

ST JOHN PAYNE



AVITA PRO FIDE



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2024

*St. John Payne Catholic School, Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex,
CM1 4BS 01245256030 | office@sjp.essex.sch.uk | Headteacher:
Mr Thomas Coen, BA (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH*



HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS

Dear St John Payne Community

It is always lovely to welcome the students back to school and to begin a new academic year.

We congratulate students on their success in their exams, with Year 13 progressing to university or apprenticeships, and many of last year's Year 11 remaining with us for sixth form. This year we are pleased also to welcome upwards of thirty students who join our sixth form from other schools. We offer prayers and warm wishes to all who have progressed to new ventures elsewhere.

Throughout October we have joined as a community to pray The Angelus daily at midday. We continue our weekly Form Masses in the chapel each Friday, blessed and so warmly served by our local parish priests - Fr Paul of The Blessed Sacrament, and Fr Martin & Fr Damien of St Augustine, Our Lady Immaculate & Holy Name, and by priests from across the Deanery. Masses throughout the early weeks of term have united staff in witness with Year 7 & 12 students on the Feast of our Lady of Sorrows, and for our Mass of Welcome for Year 7 and their families. A growing group of students from Years 9 -13 continue to attend the monthly Youth Mass at Brentwood Cathedral. All are welcome.

With schools showcasing their communities to prospective families seeking education both for Year 7 & Year 12, we were delighted to welcome visitors to our open evening, many also visiting for a tour during the day throughout the following weeks to experience the school's spirit in full flow. Ever our greatest ambassadors, our students have offered excellent service and representation.





HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS

Aquinas hall is full of energy and excitement in the evenings as students rehearse for our main school show - Matilda, with over 120 students performing. September's Jack Petchey awards at the Civic Theatre were a wonderful celebration of young people's talent from across the city and surrounding areas, SJP well represented by award recipients. It was also lovely for our choir to participate with children from schools across the city in a performance of Dido & Aeneas.

We continue our tradition of charity fundraising and giving, with our harvest collection extending year round. Items can be left in Form rooms to be delivered to foodbanks. We continue to donate to CAFOD, Aid to the Church in Need, Cancer research, and Chess, and are again appealing for support for our appeal for stationery to aid school children in Brazil.

In Faith,

God Bless.

Mr T. Coen
Headteacher





CHAPLAINCY FAITH LIFE

The faith life of the school has been buzzing with praise and glory to God.

On the first day back, the students in Years 7 & 12 enjoyed a beautiful Mass with the staff. Year 7 raised the roof with their amazing singing. Just as St Augustine says rightly, 'Singing is for one who loves'. We thank Fr Paul for bringing us Jesus!

Year 7 enjoyed their Community Mass in October with parents, staff and Governors. Fr Damien came to celebrate this with us and it was a lovely occasion.

Every day starts and ends in prayer. During the month of October (Month of the Rosary), the whole school stops at 12noon and prays The Angelus. This devotion to Our Lady is led by students.

We thank our wonderful deanery priests for bringing us Jesus every week at the Eucharistic miracle in Mass, this term has seen Year 13 celebrate their form Mass on a Friday at 12noon.

On Friday 11th October, over 40 students were asked to join the headteachers conference to provide the music and choir for the Bishop's Mass. My heart was bursting with pride at how beautifully they sang and played their instruments. The headteachers' were full of praise, and Bishop Alan was delighted and offered his thanks and appreciation. The students involved are a credit to their families, school, and wider church communities.

Chaplaincy clubs are thriving. CST club in the Chapel will soon be changing to a Youth SVP club. On a Thursday lunchtime we offer the Rosary & Adoration – this is led by me, members of SLT and our wonderful ladies from the legion of Mary. All are welcome!

The ever-popular Thursday morning Mass in the Chapel is well attended by students & staff. We thank Fr Martin & Fr Damien for your continued support and bringing us the blessed sacrament. This is a time to offer our day to God and ask for his guidance throughout the week. A special mention to Dorian Jurijczuk in 11C who has served at every morning Mass for over a year, sacrificing his own time to serve the community. Also, a huge shout out to John Waring in 11C who also attends this Mass every week and reads the Word of the Lord with reverence and praise. This month John received a Jack Petchey award for his servant leadership to the SJP community. Congratulations John, so well deserved.





CHAPLAINCY FAITH LIFE



Going forward:

On the 1st of November, all Catholics are encouraged to attend Mass for this special Holy day of Obligation. As this year it falls in the Half-term, you will need to check your parish newsletter for Mass times.

