



ST JOHN PLESSINGTON
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

*A Catholic learning community committed to
excellence in all we do...*





Headteacher's Message

Dear St John Plessington Community,

What a wonderful start to March we've had. There's been so much to celebrate across our school, and I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the energy and commitment our students and staff have demonstrated.

First, I'd like to extend my thanks to everyone who embraced World Books Day. It was heartening to see our community engage so enthusiastically with the day, and the creativity on display was truly impressive. Do take a look at our website to see the fantastic pictures that capture the spirit of the occasion.

As we find ourselves in the middle of Lent, it's a timely moment to pause and reflect on what it means to be part of a Catholic school community. This season invites us to consider our values, to think about how we support one another, and to recognise the importance of compassion and service. I'm grateful for the way our students and staff embody these principles every single day.

On an academic note, I want to extend my congratulations to our Year 11, 12 and 13 students who have just completed their latest set of trial examinations. These are significant milestones, and the hard work and dedication you've shown has been evident. Now is the time to reflect on those papers, learn from them, and channel that focus into the short run-up to the real examinations in May. You've got this.

I'm also delighted to celebrate the outstanding work from our Year 9 students in Dot Art. Some truly fantastic pieces have emerged, and it's wonderful to see such creativity flourishing across the year group. Our Year 9 Options Evening was

also a great success, and I want to thank parents for the support you've given your children as they navigate these important next steps in their educational journey. These decisions matter, and your involvement makes all the difference.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting events coming up that I'd encourage you all to get involved with. Our production of *The Wizard of Oz* is shaping up beautifully, with students and staff working incredibly hard to bring the show to life. Tickets are selling out fast, so if you haven't already secured yours for the 11th and 12th of March, I'd encourage you to do so soon. It promises to be a memorable evening.

We're also hosting a Scholastic Book Fair for our Year 7 students on Wednesday, 11th March. This is a wonderful opportunity for young readers to discover new titles and foster a love of reading.

Finally, there's plenty more to celebrate in the sporting arena this term. Do check inside the newsletter for updates on all the fantastic achievements across our sports teams.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with St John Plessington.

Mr McLoughlin
Headteacher

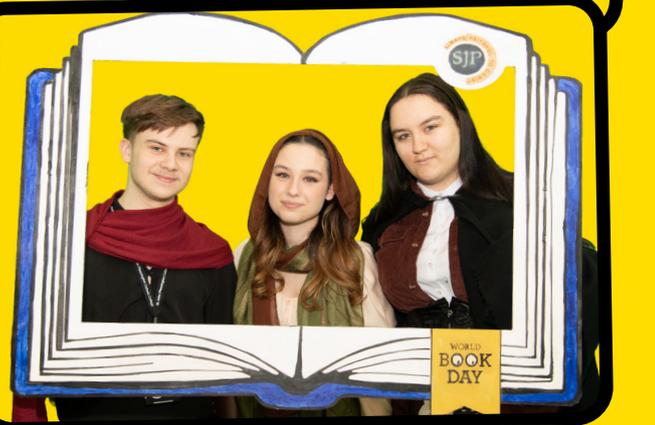
WORLD BOOK DAY!

The building was buzzing with activity yesterday as we celebrated World Book Day with a range of fun activities and events across the school. Students and staff dressed up with accessories and costumes from their favourite literary characters, and our pop photo booth was a resounding hit!

The Year 7 and 8 football teams smashed it at 'The Great Big Footy and Booky Quiz', live-streamed by The Premier League and National Literacy Trust. Each student received a copy of 'The 2026 Ultimate Football Heroes' book.

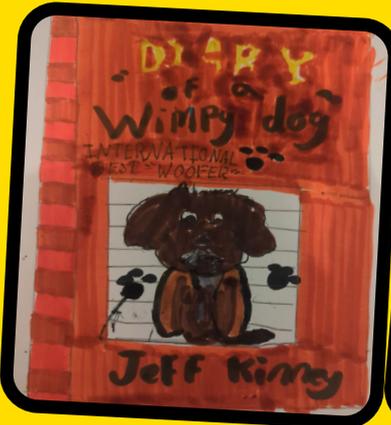
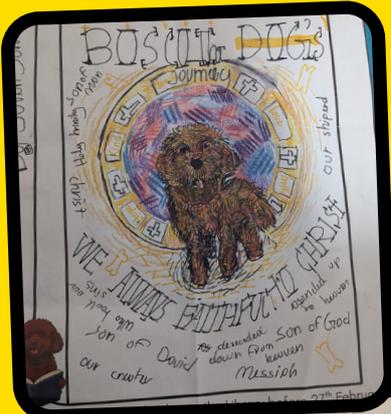
The winners of our Bosco Book Cover Competition were announced - congrats to Juvan from Year 7 and Hollie from Year 8! And well done to our runners up, Amala from Year 7 and Jamie from Year 8. Big thank you to all the students that entered.

