



**ST JOHN PLESSINGTON**  
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

# NEWSLETTER

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







## Headteacher's Message

As we approach the end of what has been a very busy and rewarding term, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we've shared together at St John Plessington Catholic College. This term has been one filled with energy, achievement, and community spirit, and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your continued support and engagement. Our students, families, and staff have once again demonstrated what makes our school such a special place.

Last night, I had the privilege of attending our Trust Carol Service at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool. It was a truly inspiring event and a wonderful reminder of the power of faith and unity. Our students were absolutely fantastic—singing with passion, reverence, and joy. Watching pupils from across our Trust schools come together, united in celebration, was an uplifting experience that captured the very essence of this season: hope, peace, and togetherness.

As we prepare for the Christmas break, I'm mindful of the deeper meaning of this time of year. Beyond the tinsel and festivities, Advent and Christmas invite us to reflect on the light of Christ coming into the world. It's a time to pause, to give thanks, and to reach out to those in need. I encourage all our families to cherish these moments together—sharing love, laughter, and gratitude—and to remember and pray for those who may be facing challenges at this time.

I'd also like to share a few important updates and celebrations from across our school community. Our Year 11 students have now received their trial examination results. To all our Year 11s, I want to say well done for the effort and resilience you've shown. These results are an important milestone—a chance to reflect, identify areas for improvement, and continue striving towards your potential. The months ahead will be crucial, and I know that, with hard work and the right support, you will rise to the challenge.

A few key notices for parents and students as we close the term:

School will finish at 12:00pm on Friday, 19th December. Pupils will return to school at 8:30am on Tuesday, 6th January.

Please ensure school uniform standards are maintained; we've noticed some decline in standards as we approach the break. This must include: tie/pin, blazer and shoes. Students should wear a school jumper. A full uniform list is available on our website. Attendance remains absolutely vital to student success and continues to be an area where improvement is needed.

Our Awards Evening will take place on 8th January, where we will celebrate the achievements and contributions of our students.

Finally, I want to thank staff, students and parents who supported us and were involved in our Catholic Schools Inspection. The process was rigorous and I look forward to sharing the full report with you early in the new year.

As always at the end of term, I reflect on how incredibly proud I am to be Headteacher of this school and of the way our staff and students represent our school community.

As we conclude this term, I wish you all a peaceful, joyful, and blessed Christmas. May this season bring rest, renewal, and the light of hope for the year ahead.

With warm regards,  
Mr P McLoughlin  
Headteacher



# HFCMAT Christmas Carol Service

More than 250 young people from across Holy Family Catholic Multi Academy Trust came together on Tuesday, 16 December for an evening of festive celebration and worship.

The Joy to the World Christmas carol service, held at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, united all nine HFCMAT schools in a shared moment of joyful song and prayer. The service celebrated the talents of both primary pupils and secondary students, reflecting the strength of the Trust community and its shared faith.

An audience of more than 1,100 people, including families, staff and parish communities, enjoyed a rich programme

of traditional Christmas carols such as O Come All Ye Faithful, Silent Night and Joy to the World.

These were complemented by moving musical performances from individual schools and talented student soloists.

The service also featured scripture readings delivered by Headteachers and the Trust Chaplain, alongside moments of quiet reflection that honoured the birth of Jesus Christ. Together, these elements created a reverent and uplifting atmosphere, reminding all present of the true meaning of Christmas and the power of coming together in faith and belonging.





# Charity at SJP

## JUNIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM SUPPORTS CARITAS CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Mr P Jones along with the 3 lead ambassadors from the Junior Leadership team, responsible for Catholic Life and Fundraising, have been involved in raising money for the Caritas at Christmas appeal. At the recent Christmas fair they sold raffle tickets for some amazing prizes to be drawn on Thursday 20th December. The Caritas Christmas appeal supports people facing poverty, homelessness and isolation whilst also campaigning for systematic change and a call to action, advocating for the dignity of every person. Thanks to everyone who supported this wonderful cause.



## JUBILEE PLEDGE IN ACTION AS PUPILS SUPPORT THE WHITECHAPEL CENTRE

As part of our Jubilee Pledge, this morning we delivered over 70 backpacks to the Whitechapel Centre, who support the homeless across Merseyside. The volunteers who met us there were absolutely blown away and were so moved by the efforts of the whole school. They explained to the Year 9 pupils who came along with us, what an incredible difference the backpacks would make to those people experiencing homelessness, this Christmas. They expressed their heartfelt thanks to the whole school community for the kindness everyone had shown.