On Friday 8th November, we will celebrate a Mass for the deceased in our community. This will be held within the school day so that all students wanting to attend will have the opportunity to do so. If any families wish to have their past loved ones prayed for, please email me on: KAD@sjp.essex.sch.uk

We continue to enjoy Youth Mass at Brentwood Cathedral on the 1st Thursday of every month. Places on the minibus go quickly so please let me know asap if your child wants to travel with me on the school minibus.

During the season of Advent, every student will witness the scripture, prayers, and faith preparation for the coming of Christ with weekly gatherings of lighting the Advent Wreath and an Advent Service assembly. Our Catholic community will welcome all our deanery priests for the Holy Sacrament of Reconciliation.

On the last day the school term, the whole community will enjoy an uplifting Christmas Carol Service. Our families and wider community will be warmly invited on Thursday 19th at 6pm to enjoy the Carol Service and refreshments after the event. After all, Christ is the reason for the season.

I wish you all an enjoyable break and look forward to your return.

With prayers & thanks,

Lay Chaplain

Katy Adams



Jack Petchey Winners



NEW STAFF INTRODUCTIONS



**Mr Riches - HOD
Music**



**Mrs Gunn- HOD
Science**



**Miss Heidelmann-
Science Teacher**



**Mr Lusby-
Science
Teacher**



**Mr Hewlett-
Head of Sixth
Form**



**Mrs Sykes-
ML Teacher**



**Miss Daniel-
Science
Teacher**



**Mrs Good-
Finance Assistant**



**Miss Regan-
Pastoral
Mentor**



**Mrs Zawadska -
Librarian**



**Mr Pittman-
Exams Officer**



**Miss Smart-
LSA**




**Miss Zheng-
Catering
Assistant**

STUDENT AWARDS



Student Awards



	Total Year Group Achievement Points	Highest Form Achievement points	Highest Achievement Points In the Year
Year 7	12,651	7C 3140	Aaron F 7C 171 Achievement Points
Year 8	7,921	8S 1719	Agastya D 8C 123 Achievement Points
Year 9	7,445	9F 2030	Rio G 9D 119 Achievement Points
Year 10	6,247	10B 1169	Freddie G 10S 107 Achievement Points
Year 11	3,036	11B 717	Ariel O 11A 132 Achievement Points

Sporting Achievements



Rugby Tournament Success for Year 7 Boys

The Year 7 boys represented our school in a thrilling rugby tournament this week. Competing against several local schools, our team showed incredible determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout. Out of the three matches they played, the boys won two with impressive performances, narrowly losing the third. The victories were a true testament to their hard work and growing skills, and they can be proud of their efforts. Well done, Year 7!

Football Friendlies and District Matches – Years 7, 8 & 9

Our football teams across Years 7, 8, and 9 have been busy, playing both friendly matches and district-level competitions over the past week. These matches have given our younger footballers valuable experience on the pitch, with all three teams showing excellent progress in their development. There were some standout moments of teamwork and individual skill, which promises great things for the rest of the season. Keep up the good work, boys!

District Cup Competitions – Years 10, 11 & Sixth Form

In senior football news, Years 10, 11, and the Sixth Form teams have been competing in the highly anticipated district cup competitions. It's been a challenging round for some of our teams, with Year 10 and Sixth Form unfortunately losing their matches. Despite the losses, both teams will now move on to the plate competition, where they will have another opportunity to show their potential and fight for success.

London Lions Basketball Trip

On Thursday 16th October, 30 pupils from years 7-11 had the opportunity to watch the London Lions Men's Basketball team play in the professional English basketball League at the Copper Box arena in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford.

They were accompanied by Mrs Watson, Mr Ryan and Mr Taylor from the PE staff for the fixture against the Bristol Flyers, experiencing a great atmosphere and showing them the potential level of play that they aspire to reach in the future as the majority of the pupils involved play and train with our school squads. It was a good game, close for long periods with some high-level skills on display on both sides of the ball throughout and the usual mix of tough defence, 3-point shooting and spectacular dunks. Mrs Watson took to the court at the half time interval for a competition with another teacher and she walked away with two basketball jerseys that were given out to the students. All enjoyed their evening and hopefully we can repeat the experience again in the future. Many thanks to Mrs Watson for arranging the trip and to the pupils involved for their courteous behaviour and exemplary attitude.



Netball Season Update

This season has kicked off with great energy for our netball teams! Year 7 recently enjoyed a friendly match against CCHS, showing fantastic team spirit and gaining valuable experience. Meanwhile, our Year 8, 9, 10, and 11 teams have dived straight into their league matches, delivering some impressive performances already. Let's keep up the momentum—make sure you're attending training regularly, as it's the key to continued success on the court!