Our mobile library was also on site with special activities, including a wrapped 'mystery book' selection, and brand new board games for students to enjoy.



The celebrations continue next week with our Year 7 Scholastic Book Fair.

These events are all part of our school-wide commitment to "Go All In" for the National Year of Reading 2026 and to support a love of reading in all its forms.



CREATIVE CAREERS DAY

Group of yr 9 students from SJP took part in a series of workshops at Hope University to explore their creativity. Contributors included Tate Liverpool, LIPA, Liverpool Philharmonic, Fact Education) and Mastered (film/art/technology). Students particularly enjoyed the Liverpool Philharmonic session, where they worked on creating their own 'ear catching' pop song.

Students developed many skills, including planning, organisation, adapting and, as always, teamwork.



YEAR 9 DOT ART SHOWCASE

Our talented Year 9 artists' Dot Art entries are now available to view online! We invite you to take a few minutes to browse the gallery and celebrate the fantastic work they have produced.

Their artwork will be judged in March by a panel of highly acclaimed art specialists – an exciting opportunity for our young creatives.

We are incredibly proud of every student and the outstanding work they have created.

View the gallery here:

https://schools.dot-art.com/schools/st-john-plessington-catholic-college_583/



ANOTHER NIGHT, ANOTHER TROPHY FOR RUGBY SEVENS

Another night brought another rugby sevens competition, and this time the boys finished as winners. Their teamwork, determination and resilience was clear throughout, with every player playing their part and representing the school brilliantly. It was a fantastic achievement and a proud moment for the team. Well done to all of the boys on a superb success.



YEAR 7 RUGBY TEAM REACHED WIRRAL CUP FINAL

Well done to the Year 7 rugby team, who took part in the Wirral 7-a-side Rugby Cup and performed brilliantly throughout the evening. The team narrowly lost in the final to Whitby by two tries to one, but showed great teamwork, effort and determination from start to finish. Reaching the final was a fantastic achievement, and the team should be very proud.



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AT YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING

Thank you to all parents and pupils who attended our Year 9 Options Evening. We hope the evening was informative and helped families feel more confident about the next stage of choosing the right pathways for their child. Our Year 9 Options page includes the Year 9 Options Guide 2026, subject overview videos and FAQs, giving families a wealth of information to support these important decisions. Parents and pupils are encouraged to continue exploring the resources available online and to speak to school if any further guidance is needed. A reminder that course choices should be submitted by **Thursday 20 March**.



St John Plessington
Catholic College

Parent Communication Survey

At our school we are always looking for ways to improve how we communicate with families and share the fantastic things happening in our community. Your feedback will help us improve our social media, newsletters and school updates.

This survey takes **less than 3 minutes to complete**. Thank you for your support.

[Sign in to Google](#) to save your progress. [Learn more](#)

* Indicates required question

On a scale of 1–5, how well do you feel the school communicates what is happening in school? *

Very poorly 1 2 3 4 5 Very well

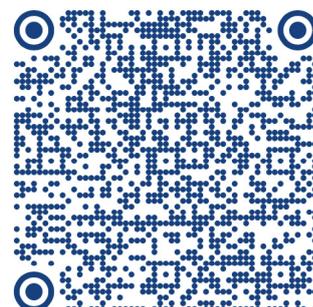
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This survey takes less than 3 minutes to complete. Thank you for your support.

Click the link below

<https://forms.gle/Q7YXAADeM5mC29Ew9>



YEAR 10 BTEC STUDENTS INSPIRED BY THE LOWRY WORKSHOP

This week, Year 10 BTEC students had the exciting opportunity to take part in a dynamic workshop led by practitioners from The Lowry Theatre in Salford. The session focused on exploring characterisation of the powerful contemporary play *The Animals*, giving students a chance to deepen their understanding of performance techniques while developing their confidence as performers.

