



NEWSLETTER

St John Plessington Catholic College



HEADTEACHER'S REFLECTION

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As we continue our journey through this academic year, I would like to take a moment to express my thanks for the fantastic return of good behaviour and uniform standards across our college. Your commitment to upholding our values of **Pride, Respect, and Determination** is truly commendable and contributes to the positive atmosphere we strive to create.

I would also like to remind everyone of the importance of **good attendance and punctuality**. Regular attendance is crucial for academic success and personal development. Please ensure that students arrive on time and are ready to engage in their learning each day.

Thank you for your continued support in fostering an inclusive and respectful community. Together, we can achieve excellence in all we do.

Mr McLoughlin
Headteacher

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Day is a poignant time for reflection, offering both staff and students the opportunity to honor and remember those who are no longer with us. This year, the day was led by our Trust Chaplain, Hans van Mourik Broekman, and brought our community together in a meaningful Act of Remembrance.

Students and staff contributed heartfelt messages to loved ones, carefully placed within poppies as part of a stunning display.

A beautifully moving reading of 'In Flanders Fields' was delivered by the Chair of the Junior Leadership Team.

The Last Post, performed by Mr. Richard Austin, marked the beginning of a reflective silence, during which we honored the sacrifices of those who lost their lives in war.

You can watch our Remembrance Day reflection here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3LvEBjn7DP0&t=294s>



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.



EPHESIANS 4:3 - Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace

THEME OF THE WEEK

In our Celebrations of the Word we have been reflecting on the story of Jesus and the poor widow in Mark's Gospel. Jesus calls his disciples over to him to teach them an important lesson. The poor widow whom they look down on as giving too little money is in fact the most generous person they will ever meet. She gives all that she has out of her poverty, whereas others only give out of their abundance. Jesus teaches us to look at the world with new eyes. Whereas we tend to focus on success, flash, and impressing others, the widow's humble little gift which was in fact her whole fortune teaches us not to be fooled by appearances but always look with our hearts to the heart of others, to see as God sees, not as the world teaches. With this gaze on other people, we are able to discern true love and true generosity, and respect the dignity of every person, no matter their background or economic status. In this way, we recognize God among us.

NINE DAY COUNTDOWN WINNERS!

Congratulations to the winners of the Nine Day Countdown Attendance Draw. Here are some of the pupils who won after being presented with their prize.

Pupils with 100% attendance from 14 October to 24 October were entered into a prize draw with 2 lucky winners being drawn from each form.

A big well done too to all of those pupils that have 100% attendance since we returned in September!

We are now on the countdown to Christmas with the famous 'In it to win it' draw which is based on the number of positive points awarded for behaviour and attendance!





YEAR 7 NETBALL MATCH WIRRAL GRAMMAR

The Year 7 netballers have been making great progress in training, coming together as a team and developing their skills. Following their win against South Wirral, the team has their first game in the Wirral Netball League this week. They played Wirral Grammar, just missing out on victory with the score 9-8 to Wirral. The win could have gone either way and an excellent standard of netball was played. Farrah Stewart received opposition player of the match, however all girls played exceptionally well. It was lovely to have so many supporters on the sideline too. Well done everyone!



