



# NEWSLETTER

St John Plessington Catholic College



## HEADTEACHER'S REFLECTION

Dear St John Plessington Catholic College community,

As we embrace the changing seasons, I'm delighted to share with you the remarkable achievements and exciting events that have been unfolding within our school. Our students continue to inspire us with their talent, dedication, and spirit, embodying the values we hold dear at SJP.

I'm thrilled to announce that our Junk Kouture team has returned from the world final in Dublin, having made an incredible impact. The feedback we've received has been nothing short of amazing, and I couldn't be prouder of everyone involved. I encourage you all to visit our social media pages to see the stunning photos and videos that capture the creativity and innovation of our students.

The buzz of World Book Day celebrations filled our corridors recently, with a plethora of activities that brought literature to life. It was heartening to see our students and staff alike embracing the joy of reading and storytelling. You'll find more details about these wonderful events inside this newsletter.

This weekend, our talented dancers will be taking centre stage at the Floral Pavilion for the Stage Full of Stars competition. We wish them the very best of luck and know they'll shine brightly, representing SJP with grace and skill.

As we enter the season of Lent, we've been encouraging our students to reflect not only on what they might give up but also on what positive actions they can take. It's been inspiring to see our young people embrace this challenge with thoughtfulness and compassion.

Speaking of Lent, I must commend our students for their reverent and respectful behaviour during our Ash Wednesday service. Their conduct was exemplary, marking the start of this important period in our faith calendar with dignity and reflection.

Lastly, I'm delighted to share a remarkable achievement from beyond our school gates. A group of our students recently participated in the Merseyside Police Cyber Challenge, and I'm proud to announce that they secured second place in the final! This is an outstanding accomplishment, especially considering the honour of being shortlisted for the final itself. Well done to all involved – you've made SJP incredibly proud.

As we move forward into the coming weeks, let's continue to support and encourage one another, celebrating our successes and facing challenges with the resilience and unity that defines our SJP community.

Mr Peadar McLoughlin  
Headteacher

## ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

As we continue to strive for excellence in all we do at St John Plessington Catholic College, I would like to take a moment to emphasise the importance of punctuality for our pupils.

Arriving on time is crucial not only for individual learning but also for maintaining a positive and productive classroom environment. When pupils arrive late, they miss valuable instruction time and can disrupt the flow of lessons for their peers. Consistent punctuality fosters a sense of responsibility and respect for the learning process.

Here are a few key points to consider:

**School Start Time:** Our school day begins promptly at 8:35. We encourage all pupils to arrive a few minutes early to ensure they are settled and ready to learn.

**Classroom Etiquette:** Pupils are expected to be in their classrooms on time for each lesson. Late arrivals can hinder their understanding and engagement with the material being taught.

**Communication:** If your child is experiencing difficulties that may affect their punctuality, please do not hesitate to reach out to their form tutor or year team. We are here to support and work with you to find solutions.

**Positive Reinforcement:** Encouraging your child to be on time can contribute to their class's success and foster a sense of community.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us create an environment where all pupils can thrive. Together, we can ensure that every pupil is set up for success from the very start of each school day..



## MARCH 3-7, WEEK 5 OF THE JUBILEE

This week we have been focusing on the theme of compassion.

Compassion is a word made up of two Latin and Greek words. It literally means to suffer with someone. We have or show compassion we are sharing the suffering of someone else, when our hearts connect with their hearts, and we enter into the suffering they are experiencing. There is a lot of evidence in the world right now that compassion is in short supply. As people lose their ability and desire to show compassion, they become capable of tremendous selfishness and even aggression. The result is loneliness and misery.

As Christians we have seen God's plan for us. In the person of Jesus we see what a human person should be and can be. Our hearts burn with love when we read of the compassion Jesus showed to people who were ill, to people who were excluded or bullied, to people who felt friendless.

We ourselves experience compassion for him as he is taken to the cross. His compassion gives us a clear example. It shows how we ourselves can become fully human, become everything we are meant to be, if we follow his example of compassion and accompany those we encounter who are suffering.