Throughout the workshop, students engaged in a range of practical activities designed to help them bring their characters to life. The Lowry facilitators guided the group through physical and vocal exercises that encouraged them to think carefully about how posture, movement, and tone of voice can communicate personality, emotion, and relationships on stage. These warm-ups quickly built energy in the room and helped students step into the mindset of their characters.

A key part of the session involved exploring the motivations and backgrounds of the characters from *The Animals*. Students worked collaboratively in small groups to experiment with different interpretations, discussing how their characters might feel in particular situations and how these emotions could be shown through performance choices. This allowed them to refine their understanding of character development and dramatic storytelling.

The workshop also provided valuable insight into the rehearsal processes used by professional theatre companies. By encouraging students to take creative risks and reflect on their work, the practitioners helped them recognise how experimentation and collaboration play an important role in theatre-making. The experience not only supported their current BTEC coursework but also offered an inspiring glimpse into the professional world of theatre. The group are enthused ahead of their performance of *'The Animals'* which will take place on Thursday 16th April 2026 at 6.30pm in College Hall. Tickets will be on sale soon for this production, so please keep an eye out for the posters next week!



SIXTH FORM STUDENTS INSPIRED BY DEAR ENGLAND AT THE LIVERPOOL EMPIRE

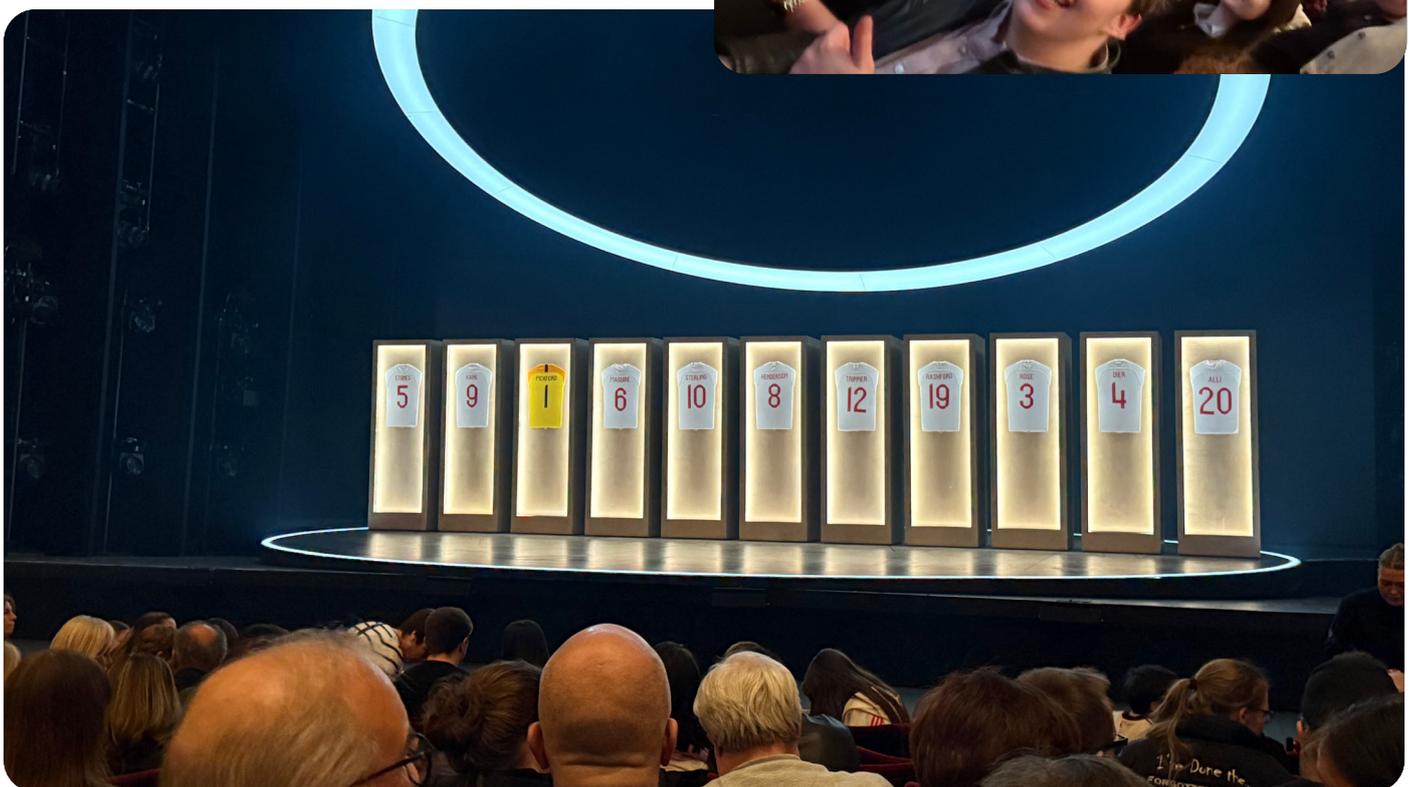
Sixth Form students recently enjoyed an inspiring theatre trip to the Liverpool Empire to watch the critically acclaimed play Dear England. The visit offered students a valuable opportunity to experience live theatre while exploring themes of leadership, teamwork, resilience, and national identity through the lens of modern football.