# Sport Success



A great competitive night of netball against Birkenhead Park School this evening. Our two Year 7 teams and one Year 9 team worked brilliantly together throughout their games, showing real teamwork and determination. A huge well done to Camilla and Gabby, who were deservedly nominated as players of the night



Students recently went to watch the 'Matilda' performance at the Liverpool Empire. Students behaviour and manners were impeccable and members of the public were highly complimentary. A lovely afternoon watching a phenomenal performance!



Well done to the Year 7 and Year 10 netball teams who played against Bebington High. The Year 10s won a close game 5-4, with the Year 7s narrowly losing 2-1. We are incredibly proud of how much the girls have progressed this year and cannot wait for the next matches.



Kin-Ball Leadership - Junior sport leadership team! Six of our students took part in a Kin-Ball leadership qualification at Birkenhead Park School today. Well done to the students who worked well with a positive attitude and we can't wait to see all the opportunities to come.



# Esports Excellence at St John Plessington Catholic College

St John Plessington Catholic College was proud to host an outstanding Esports Day, bringing together 140 students from Year 7 to Year 11 for a full day of competitive play, collaboration and skill development. The event showcased not only the excitement of esports but also its growing importance as a pathway for learning, personal development and future careers.

Students demonstrated exceptional levels of teamwork, communication, strategic thinking, resilience and leadership throughout the day. The competition required participants to analyse situations in real time, make quick and informed decisions under pressure, and work effectively with others — all skills that are highly valued in further education and the modern workplace. The professionalism shown by our students, both in victory and defeat, was exemplary and reflected the strong values we promote at St John Plessington.

We were delighted to work in partnership with Tranmere Rovers Esports, whose expertise and support were instrumental in the success of the day. Their involvement gave students a unique insight into the professional esports industry, including how competitive gaming is organised, managed and delivered at a high level. This real-world experience helped students to see esports not just as gaming, but as a rapidly expanding global industry.

Esports offers a wide range of exciting future career opportunities, including:

- Professional player and team management
- Coaching and performance analysis
- Event management and live production
- Marketing, branding and social media management
- Broadcasting, streaming and content creation
- Software development, data analysis and IT support

The event concluded with a thrilling final, and we would like to congratulate Jack Murphy (Year 10) on winning the competition. We also commend James Binks (Year 11), who was a gracious and deserving runner-up, demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship.

This Esports Day reinforced how esports can inspire students, develop transferable skills, and open doors to future pathways in digital, creative and technological industries. We are incredibly proud of all students who took part and look forward to continuing to grow esports opportunities at St John Plessington Catholic College.

Esports is more than a game — it is a platform for learning, teamwork and future success.





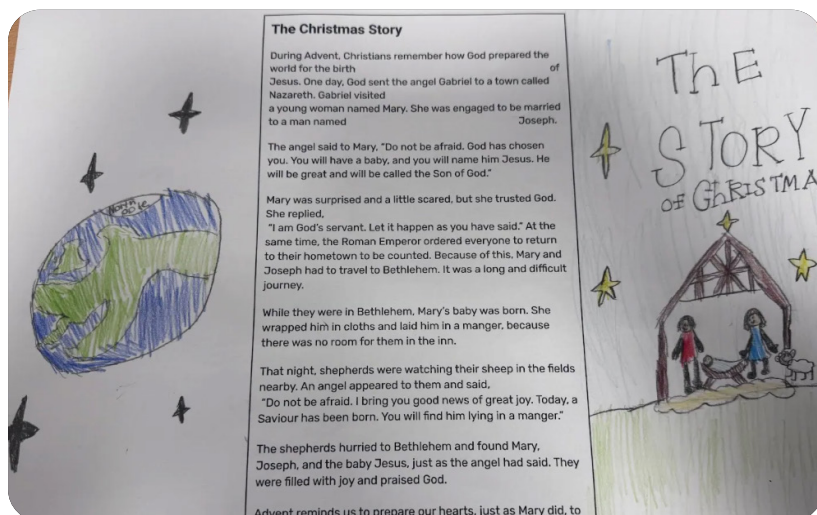
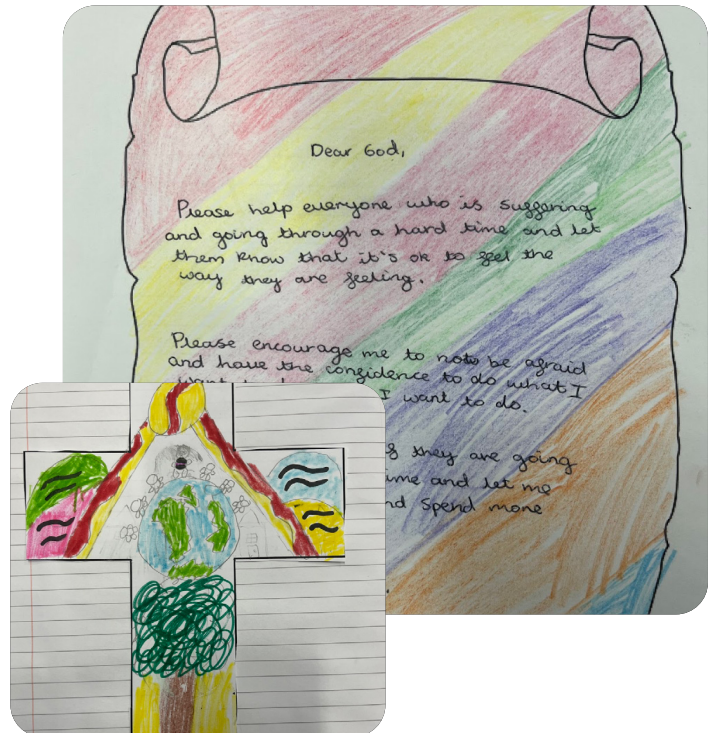