Our basketball season is off to a strong start! Year 7 recently played a friendly game, showing great potential and teamwork. Year 8, 9, 10, and 11 have already begun their league matches, giving it their all on the court. Special shout-out to our Year 9/U14 team, who are taking on the added challenge of Essex Cup fixtures. Keep up the hard work and make sure you're attending training—every session counts towards achieving success this season!



Girl's football Season Update

It's been a great start to the season for our girls' football teams! In October, Year 9 and 10 competed brilliantly in a tournament, showcasing their skills and determination. Year 7 and 8 also have plenty of exciting league fixtures lined up, so there's lots to look forward to. We're also on the lookout for a football coach to help support our training sessions. If you know of anyone who might be interested in partnering with us, please contact the Head of PE.

I'm thrilled to share some incredible news with you. A huge congratulations to St John Payne alumna Didi Okoh, who has won a bronze medal in the Women's 100m at the Paris Paralympics! What an absolutely brilliant and inspiring debut on the world stage!

Didi's journey has been nothing short of amazing, transitioning from running the 800m as a junior to sprinting for GB in the 100m. She was diagnosed with lymphedema while still a student here at St John Payne, but that didn't stop her. Didi has been in to school to share her success but also to speak with us and raise awareness about lymphedema. We couldn't be more proud! Well done Didi!



Sporting Achievements



CROSS COUNTRY SEASON

Our Cross Country season is well underway and we are seeing a good attendance at the afterschool club each week. I cannot reiterate enough how good running can be for both the body and mind.

As our season gets underway, our school entered the Cross Country Cup first round, which is always a tough event, competing against some really good schools. Qualifying for the next stage of this competition is always going to be tough, with the first four runners needing to score good points. Our teams ran really well, but I must highlight and congratulate the Inter Boys team who were awesome on the day and as a result, have now qualified for the next round. Outstanding.

Cross Country Club takes place every Wednesday afterschool. Give it a go, you never know



Sprint with the Stars - 29th September 2024

On 29th September Annabel in year 8, attended the Adam Peaty Sprint with the Stars event held at the London Aquatics Centre.

Annabel raced alongside Angharad Evans, the British champion and Olympic finalist. Annabel did extremely well and she qualified for the final of the 12-year-old girls 50m breaststroke.

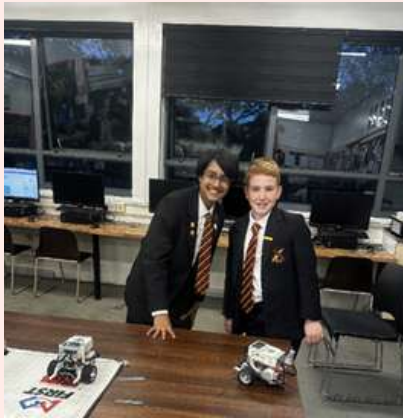
In the final Annabel was placed 3rd behind the Olympian and one other competitor who was half a second faster than her, it was very close. Annabel swam a personal best time of 37:85. We congratulate Annabel on her success at this exciting event.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Open Evening 2024



I am blessed and honoured to serve and lead as Headteacher of St John Payne Catholic School. **We have long enjoyed a glowing reputation as a community of learning and faith**, both in the local community and beyond. It is a reputation that owes much to the wonderful formation students are afforded by our feeder schools, and has been forged by generations of students, teachers, parents and carers, and clergy whose association with the school continues to yield great warmth, affection, and the highest regard.

We are acutely aware of the guiding purpose that sustains **our long standing record of academic success and pastoral care**. Such success is attributed to the Gospel values that underpin all that we do, witnessed by the words above the entrance to our Chapel corridor. Be it known to all who enter here that Christ is the reason for this school.

Jesus' words to those disciples who would deny the children access to him are prominent in our minds and hearts at St John Payne, where children are known and loved as individuals created in Christ's image, and where we feel privileged to play a part in their education. We practise discipline with dignity whilst remaining resolute in the pursuit of high expectations to support students' spiritual, social, moral and academic growth. **We recognise parents and carers as a child's first teachers**, and are hugely appreciative of the support of the three way partnership between home, school and parish.