Dear England tells the story of England men's football manager Gareth Southgate and his efforts to transform the culture of the national team. Blending sport, psychology, and drama, the production examines how Southgate sought to rebuild confidence within the squad, challenge long-standing expectations, and help players cope with the intense pressures of representing their country.

Students were captivated by the fast-paced staging, creative use of multimedia, and the strong ensemble performances that brought key moments in England's recent football history to life. The play's innovative style, including choreographed movement and stylised match sequences, helped convey the emotional highs and lows experienced by players and fans alike.

For many students, the production sparked thoughtful discussion about the wider themes explored in the play. Beyond football, Dear England highlights issues such as mental resilience, the impact of media pressure, and the importance of empathy and communication within leadership. These themes resonated strongly with students and provided meaningful points for reflection following the performance.

The trip also gave students a chance to observe professional acting in a large scale touring production. Seeing how lighting, sound, movement, and set design were used to create atmosphere and tension offered valuable insight into the practical elements of theatre-making. Students returned feeling inspired by the performance and with a deeper appreciation for how theatre can tell powerful contemporary stories while engaging with important cultural conversations.



Reflection from our Trust Chaplain

We are in Lent, the 40-day season of preparation before Easter. For Catholics, Lent (before Easter) and Advent (before Christmas) are longer periods of deeper spiritual preparation.

Most people are familiar with the phrase: "I gave it up for Lent". The chocolate industry for example is probably not a fan of Lent as many people give up chocolates or sweets. For most of us, Lent means giving up something. Why do we do this? Lent is a reflection of Jesus' own time of fasting and prayer. Before beginning his ministry and his mission publicly, Jesus spent 40 days in the desert. He did this in order to fast and pray, to be with the Father, His Father. We also are invited to fast, pray, and give alms—give to charity during this period in order to focus on God who is the source of all good and on what is truly important.

The purpose of Lent is not to make us miserable. Ms Evans gave pupils a helpful way to think about this during our Gospel to Life sessions. Imagine your heart as a garden. If the garden is full of weeds, the beautiful plants in your garden will not grow. There will be no soil for them to grow in. So, we need to pull out the weeds, and then plant the plants. We need to tend to our garden. When we fast FROM things, we are refraining from things which are not good for us. Pope Leo for example has urged us all to refrain and fast during Lent from using harmful words. Other suggestions have been to stop using social media, or fast from gossip. We do these fasts, so we can feast. We can expand all the beautiful, true and good things we want in our heart. Fasting from social media, for example, allows us to feast on time with friends and families. That is Lent.