## THIS WEEK, WE CELEBRATED ASH WEDNESDAY.

This week we celebrated Ash Wednesday. Pupils and staff had prepared for the beginning of Lent and we were able to distribute ashes to hundreds of students.

Lent is a gift. It is a season where we can refocus on what is important, make room for God in our lives, and share with others.

Next week Mr Jones will lead the CAFOD Lent Walk which is a way to live out the alms giving which are at the heart of Lent. All contributions will support the work of CAFOD.

Support us here: <https://tinyurl.com/yu8t9c4v>

Our SVP Junior group is full of ideas and energy. They are planning a tea drinking event which will produce teabags which in turn, with the help of Mrs Davies will be turned into the decoration of a processional cross for the school made of recycled materials. If that sounds complicated to you, that is because it is. But the energy of this group will see it over the line.

Our Faith in Action group led by Ms Marriott has an important mission. On March 21 they will be leading St Bernard's School in Ellesmere Port in a Pledge Walk for our friends in Dar As Salam, Tanzania. This is a major project as they will present an assembly to the whole school and organise the walk on school grounds.

Numbers in chaplaincy continue to grow. Mrs Harvey and I were especially moved by a group of pupils learning to say the rosary together last week.



## WORLD BOOK DAY!

Thursday 6th March was World Book Day 2025 and the perfect opportunity to relaunch our Library Instagram page. Follow @sjp\_library for the latest library updates, fun challenges, and the best book recommendations on IG!

WORLD  
**BOOK**  
DAY

World Book Day got off to a great start in school with each form reading an intriguing short story titled 'The Man with the Yellow Face' by Anthony Horowitz, taken from his anthology 'The Night Bus'. Literary bunting designs have started to pop up around class doors, and the Hidden Book Challenge has already got some pupils teaming up and hunting for clues around school. Activities are continuing into next week so there is more to come from WBD yet!





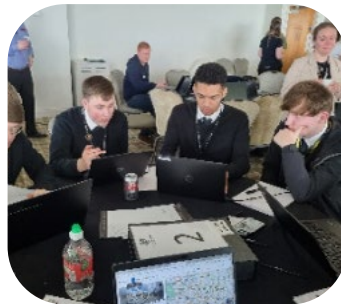
## SCHOOL SHINES AT MERSEYSIDE POLICE CYBER CHALLENGE 2025!

Our students have once again demonstrated their incredible talent by securing 2nd place in the highly competitive Merseyside Police Cyber Challenge 2025! This annual event, designed to test students' digital skills and problem-solving abilities, brought together some of the brightest young minds from schools across the region.

The challenge, hosted by Merseyside Police's Cyber Unit, at Aintree Racecourse, aims to raise awareness about cybersecurity and encourage young people to develop the skills necessary to protect against online threats. Competitors faced a series of complex tasks, including cryptography, ethical hacking, digital forensics, and cyber defence strategies.

Our team, composed of students from Years 12 and 13, worked tirelessly to crack codes, analyse security breaches, and solve intricate cyber puzzles. Their teamwork, strategic thinking, and resilience were evident throughout the competition, earning them well-deserved recognition and praise from industry professionals.

Congratulations to our brilliant team for their hard work and success! Their achievement highlights the importance of digital literacy and inspires us all to be more aware of the ever-evolving world of cybersecurity.