Throughout all that we do, students are supported and encouraged to fulfil their God given potential and to become the best versions of themselves: the people God created them to be. **Visitors frequently comment upon our distinctive identity and sense of community**. This is established by students' positive attitude to learning, by their sense of belonging, and by their witness of our faith. Should you wish to visit they would love to show you around. They truly are our very best ambassadors.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Pupils feel part of a welcoming and inclusive family. They are valued, whatever their faith, sexuality, or home language. Pupils are taught in a caring, supportive environment. Pupils and staff describe it as being part of a community, and some a 'big family'.

—Ofsted



Science Highlights



One of our past pupils and current medicine student visited us at school last week before her return to university. She shared invaluable insight and advice to students from year 11, 12 and 13 who are interested in pursuing a career in this field.



Year 7 science club has got off to a flying start. Supported by our wonderful year 12 students, the year 7 scientists have been busy making orbeez, investigating waves in marshmallows and completing mirror mazes! All in the first two sessions with lots more fun science activities to come!





Term 1a 2024

There is nothing complicated about learning languages, but it takes hard work.

These students have showed particular grit, resilience, curiosity and effort in embedding French/German knowledge into their long-term memory. They will have a very strong end to the academic year in French and German because they have not given up and continued to ask questions and check their memory.

Year 7 French	Year 8 French	Year 8 German	Year 9 French	Year 9 German
Kamsi E (7B)	Chloe G (8C)	Maeve K (8B)	Charlotte B (9D)	Leon S (9A)
Moksh K (7C)	Romina N (8S)	Joshua C (8C)	Emma M (9F)	Clara F (9C)
Quinn M (7D)	Luca G (8A)	Alyson G (8F)	Maximilian W (9A)	Orla M (9F)
Ioanna K (7F)	Dee M (8D)	Eliza P (8D)	Makayla T (9D)	Bethany-Jayne W-H (9D)
Clarke F (7S)	Michael J (8F)	Gracie B (8F)	Tiffany W (9S)	Tiffany W (9S)

Moreover, SJP Top Linguastars are chosen amongst all others for their excellence.

Conor H (7A) Excellent start to his French learning due to interest and intrigue. Very good written work and class participation.

Toby M (8A) Excellent start to year 8 German with some fabulous quiz scores due to effort at home and good resilience.

Sienna F (8A) Excellent start to German with a positive attitude to learning displaying resilience and effort every lesson.

Leon S (9A) Excellent contribution in lessons and great homework submission due to commitment to studies.

Nkechi O (9A) A conscientious and mature student who always gives of her best because she knows that knowledge is developed over time.

Robert R (10A) Excellent start to the GCSE course and very good understanding of French conjugation of verbs in the present tense due to grit and resilience.

Katie O-C (10D) Exceptional start to GCSE French with impressive LCWSC vocabulary recall and sound knowledge of present/conditional tenses in autonomous writing due to home study.

Freddie G (10S) Excellent written work thanks to effort in vocabulary learning at home and high-level participation in lessons.

Annabelle R A (11D) Incredible resilience in striving to achieve her best, especially in her written work.

Olivia P (11A) Excellent written work due to drive to do well and regular attendance at all revision sessions.

Lilla P (13S) High level of accuracy due to good use of study periods to consolidate verb endings and synonyms, and impressive well-thought out answers to spontaneous questions because of culturally-relevant statistics.

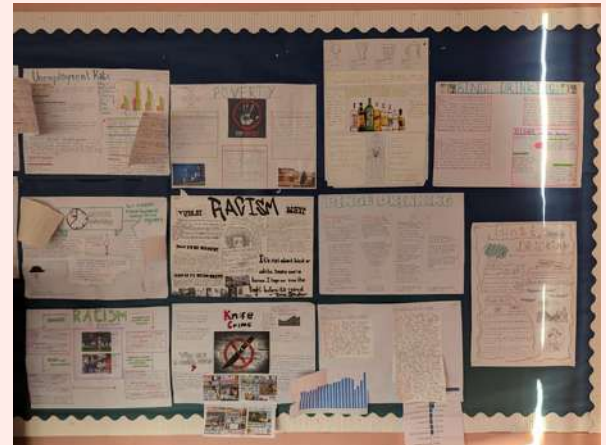
Lilli O (13F) Lilli has made an excellent effort to get to grips with the main themes of our literary text. She is also learning vocabulary and grammar thoroughly.

Year 10 Sociological Social Issues



Our new Sociology learners in Year 10 were tasked with identifying an issue in society they would be interested in resolving from a sociological perspective. The learners conducted research on these issues, ranging from knife crime to racism, and produced these wonderful posters on how these issues could be studied and resolved.