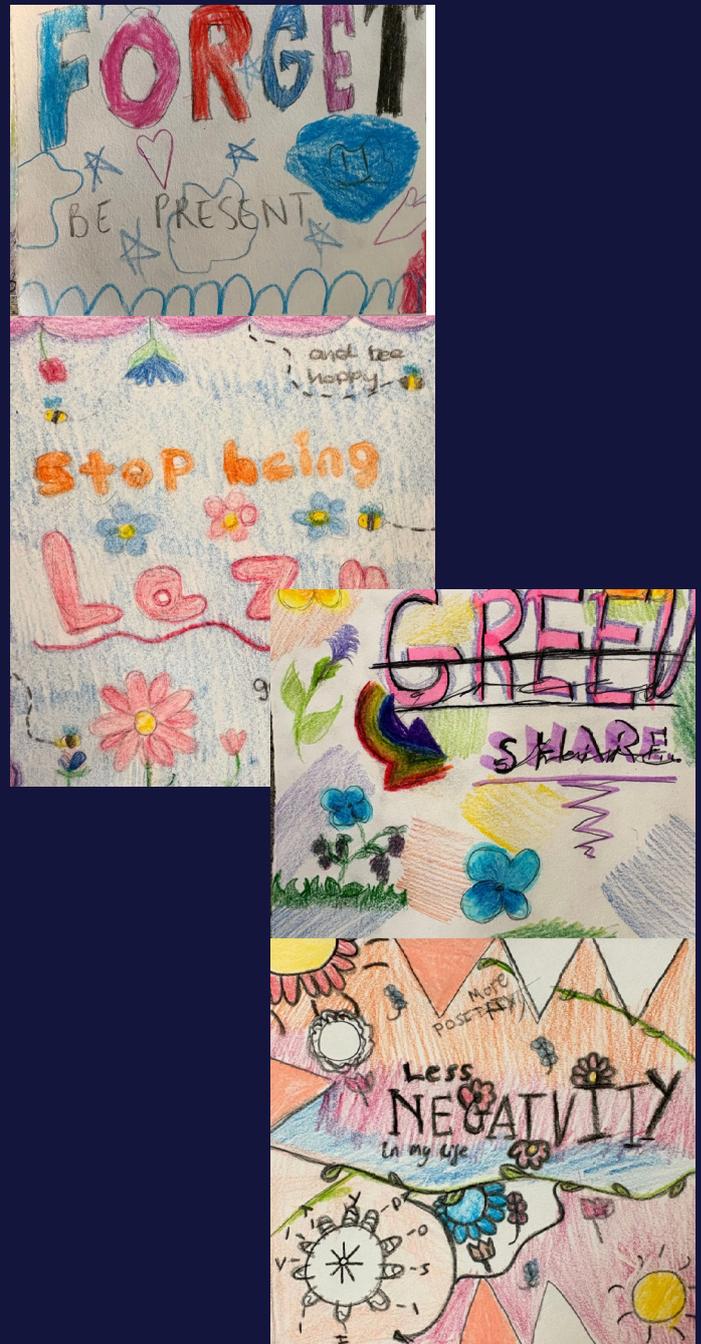
Our Years 7-9 have been working on art work for their form room which captures their own personal decisions to fast and to feast, to enter into the spirit and intention of Lent. It's never too late to start Lent. Why not discuss a communal or collective FAST from things with the whole family, with a corresponding

FEAST on the things which bring us closer to God and to each other?

Lord,
Help me to look with your eyes at my heart,
and to use this Lent to find my way back to
you.
Amen

St Francis Cup

The competition for the St Francis Cup, the co-ed six-a-side tournament sweeping year 7, is mid-way. Bosco have the lead but it will be all to play for on the next two Tuesdays as the tournament reaches its climax.





Careers Focus – National Careers Week 2026

National Careers Week (NCW) is now firmly established in our careers programme and has therefore been the spotlight for this week's careers focus. Throughout the country, schools have provided information and advice using a variety of resources. Our theme was 'Follow Your Passion', which was designed to encourage students to not simply to follow their dreams, but to take time to think about what they are good at, what they enjoy and how that combination might work as a future career path.

Amongst others, we told the story of Body Coach Joe Wicks, titled 'My 10 year overnight success' and hinting at the fact that his success has required many years of hard work and self-analysis. The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) provided a twenty minute presentation underlining the fact that there are many routes and pathways within their sector, not just the one that leads specifically to becoming a Vet.

Later in the week the focus shifted to engineering. Many students state that they are interested in engineering in the future without really knowing what options they might have. The PDF made

available on Google Classroom (GC) explained that there are twelve different areas of engineering and many routes to be considered if this sector is of interest.

A key focus was also given to civil engineering in particular. Our information sheet explained how this area of engineering is concerned with how our infrastructure and built environment are constructed, with a caveat of due diligence given to sustainability and net zero ambitions. Finally our 'Careers Posters', completed by our teachers/staff and spread across the school on their doors, provide glimpses of how many career paths are often not the linear equation that many students imagine, but rather a 'work in progress', where skills and experience are accumulated along the way.