YEAR 7/8 GIRLS FOOTBALL - UTILITACUP

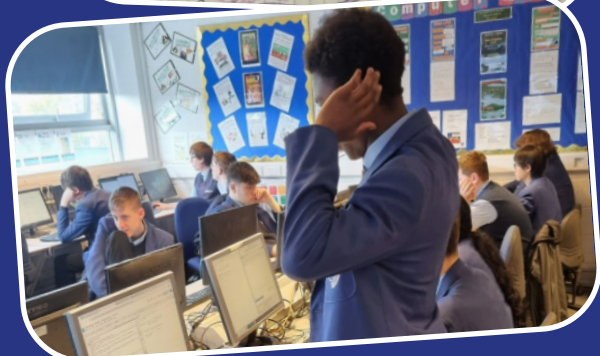
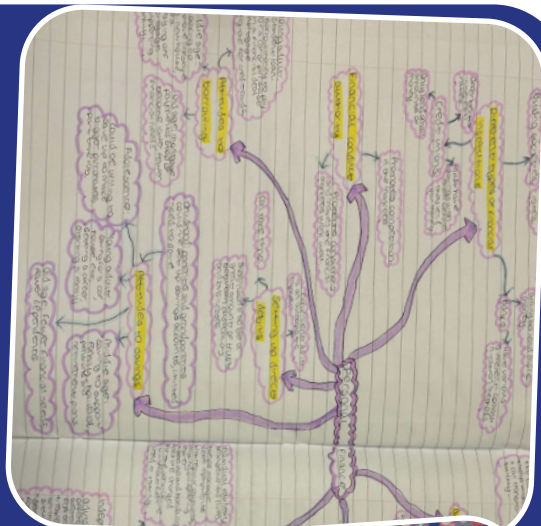
This week saw the return of the Tranmere Rovers Utilita Cup. The Yr8 girls visited Weatherhead for the tournament, with games against other schools from the Wirral and Ellesmere Port. Playing for the first time as a team, the girls played so well, communicating effectively and working together. Lucy Sawley, Rachel Trueman and Summer Williams all scored in our win against EPCH, with all the team contributing to the build up play. Well done girls, we're really proud of you all!

BEAUTIFUL WORK

Year 13 Business Studies students have been working extremely hard in preparation for their mocks. Their mock is based on Personal and Business Finance.

Students have been learning about the importance of borrowing and savings and being able to analyse the importance of reviewing interest rates in banking. Students have been analysing how Businesses perform through financial planning and forecasting.

Year 11 Computer Science have been studying how to use lists in Python. Their challenge was to create a program that simulates the game "Simon Says...". The pupils had to program the game using lists and then test the program. Here is one of our Year 11 pupils David who was testing out his program.



INSPIRING INSIGHTS FROM GREG PATERAS

On Tuesday our Sixth Form pupils were fortunate to listen to our guest speaker Greg Pateras who was raised by his grandparents, supported himself through university with an acting gig, and became CFO of a multi billion pound company by the age of 34. Greg inspired our pupils and left them coming away knowing that if you have the drive and work ethic to achieve and you take advantage of all opportunities you are presented with,

including those you yourself need to chase, you can achieve great things! Insightful questions from our pupils demonstrated not only how well they had engaged, but how motivated Greg left them feeling. Some of them have even been promised some industry links to help them research their chosen career pathways further.



TUESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

Last Tuesday our amazing musicians performed at our termly event 'Tuesday Night Live' which was held for the first time in Future Yard in Birkenhead. It was a wonderful evening and showcased some of the incredible talents we have in our community. A huge well done to everyone who performed.





RE DEPARTMENT TRIP TO POLAND

Over October half term, 20 of our Sixth Form pupils ventured to Poland with the RE Department. The trip included a guided tour of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. This powerful experience allowed students to reflect on the Holocaust's impact and the importance of remembrance. A highlight of the trip was meeting a Holocaust survivor, whose story brought history to life and left a lasting impression on everyone. The students returned with a deeper understanding of tolerance, justice, and the need to stand against discrimination. Throughout the trip, students were encouraged to reflect on themes of justice, tolerance, and compassion. They returned with a new found appreciation for the importance of respecting diversity and standing up against discrimination in all its forms. It was an enlightening experience that the students will carry with them for years to come, leaving them inspired to build a more compassionate world.

The RE department would like to thank the students for their respectful participation and thoughtful engagement, which made this trip truly memorable for everyone involved.