Sociology is the systematic study of society, peoples and issues with the aim being to tackle inequalities and injustices through the formation of social policies. It is offered at GCSE and A Level.



Mr Matthews

Head of Sociology and Criminology



Sports Readers

We are excited to announce that Sports Readers Breakfast Club 2024 has officially launched! We've had a great first few weeks of reading, with selected Y7 & 8 students meeting their new Y12 buddies. This literacy initiative is a wonderful opportunity to see our students flourishing as they embark on a paired reading project. We enjoyed a pizza party to launch the project and have now settled into the weekly morning sessions in the library. Reading, breakfast, socialising... and hot chocolate!



Year 11 GCSE ART



The final GCSE exam pieces for the theme of 'Power' from our very talented Y11 '24"



Year 11 GCSE ART



The final GCSE exam pieces for the theme of 'Power' from our very talented Y11 '24"



Year 11 GCSE ART



The final GCSE exam pieces for the theme of 'Power' from our very talented Y11 '24"



YEAR 7 & 8 DISCO



ST JOHN PAYNE SCHOOL

YEAR 7 & 8 DISCO

On Friday 15th November 2024
7:00PM - 8:30PM

PURCHASE TICKETS FOR £5 ON PARENTPAY

Please be dropped off & picked up by a
parent/guardian at Aquinas Hall

Non-uniform dress code applies | No phones

MONEY WILL BE GOING TO THE PTA

ST JOHN PAYNE



AVITA PRO FIDE

KEY SCHOOL EVENTS



Whole School Musical Update Matilda Jr



School Musical Auditions a Success!

This year's school musical, Matilda Jr., has seen an overwhelming response from students. A record-breaking 130 students from Year 7 to Year 13 auditioned for the production, making it the largest cast ever assembled for a school musical at our school. With rehearsals now in full swing, the students are working diligently both after school and during lunchtime to bring this beloved story to life. We extend our sincere gratitude to the families of the performers for their unwavering support.



The cast will be performing six shows this year, including two morning performances for local primary schools and a relaxed morning performance to Columbus students, followed by three evening performances for the public. Tickets will be available for purchase soon through ParentPay, so keep an eye out for more information. The performances will take place on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, February 5th to 7th, 2025.



The Matilda's working hard in rehearsals



A Roaring Success: SJP Choir - Gabrieli Roar Experience

On Wednesday, October 16th, eleven members of our school choir had the incredible opportunity to participate in a Gabrieli Roar event. Under the guidance of the Roar Vocal leaders, our students learned choruses from the opera Dido and Aeneas, which they performed in a multi-school concert at King Edward Grammar School alongside students from King Edward's and Girls High. The performance featured the Gabrieli Consort and an orchestra of musicians from Gabrieli Players, conducted by Paul McCreesh, along with professional soloists.



This was a truly exciting experience for our choir members. They were exposed to the beauty of classical theatrical music, worked with professional musicians and operatic singers, collaborated with other young people from local schools, and gained valuable experience performing in front of a live audience. The audience was thoroughly impressed by our students' confidence and professionalism, and many of the students' family members who attended the concert were captivated by the experience, even if they had never previously been exposed to opera.



We are incredibly proud of our St John Payne performers for their outstanding performance. The Gabrieli Consort's mission to expose young people to the classics and cultural diversity is a valuable one, and we are grateful for the opportunity to have our students participate in this enriching experience.

We must also thank our new Head of Music, Mr. Riches, for organising such an amazing opportunity. His dedication and enthusiasm were instrumental in making this event a success. We were particularly impressed to see him perform with the choir, showcasing his impressive tenor vocals.

Please congratulate our performers: Ioanna 7F, Samara 10A, Catherine 7S, Omosalewa 7A, Elizabella 7F, Erin 7F, Elsie 7F, Hope 7F, Ebuloluwa 7D, Eva 8 and, Mia 7F.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT



GABRIELI
ROAR

DIDO AND AENEAS

MUSIC BY HENRY PURCELL
LIBRETTO BY NAHUM TATE

GABRIELI CONSORT AND PLAYERS, GABRIELI ROAR,
ESSEX MUSIC SERVICE CHOIRS


DIRECTED BY PAUL MCCREESH
with CHARLES MACDOUGALL and EMILY DICKENS

CAST

DIDO	HELEN CHARLSTON
BELINDA/ST WITCH	HILARY CRONIN
2ND WOMAN/2ND WITCH	ZOE BROOKSHAW
SPIRIT	EMILY DICKENS
SORCERESS	MARTHA MCLORINAN
ALTO CHORUS	DAVID CLEGG
TENOR CHORUS	CHARLES MACDOUGALL
TENOR CHORUS	CHRISTOPHER FITZGERALD-LOMBARD
AENEAS	MARCUS FARNSWORTH
SAILOR	MALACHY FRAME