ST JOHN PLESSINGTON & ST MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE PRESENT

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE!



FRIDAY
MARCH
2026 / 13TH

7PM / £5 ON THE DOOR

HFCMAT



LIVE FROM FUTURE YARD CIC 75
ARGYLE ST, BIRKENHEAD
CH41 6AB

THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION OF THE WIZARD OF OZ IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS LTD. ON BEHALF OF TAMS-WITMARK LLC. WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.CO.UK



THE WIZARD OF OZ

WEDNESDAY 11TH & THURSDAY 12TH MARCH 2026

7PM

£3 FOR CONCESSIONS | £5 FOR ADULT.

SJP COLLEGE HALL

BY L. FRANK BAUM

WITH MUSIC AND LYRICS BY HAROLD ARLEN AND E. Y. HARBURG

BACKGROUND MUSIC BY HERBERT STOTHART

DANCE AND VOCAL ARRANGEMENTS BY PETER HOWARD | ORCHESTRATION BY LARRY WILCOX

**ADAPTED BY JOHN KANE FOR THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY | BASED UPON THE CLASSIC MOTION PICTURE OWNED BY
TURNER ENTERTAINMENT CO. AND DISTRIBUTED IN ALL MEDIA BY WARNER BROS.**

Upcoming Events

Week B

Monday 9th March 2026

The Wizard of Oz Rehearsal
Scholastic Book Fair Y7
Y11 Trial GCSE Spanish Speaking Exams

Tuesday 10th March 2026

The Wizard of Oz Rehearsal
Scholastic Book Fair Y7
Reaseheath College Trip

Wednesday 11th March 2026

The Wizard of Oz Rehearsal
'Chinese Bridge' Mandarin Speaking Competition
Scholastic Book Fair Y7
Student Mass 14:40
The Wizard of Oz - evening performance

Thursday 12th March 2026

Scholastic Book Fair Y7
Sports/Dance Leaders Primary School
The Wizard of Oz - evening performance

Friday 13th March 2026

Scholastic Book Fair Y7
Friday Night Live

Week A

Monday 16th March 2026

Girls Who Code Event/Cybersecurity Challenge
Sports/Dance Leaders Primary School

Tuesday 17th March 2026

Feast Day St Patrick
Y9 Vaccinations & Y10 11 Catch Up

Wednesday 18th March 2026

Student Mass 14:40
Languages in the world of work trip

Thursday 19th March 2026

Author visit from the Likambi Siblings
Chester Zoo - Change makers
PE British Gymnastics Championships

Friday 20th March 2026

Rewards & Recognition

Year 7

Erin Page, Abel John, Harper Redmond, Niamh Meenan, Hattie Keane, Jeuel Jijo, Charles Lally, Ralph Deer, Violet Fields, Jaiden Nag, Charlie Hardman, Frankie Hobbs, Alfie Puddifer, Jacob Barker, Oliver Edge, Lucas John Hughes, Harry Wilcockson, Peter Carr, Edith May Charles, Darcy Williams, Prisha Gurnell, Ava Cairns, Poppy Smith

Year 8

Evie Crilly, Mo Adil, Archie Roberts, Lillie Ashton, Saania Mustafae, Giselle Gordon, Leo Marshall, Hazar Elhassan, Katie Barker, Connor McGraa, Charlie Leigh, Adlynn George, Patsy Rimmer, Ruby-Lea Thomas, Regan Baker, Ryan Muthana, Lola-Lu Edwards, Ivona Stephenson, Georgie Gorman, Connor Dutfeld, Nethaji Rajakumar, Oliva Rose Davies, Jacob Barker, Oliver Edge, Lucas John Hughes, Harry Wilcockson, Peter Carr, Edith May Charles, Darcy Williams, Prisha Gurnell, Ava Cairns, Poppy Smith

Year 9

Allen Kuriakose, Jacob Roberts, Ani Kharaisvili, Ellie Thomas, Blake Burnley, Flynn Wharton, Bella Doyle, Matthew Quinlan, Aleksandra Kot, Alain Santheep, Maximilian Morgan, Shirley Leighton, Caitlin Nolan, Halle Atherton, Logan Davies, Jennifer Fox-Thomas, David Smyth, Angel Foster, Arlo Robinson, Sofia Foster, Harry Wallwork, Ollie Le Poidevin, Joseph Deeney

