting schools and were incredible in their role. With welcoming smiles and friendly chatter, they created an inclusive atmosphere and set the tone for the day. We could not have been prouder of our Year 12 and 13 students, who continue to go above and beyond in their roles as Sixth Form role models.



KS3 CODING CLUB:

KS3 Coding Club has been a huge success amongst students. It is amazing to see so many of our students enhancing their coding skills in Python. KS3 Coding Club every Wednesday after the half term holidays. Mrs Kennedy is extremely impressed with the enthusiasm and the high level of coding skills they are displaying. We look forward to seeing more KS3 students join this amazing club on Wednesday 26th February. Badges and certificates are rewarded for students who complete various challenges and projects in this club.





## WIRRAL CUP - YEAR 7 BOYS FOOTBALL

There was success in the Wirral Cup first round this week as the Year 7 Football Team played Birkenhead park school at home. They won 3-1 moving through the next round. A strong performance by all players - well done.



## NETBALL ENRICHMENT TOURNAMENT HOSTS

This week we hosted a Netball Enrichment Tournament for students in KS3 and KS4. We invited 4 schools to attend with 90 participants across all the schools coming together to enjoy competition and playing netball. All schools gave feedback that the event was an invaluable experience for students who would not always get an opportunity to play in a tournament. We had team entered from both key stages and Sixth Form students helping to run the event. A lovely afternoon enjoyed by all!



## WIRRAL CUP - YEAR 7/8 GIRLS FOOTBALL

It was the turn of the girls first round in the Wirral cup this week, as they drew a home fixture vs Prenton. The girls started off strong in the first half with 3 goals from Summer and Shamelia, going into half time at 4-4. The girls lost out in the second half with Prenton securing the win. A strong performance by the newly formed team. Well done girls!



## WIRRAL SCHOOLS' NETBALL TOURNAMENT - SATURDAY MORNING NETBALL

Mrs Spicer and Mrs Pritchard took Year 7 and Year 8 students to the Wirral Schools Netball Tournament on Saturday morning. The girls played a number of different schools with the winners of the prestigious tournament moving through to the Merseyside Schools Tournament. All the girls played really well and the experience to play against high class netballers was an invaluable experience. A huge thanks to parents coming along and supporting on cold conditions on a Saturday morning.



## YEAR 7/8/9 NETBALL VS RIDGEWAY

On Monday evening we hosted Ridgeway high school with Year 7, 8, 9 Netball. The girls rotated ensuring lots of game time for all students who have been attending netball club. The scored finished 10-10, with lots of students trying different positions and moving around to challenge themselves.



## NORTHERN SCHOOL DANCE COMPETITION

Rehearsals for the Northern Schools Dance are well underway. The event hosted by Queen Mary School sees SJP entering 2 performances; a KS3 dance and a KS4 dance performance. The purpose of the competition is for students to compete and demonstrate their skills with a competitive element. The performance will be recorded with the results featuring a live judge and the audience will also have the chance to vote, adding an exciting interactive element.



## EXCITING MALAYSIA 2026 EXPEDITION

Last Thursday St John Plessington School invited you to join an online talk about our exciting Malaysia expedition, running in July 2026

This is a life-changing opportunity for students to explore Malaysia 2026 with expert guides, while developing their life skills, confidence, and independence. We're partnering with World Challenge to offer this 13-night trip, which complements school learning.

Ben from World Challenge hosted a 40 minute zoom call. If you were not able to attend, a copy of the recording can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mkloUYyjSA>



Sign up and deposits are due Thursday 27th February. Please contact Mrs K Jones at SJP if you require any further information.

<https://weareworldchallenge.com/trips/ehcn5wl/>

## CHICAGO THEATRE TRIP - DANCE

On Thursday students who have selected brand new BTEC Level 2 Dance course have the opportunity to explore professional works in the theatre this week. Students visited Liverpool Empire to watch the famous performance of Chicago. In lessons, the girls have been studying different dance styles that support the completion of their BTEC course and will focus on Jazz and Fosse elements when watching the performance.



## GOOD LUCK, EVA! YEAR 7 STUDENT SET TO REPRESENT ENGLAND IN MMA CHAMPIONSHIPS!

Eva, Year 7, is jetting off to Serbia to represent England in Mixed Martial Arts! The entire SJP community is behind you, cheering you on! Good luck, Eva!



## YEAR 7 GAIN VALUABLE INSIGHTS FROM CHESHIRE FARMING ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Today we were lucky to have Sarah Crank - president of Cheshire Farming Association in to speak about the challenges of modern day farming. Year 7 are studying Food and Farming currently, so this was an invaluable learning experience for them.