ENSEMBLE

VIOLIN I	CATHERINE MARTIN
VIOLIN II	OLIVER WEBBER
VIOLA	RACHEL BYRT
BASS VIOLIN	CHRISTOPHER SUCKLING
THEORBO/GUITAR	PAULA CHATEAUNEUF
THEORBO/GUITAR	ELIGIO LUIS QUINTEIRO
HARPSICHORD	JAN WATERFIELD



GABRIELI
ROAR

Overture

Scene 1 - Dido's Palace
"If love's a sweet passion why does it torment" [Purcell: 'The Fairy Queen', 1692]

Scene 2 - The Witches' Cavern
"Double, double, toil and trouble" [Shakespeare: 'Macbeth', 1606-7]

Scene 3 - A Grove
"There is no trifling with nature; it is always true, grave, and severe" [Goethe, 1853]

Scene 4 - A Harbour
"A life on the ocean wave" [Music hall song, c.1838]

Scene 5 - Dido's Palace
"Grief is the price we pay for love" [Queen Elizabeth II, 2001]

PARTICIPANTS:

King Edward VI Grammar School
Chelmsford County High School
St John Payne School
County Singers

ESSEX MUSIC SERVICE

John Hutchings	Music Strategic Lead Officer
Beverley Heard	Music Ensembles Lead Officer
Sarah Goldsmith	Music Curriculum Officer





Navigating the Transition from Year 11 to Sixth Form: The Vital Role of Parents

The transition from Year 11 to sixth form marks a significant turning point in a young person's educational journey. For many students, this shift brings a mix of excitement and anxiety as they face new challenges and responsibilities. As parents, your support during this time is crucial in helping your child navigate this important phase.

Understanding the Challenges

The move to sixth form introduces students to a more independent learning environment. They will encounter increased academic demands, the necessity for self-discipline, and the pressure of preparing for future career paths or higher education. For some, the leap from the structured environment of secondary school to the autonomy of sixth form can be overwhelming.

Changes in teaching styles, subject depth, and expectations can lead to stress and uncertainty. To help parents support their children's transition to sixth form I will be posting, in each newsletter, 'information for parents and carers', which I hope will support parents in this process. The first two articles are: What to expect and the challenge of year 12; and Using Flashcards. I hope you find them useful.

Mr Hewlett

NOTICES Close X

ST JOHN PAYNE AVITA PRO FIDE

SIXTH FORM

OPEN EVENING INVITATION

Wednesday 13th November 2024

5.00pm - 7.30pm

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



No need to book an appointment
All internal and external prospective students and parents are welcome
Headteacher's & Head of Sixth Form Address 5.00pm & 6.30pm



Navigating UCAS: Next Steps for Year 13

As our Year 13 students approach the final stages of their sixth form journey, the UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) process is in full swing. With eight early entry applications already submitted for competitive courses like medicine, dentistry, and prestigious institutions such as Oxford and Cambridge, we are excited to see the commitment and dedication our students are showcasing. Our goal is to ensure that all remaining applications are submitted by Christmas.

Understanding UCAS

UCAS is the platform that facilitates university applications in the UK. It allows students to apply to multiple universities simultaneously, streamlining the process. For many Year 13 students, this represents a pivotal moment, as they take their next steps toward higher education and future careers. The Importance of Early applications for certain courses are crucial due to the highly competitive nature of these fields. Universities often receive a large volume of applications, and those who apply early can benefit from early offers. Additionally, submitting applications ahead of the general deadline allows students to focus on their A-level studies without the added pressure of pending deadlines and mock exams in January. Preparing for the Next Steps as we aim to submit the remaining applications by Christmas, it's essential for students to stay organised and focused. Here are some key steps to ensure a successful application process.

Personal Statements: Crafting a compelling personal statement is vital

This is the student's opportunity to display their passion for their chosen field and demonstrate why they would be an excellent candidate. Students are advised to seek feedback from their tutors to refine their statement.

Research Universities

Students are encouraged to thoroughly research the universities and courses they are interested in. Understanding what each institution offers and aligning it with personal goals can help tailor applications more effectively.

Support and Resources

We encourage students and parents to reach out for support throughout this process. Our school offers guidance and resources to assist with personal statements and the whole UCAS process.