Year 10

Ava McElroy, Lillie-Mae Murray, Amelia McCreedy, Ben Ubah, Sienna Davies, Lois Bromley, Amelia McCreedy Waters, Mia Kent, Lily Fearon, Finn Wilson, Ellie May Irving, Grace Moore, Ellie O Gorman, Adriel Paul, Ollie Hupe, Isabella Bentley, James Manley, Seren McLoughlin, Charlotte Rostance, Rhys Rickards, Roynb Paterson, Eloise Bennett, Jess Rutter, Charlie Robinson, Callum Redmond, Freya Foy, AJ Cowan, Richmond Ibitoye, Emily Butler, Mya Newcombe, Imogen Lawrence, Jacob Clyne, Blake Domville, Archie McCaffrey, Joseph Norman, Megan Redford, Psalm Espiritu

Year 11

Emily Mosedale, Jess Goulbourn, Chloe Slack, Hayden Kenedy, Sam Roberts, Darcy Redmond, Aiden Kelly, Kyle Bloxham, Bradley Hill, Meg Byrne, Niall Robinson, Emily Burnett, Oliia Murphy, Daniel Greaves, Alfie Drury, Lois Smith, Oliver Thrackrah, Huw Maddox, Eden Sebastian, Ben Schoon, Libby Wilson, Paige Wallace, Evie Roberts, Dylan Hughes, Anna Ruddock, Jack Kan, Kaylin Quayle, Lilly-Mae Bithell, Amelia Clerkin, Noah Fergusson, Jane Parappally, Cameron Wallace, John-Patrick Cameron, Kaiden O'Reilly

Year 12

Lily Garnett, Patryk Szyba, Leo Carvell, Evie Gellings, Naomi Barbett Minot, Finley Griiffiths, Kaleb Dobbins, Sarah Linge, Hannah Mazier, Maggie Rosa, Molly, Jacob Taylor, Sophie Wheeler, Leighton Bibby, Austin Formston, Angel Ofurum, Ann Maria Thomas, Amelia Hodgkiss, Luke Formston, Joanna Abraham, Summer Hemmingway, Enya O'Rourke, Ollie Smith, Josh Gallagher, Ben Redford, Skye Robinson, Pheabe Cullen, John Kane, David Buttery, Edward Moore, Liam Henebelle

Year 13

Gaja Steffen, Jana Games, Leon Roberts, Darcie Sutton, Kian Sanderson, Harry Harrison, Syeda Rahat, Evie Whittaker, Jack Lally, Amelia Roberts, Ethan Chow, Luke Boston, Arron Smith, Isabelle Hewitt, Abraham Joy, Liam Blackburn, Daisy Drinkwater, Isis Newcombe, Rufus Matthew, Caitlin Adams, Andrew Sarson, Harriet Wootten, Tom Brandon, Liam Evans, Erin Appleton, Madi McVeigh, Georgina Thurston, Briana Clancy, Liz Joseph

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Tel: 0151 645 5049 | email: schooloffice@stjohnplessington.com | Website: www.stjohnplessington.com



- Vision -** A Catholic learning community committed to excellence in all we do
- Mission -** To build an inclusive Catholic community founded on the Gospel Values
- Values -** Compassion, Respect, Determination, Justice

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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EVERY DAY COUNTS



Why is attendance important to my child's education?

Did you know?

90%

of young people with attendance **BELOW**

85%

fail to get good grades.

MISSING **1 DAY A WEEK**



LOSING ONE YEAR OF SCHOOL LIFE.

Good attendance means:

Being in school at least 97% of the time,

Target
97%



175

days are **NOT** spent in school each year.*

* Plenty of time for shopping, holidays & appointments.

143

Days of education

75%

47 days absent

152

Days of education

80%

38 days absent

162

Days of education

85%

28 days absent

171

Days of education

90%

18 days absent

184

Days of education

97%

6 days absent

190

Days of education

100%

0 days absent

SERIOUSLY WORRIED

Why poor attendance has a serious impact & reduces life chances.

VERY CONCERNED

Poor attendance gives less chance of success

WELL DONE

Good attendance gives the best chance of success