Well done Year 7 for asking such interesting questions about everything ranging from animal welfare to soil health. Thank you, Sarah, we look forward to welcoming you back next year.





## JUBILEE WEEK 3 NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Theme: Courage

In previous weeks we have inaugurated the Jubilee Year with liturgical celebrations, with the chalking of our classroom door, and with the placement of posters, reminding us that we must pass through the door of hope to go on a journey to a better and deeper relationship with God and with each other.



There were many great doors created by pupils and some by staff.

At the end of this second week, the Year 8 pupils from 16 diocesan high schools gathered at SJP for mini dash. They prayed, engaged in workshops and activities, and presented to the head teachers their dreams and plans for Jubilee and for their life at school. Leave the shore and try new things.



For week 3 of the Jubilee year we will be looking at courage. Jesus asked Simon Peter to take his boat out into the deep water. Simon hesitated but ultimately took the risk and went out in his boat with his friends. They made a huge catch. Courage is the virtue, the habit, by which we are able to do the right thing even if it is unpopular or hurts us in some way. Fear inhibits our courage, but as the bible teaches: perfect love drives out fear.

When Simon Peter experienced the presence of Christ and Christ's love for him, his fear was overcome. He travelled the word spreading the good news. He had found courage.

Pupils will need courage to fully participate in Jubilee 2025. Joining events and making commitments to help others through their efforts. This will take courage. During the third week of the Jubilee they will give answers to the questions of how they wish to be involved in the Jubilee activities. It will take courage to leave safe shores and try new things.

Please encourage your child to get involved.



## CAREERS FOCUS 21-25 – NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

The careers focus this week has been all about 'National Apprenticeship Week 2025'.

Working with our partners 'Amazing Apprenticeships', 'Success at School', 'Inspiring Futures' and 'All about STEM', we have provided a wealth of information for our students relating to what apprenticeships are. We have covered how the 'earn whilst you learn' process works, the variety of qualification levels that exist and the types of career available via this pathway.

Students have had access to quizzes and webinars, as well as our own 'bespoke' video on sustainability and 'green' apprenticeships, provided by Scottish Power (attached below).  
<https://bit.ly/422guOJ>

In addition, our sixth formers have been provided with the 'Sixth Former's Guide to Degree Apprenticeships', accompanied by a half hour TV programme highlighting the range of degree apprenticeships (over 170) now available across the country.





# 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: [rhiainjones@hfcmat.com](mailto:rhiainjones@hfcmat.com)

**Train to teach through Ignite Institute...**



[www.welcometoignite.co.uk](http://www.welcometoignite.co.uk)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Paris Trip 2025

Friday 14th -Tuesday 18-Feb-25

### Half Term

Mon-Fri, 17-21 February 2025

### Monday 24th February 2025

School re-opens to all students and staff  
Northern Schools Dance Competition Results

### Friday 24th February 2025

Y7 & 10 Progress Review Day Meetings (Day until 6pm)

## SAFEGUARDING NEWS

### What is The Drop In?

The Drop In is open Monday to Friday 2 - 6pm for children and young people aged 11 - 18 and up to 25 for people with SEND, to access one-to-one support on any issues that may be affecting them. From family problems and bullying to worrying and anxiety our team offer comprehensive support aimed at helping young people move forward.

Accessing The Drop In is easy. No appointment is needed so just Drop In!

The Drop In is open Monday to Friday 2pm - 6pm in Pilgrim Street Youth Arts Centre in Birkenhead. Our full Address is Pilgrim Street Arts Centre, 1 Pilgrim Street, Birkenhead, CH415EH

You can also call them on 0808 196 4147 or email: [thedropin@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:thedropin@wirral.gov.uk)

You can find out more about their service on the following website: <https://www.zillowirral.co.uk/the-drop-in>

### St John Plessington Catholic College

Old Chester Road, Bebington, Wirral, CH63 7LF

Tel: 0151 645 5049 | email: [schooloffice@stjohnplessington.com](mailto:schooloffice@stjohnplessington.com) | Website: [www.stjohnplessington.com](http://www.stjohnplessington.com)

0 Missed school days	4 Missed school days	8 Missed school days	9 Missed school days	11 Missed school days	19 Missed school days	29 Missed school days
100% Attendance	98% Attendance	96% Attendance	95% Attendance	94% Attendance	90% Attendance	85% Attendance

**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