The journey through UCAS is both exciting and challenging, but with the right preparation and support, our Year 13 students can navigate it successfully. The future is bright, and we are proud to support our students every step of the way!

Mr Hewlett
Head of Sixth Form



Sixth Form

Using Flashcards

Information for parents and carers



Did you know?



Using flashcards is a repetition strategy. They are a simple 'cue' on the front and an 'answer' on the back. Flashcards engage students in "active recall", which means they are creating connections with their memory.

Research shows that using flashcards can enhance long-term learning and help students to memorise facts quickly. Flashcards are not an effective method for last-minute cramming!

Studies have found that it's more effective to review a whole stack of cards in one sitting rather than to carry them around and have students glance at them every so often.

What can you do?

Encourage your child to make flashcards as part of their revision strategy. The key is to have a question or key term on one side and the answer or definition on the other. Suggest using different colours for topics to help categorise information and to keep them neat. Flashcards containing just notes are not effective.

Try testing your child using the flashcards and give them time to digest the question before answering. If they get the answer right, don't discard the card – they need to keep repeating it again and over time.

When using the flashcards, help your child review their cards using a system. With your child, read

through this article which explains how to use flashcards effectively using a system approach: <https://www.parent24.com/Learn/School-exams/watch-how-to-study-using-flashcards-20160825>



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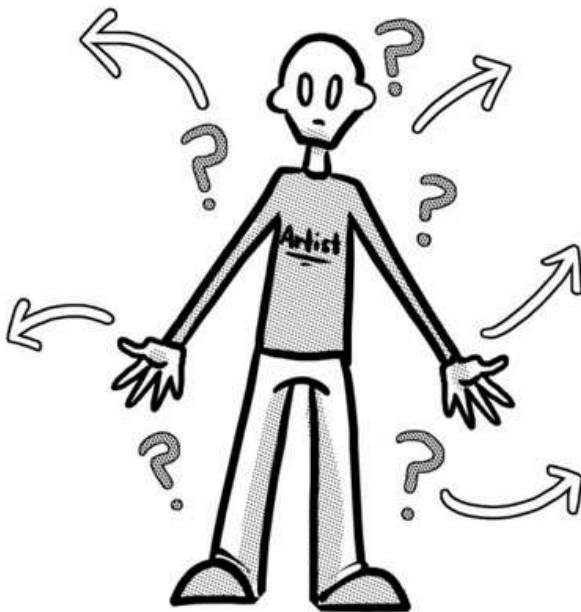
Sixth Form



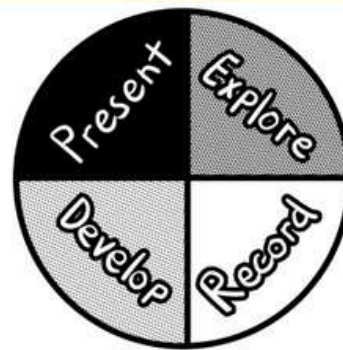
What to expect: the challenge of Year 12

Information for parents and carers

Did you know?



There is a school of thought that Year 11 to Year 12 is one of the hardest transitions for students to make. Students have to deal with a new way of working, learning and organisation - so it is really important that the transition into Y12, and the subsequent learning that takes place, is as good as it can be.



What can you do?

- One key difference between Year 11 and Year 12 is that students will have study periods, and these will need to be used wisely. Those of you familiar with Harry Potter will recollect that Hermione had it nailed: *“As Hermione had predicted, the sixth year’s free periods were not the hours of blissful relaxation Ron had anticipated, but times in which to attempt to keep up with the vast amount of homework they were being set. Not only were they studying as though they had exams every day, but the lessons themselves had become more demanding than ever before.”*
- One of the very important things is supporting students to deal with beginning a new course – and what happens when they get their first piece of work back. Usually, this will not be the type of grade that they were used to receiving by the end of Year 11. We are not expecting that students will achieve their end targets from September of Year 12.
- It is important to encourage your child to get into helpful routines as Year 12/13 is about them being independent and responsible. If they are given a homework diary then they should record what they need to do in there and when it is due. They need to plan out their time properly.
- To motivate them, it is often helpful if they gather some ideas of what they might do after their KS5 is over. There are so many options available for students post-18 and it is good for them to look at some of the options right at the start.

e: enquiries@pixl.org.uk www.pixl.org.uk

Parliament 2024



In September students from Year 13 Politics, History, Economics and Student Leadership made the trip to Westminster to visit the Houses of Parliament. We went on a tour which took us through the King's Robing room, the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The tour guides were very knowledgeable and talked us through how different processes work. There were lots of comments on how small the chambers were compared to when you see them on the television and everyone enjoyed trying to spot the pigeon holes of MPs they knew. Sadly, because we went during the conferences season recess we didn't get to see any MPs themselves. Our guides were very impressed by what the students knew.