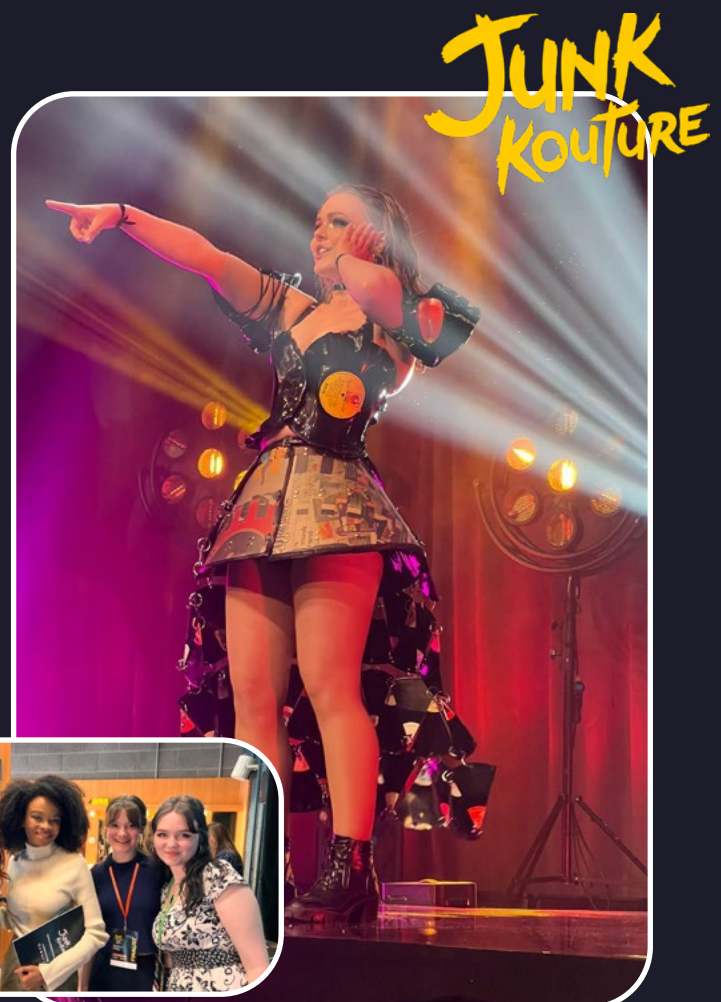


## WHAT A NIGHT AT THE JUNK KOUTURE WORLD FINAL!

'Dress for the Record' were absolutely amazing and did themselves and our community proud! Nat owned the stage with incredible presence, while Lydia and Hannah showcased their talent and creativity as the most supportive and inspiring designers.

The friendships made with the Jersey girls were truly magical, and the memories created will last a lifetime. We are beyond proud of you all—what an achievement!

#JunkKouture #WorldFinal #DressForTheRecord





## WIRRAL CUP 7S FINALISTS – A BRILLIANT EFFORT!

Wirral Cup 7s tournament. Losing finalists, the boys were brilliant. Beaten by a very strong Woodchurch team. Well done boys



## YEAR 10 LEADERS TAKE CHARGE IN NETBALL MATCHES!

Year 10 leaders running a court each umpiring the game! All girls played well as a team - and even some playing for different year groups!



## YEAR 7 & 8 NETBALL TEAMS REACH WIRRAL LEAGUE SEMI-FINALS!

Well done to the Yr7 and Yr8 netball teams who have made it through to the semi final of the Wirral Netball League. Both teams play Neston next week, good luck girls!



## YEAR 9 GIRLS KICK OFF 'SHE INSPIRES' FOOTBALL PROGRAMME WITH EVERTON IN THE COMMUNITY

This week saw the start of our She Inspires programme ran by Everton in the Community. Yr9 girls are learning core values and football skills led by EFC coaches. We also have two Yr8 girls and two Yr10 girls who are Peer Mentors and working towards a coaching qualification. We had great feedback from the coaches this week, well done girls!



## U15 NATIONAL SCHOOL GIRLS CUP FINALISTS!

A Brilliant Win 2-1 Semi Final Win in the U15 National School Girls Cup against York SFA .Into the Final at Stoke City's Bet 365 Stadium In May .

Well done Nancy, Olivia and Emily



## CHRISTOPHER SALMON POETRY COMPETITION – BEST OF LUCK TO OUR STUDENTS!

Students in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 have entered the Christopher Salmon Poetry Competition for this year.

Y7 - India Doherty, Olivia Rose Davies, Albiniaa Anthony Raj, Macie-Leigh Kelly, Y8 - Aleksandra Kot, Lucas Sibi, Year 9 - Amelia McCready Waters, Atrina Mullaamina and Y10 - Stephen Lucas.