GEOGRAPHY NEWS

This year we retained our Ecoschools Green Flag this with a Distinction. We received excellent feedback 'Clearly a lot of consideration was given to how you would meaningfully embrace the Eco-Schools' ethic and involve your entire school community in your activities. We especially appreciate that thought was given to how clearly you set your goals. We are impressed with how much time and effort you have put into the action plan, including the ideas to have everyone more aware of their energy consumption, to have more recycling at school and to extend the outdoor growing space. It is evident that young people in your school are aware of environmental issues and passionate about protecting our planet. Congratulations on your Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction. We encourage everyone involved to take great pride from their wonderful achievements – your year of activity has been inspiring.



GOVERNORS NEWS

Mrs Joanne Tuite (Parent)

Hi, I'm Joanne and I am a Parent Governor at St. John Plessington. It's a privilege to be able to engage with staff and pupils and to see the great work that goes on within the school community. My children are former SJP pupils who enjoyed their time in school before moving onto the purpose built Sixth Form Centre where they benefitted from the academic and pastoral support on offer.



CAREERS FOCUS 10-24 – AIRPORT AND AVIATION

Have you been lucky enough to ‘fly away’ on a holiday recently? If you have, you will have seen lots of people within the airport at work – security guards, baggage handlers, check in attendants, retailers, cleaners: then when boarding, air hosts and hostesses, maybe even the pilot (how many of you thought of a ‘man’ when you read pilot? – time to think again).

There are hundreds of different jobs within airports and within aviation. Aviation comes from the Latin avis meaning “bird,” an appropriate translation

given that aviation deals with travel by air in a plane. The aviation industry is the business sector dedicated to manufacturing and operating all types of aircraft. Jobs here include engineering, cabin fitters, ground operation controllers etc.

Some of you will have heard of the ‘Farnborough Air-show’. Les Freer is the airport operations director at Farnborough Airport and has a wealth of experience you might be interested in. Check out the video link below to find out more (longer than usual but well worth a watch).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnR5HHvAr9A>



**Tomorrow's
Engineers
WEEK**

Also, did you know that this week is

STEM QUIZ – how much do you know about STEM? Take the quick quiz below to find out – don't worry if you don't know all the answers, you can re-take the quiz until you do:

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/stem-quiz/>

NOTE - We will visit the ‘engineering’ sector in much more depth later in the year to explore future routes that may be of interest to you – the quiz is just a ‘taster’ to get you thinking.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next week is Road Safety Week - Pupils will learn about keeping themselves and others safe

SAFEGUARDING NEWS:

This week we have celebrated Anti-Bullying Week in school. The theme for this year is 'Choose Respect'. All students have attended assemblies and have had sessions during enrichment and form time to raise awareness about Anti-Bullying. We also celebrated Odd Socks Day on Tuesday, the day sends an important message to pupils that they should be allowed to be themselves free from bullying and helps us celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a fun and positive way.

Bullying is when individuals or groups seek to harm, intimidate or coerce someone who is perceived to be vulnerable (Oxford English Dictionary, 2021).

Bullying and cyberbullying can be a form of discrimination, particularly if it is based on a child's disability, race, religion or belief, gender identity or sexuality.

At SJP we are dedicated to ensuring that students learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. Bullying is anti-social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Alongside school, as a parent or carer, you are also vital in tackling bullying. If you have are worried about bullying, or you need some advice and support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

You can report a concern via our school website <https://www.stjohnplessington.com/about-us/report-a-concern>

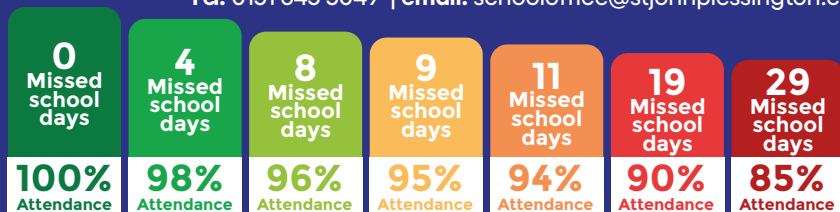
In addition, KidScope is an excellent platform for additional support and also off an advice line for parents.

<https://www.kidscape.org.uk/advice/advice-for-parents-and-carers>

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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