After the tour we completed a workshop. Students were challenged to form their own political parties. They had to come up with a name, a slogan and their top 3 policies before their chosen candidate had to make a speech to try and secure the votes of the others. There were some very interesting ideas being shared.



Everyone had a great day and, as you'd imagine, our students were a credit to SJP.



Year 8 Girls - Cyberfirst Girls Competition 2024

Calling all Year 8 girls. The IT and Computer Science Department, have a wonderful opportunity for you to participate in a national competition which is run annually by Cyberfirst. The competition has solely been designed for girls to participate in. First launched in 2016 to inspire girls to consider a career in IT, Computer Science and Cyber Security.

Girls will participate in a series of challenges which involve: Logic and coding, Networking, Cyber Security, Cryptography and Speciality topic. Girls will work in team of up to 4 people - you can do this with your friends.

You do not have to be a programmer to take part. We would like to enter as many teams as possible. Registration is now open. If you are interested in competing then, please speak with your IT teacher or to Miss Lovelock. The Cyberfirst Girls Competition takes place over a period of 10 days in November - Monday 18th - Wednesday 27th November 2024. If you would like more information on this then please come along to B105 on a Tuesday lunchtime, where you will look at some of the questions which could be posed. Also, there is a link below which gives more information on the competition, itself.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberfirst/girls-competition>

PASTORAL CARE, MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING



CARING HEARTS YOUTH CLUB*

*Please note: This club is for young people who have additional caring responsibilities for a family member, perhaps due to age, physical or mental illness, disability or substance abuse.

You do not need to be registered as a young carer to attend.

PLEASE
SIGN UP
BEFORE
YOUR 1ST
SESSION



WHAT IS CARING HEARTS?

- A safe environment where young carers can belong, contribute and thrive with like-minded individuals who understand the world they're living in
- Hot meals, games, sports and art and crafts, alongside opportunities to confide in trusted adults
- Respite from caring responsibilities and enjoy the freedom of being a child

ART &
CRAFT

SPORTS

SOCIALIZE

SUPPORT

LEARN
NEW
SKILLS

GAMING

FOOD

STARTS 5TH JUNE

Wednesdays
(term-time)

5-8pm Age 7-17

FREE!

YMCA,
Victoria Road,
Chelmsford
CM1 1NZ





E-SAFETY



Group chats are places where you can talk to more than one person at the same time. You can do this on dedicated apps, messaging apps, social media platforms or online games.

Some people create group chats for close friends. But other groups have hundreds or even thousands of people in. These can be people from the same school or area, or people from across the world.

Creating positive group spaces

Group chats can be positive spaces if:

You support and respect each other.

Real friends are kind and support each other through difficult times. They don't make jokes which might embarrass another person.

You call out rude comments. If you feel comfortable to, challenge anyone making rude comments or jokes about people you know. They will be less likely to say horrible things again if they know others don't agree with them.

You ask before you share information about people you know. Don't share personal information about friends in group chats with other people. This could hurt and humiliate them.

Tips for safer group spaces

- 1 Speak to an adult if nasty messages are being sent.** It doesn't matter if the messages are about you or someone else - you don't need to deal with it alone. Teachers are responsible for supporting students who are being bullied or embarrassed online, even if it's happening outside of school or college hours. You could also speak to a family member or contact a [support service](#).
- 2 Avoid group chats with lots of people you don't know.** Joining group chats with people you don't know could put you in uncomfortable situations. People you don't know could send inappropriate content, or they might pressure you to do things you don't want to do. If you're ever put under pressure online it's never your fault and you can get help.
- 3 Check your [privacy settings](#).** See if you can change the settings on your app to make sure that only contacts, friends or followers can add you into group chats. This means you'll be less likely to receive inappropriate content and things you don't want to see.
- 4 Leave the group if you don't feel comfortable.** Don't laugh along with something that's upsetting or embarrassing, either to you or someone else. Even adding an emoji or commenting on what's said could encourage more mean comments. Leaving the chat will show you don't agree with that behaviour.
- 5 Remember that it's difficult to delete comments and photos that have been shared with groups.** Once the messages have been read by recipients, it's difficult to take them back. Make sure you think about what you share with large groups of people. Keep your messages kind and respectful.



Happy half-term!