Check out all the entries here: [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/154kwhDoEcxCml4c6o0N2cssh1yGiMXJzivqQTkTYi6c/edit#slide=id.g33dc43c1485\\_0\\_56](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/154kwhDoEcxCml4c6o0N2cssh1yGiMXJzivqQTkTYi6c/edit#slide=id.g33dc43c1485_0_56)



## CAREERS FOCUS – NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 2025

It's been a busy week with National Careers Week 2025 providing a major focus on our careers provision.

For the younger year groups (7 to 9), via Google Classroom students have been given information relating to their subject option choices. This is very relevant, especially for our Year 9 cohort, who will be attending their Options Evening next Thursday (13/3/25).

For our older students (years 10 to 13), information has been provided on several sectors including Animal Care and Engineering, as well as exploring apprenticeships and how to construct a quality CV. SJP Year 12 – European Youth Parliament (EYP) – Debate Team

One of the highlights of this week has been the performance of a delegation of eight students selected to take part in the EYP Merseyside Debate Challenge 2025. They had to debate a range of

topics with seven other schools throughout the day and their reasoned arguments reflected our catholic ethos wonderfully well. If you read the feedback below from Rachael Carroll, Lead organiser and juror, you will understand why we are immensely proud of the way they conducted themselves and represented our community.

'The students who attended, representing St John Plessington, showed astounding enthusiasm and respect to all the other delegates taking part. Your students were recognised for their incredible willingness to take part in energisers and completely get involved with the session which was amazing to see.

Within the debates they scored very high in evidence of prior preparation, active listening and decorum. Overall, St John Plessington students were incredibly articulate, and their ability to grasp complex issues respectfully was fantastic.'





# 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](mailto:rhiaijones@hfcmat.com)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday 9th March 2025

Stage Full of Stars, Floral Pavilion Dance Performance

### Monday 10th March 2025

British Science Week  
CAFOD Big Lent Walk

### Tuesday 11th March 2025

British Science Week  
CAFOD Big Lent Walk

### Wednesday 12th March 2025

British Science Week  
CAFOD Big Lent Walk

### Thursday 13th March 2025

'She Inspires' Everton in the Community  
Key Stage 4 Information Evening  
British Science Week  
CAFOD Big Lent Walk

### Friday 14th March 2025

CAFOD Family Fast Day  
British Science Week  
CAFOD Big Lent Walk

## SAFEGUARDING NEWS

This week, we would like to make all parents aware about an app that is becoming popular amongst our young people.

Monkey App

The Monkey App state that "individuals who are under the age of 18 are strictly prohibited from using Monkey".

### What is Monkey?

Monkey is a live video chat that connects users from across the globe. Monkey state that they are an alternative for Omegle (which we always advised children not to use due to safety concerns) The Monkey app, which is pitched at teenagers, lets users talk face-to-face with random strangers and the app has no age-verification.

### What do I need to be aware of?

- Chatting and inappropriate language: as with all platforms of this nature, users will be in contact with strangers and may encounter inappropriate language.
- Harmful content: Due to the nature of this platform, there is a risk of exposure to harmful or explicit content.
- In app purchases: Monkey is free to use but in app purchases are available (currently ranging from £4.39 for a week membership to £81.99 for an annual membership).

There are reporting and blocking features available.

Further information

Internet Matters discuss this app in further detail as well as provide further information on how to protect your child:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-monkey-appsafety-parent-guide/>

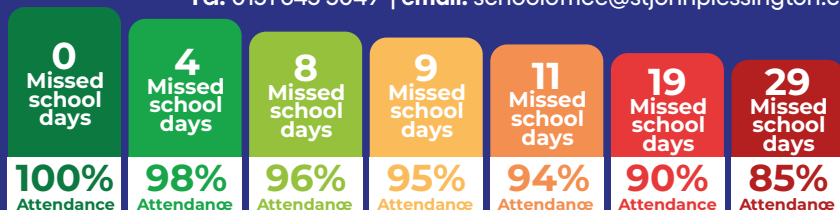
The NSPCC also provide further advice about livestreaming and the risks here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/livestreaming-online-video-apps/>

### St John Plessington Catholic College

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**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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