# Beautiful Work

## CREATIVE FAITH WORK IN RE INSPIRED BY PROPHECY AND PROMISE

In the Prophecy and Promise branch of the RE curriculum, pupils in Mrs Swinburne's Year 7 classes have been writing their own prayers to God and Year 8 have been designing their own Romero crosses after studying the inspirational life of one of our House Patrons, Oscar Romero. Well done to all the pupils for the beautiful work produced.



## YEAR 7 PUPILS EXPLORE THE CHRISTMAS STORY THROUGH BIBLE JOURNALING

Year 7's in Mr Jones' RE class have been Bible journaling the Christmas story. This beautiful piece of work was designed by Oakley.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: MYSTERY PLAYS

Year 11 finished the Forms of Expression and Ways of Life section of the Catholic Christianity paper, in a brilliantly dramatic way, performing mystery plays in the College Hall.

The performances included well-known stories such as Jesus Raising Lazarus from the Dead and Daniel in the Lions' Den. Everyone put in a huge amount of effort, showing growing confidence, creativity and teamwork as they brought these stories to life.

It was a wonderful opportunity for students to perform in front of their peers and celebrate these well known stories.







## Careers Focus– Sports and Fitness

Can you do this?

If you have an interest in sport, it may have derived from watching one of your family members playing a particular sport and possibly even being paid to do so. You may enjoy playing sport yourself, or just enjoy the excitement of watching it. Whatever the reason, if sport does excite you, you will be amazed at the range of future jobs available to you.

Becoming a 'professional' in any sport is incredibly hard work and requires a lot of dedication, usually from a very early age, but it can be done. The current reality is that less than 0.5% of young football players signed up (before they are nine years old) by a big club ever play for the first team at that club – and they are the elite players of their age groups. However, like someone once said 'There is a chance'. So if you are really good at your sport and want to make it, work hard and practice, practice, practice. Some of our former students have made it as athletes and professional footballers (Lewis Koumas at SJP is a recent example, James Clarke from SMCC). Some have even excelled on the world stage, such as Lee Charles – six times world kick-boxing champion.

Aside from actually playing sport, at any level, the range of jobs associated with 'sports and fitness' provides a plethora of opportunities. These include roles such as sports coaches

and instructors, sports referees, PE teachers, personal trainers, sports psychologists, sports commentators, fitness trainers and so on (see the National Careers link for more detail and examples). For most of these jobs, a sound knowledge of the sport and/or fitness/physiology, relevant qualifications and the ability to communicate well are all important pre-requisites to success.

Click on the link below to take a look at Chris, who is a fitness advisor for the retailer John Lewis, having previously been a self-employed personal trainer.

<https://icould.com/stories/chris-h-2/>

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-categories/sports-and-leisure>



# Upcoming Events

## Week B

**Monday 5th January 2026**

Closed to Students

**Tuesday 6th January 2026**

School re-opens to all students  
Y13 Level 3 BTEC exams

**Wednesday 7th January 2026**

Y13 Level 3 BTEC exams

**Thursday 8th January 2026**

Awards Evening  
Y13 Level 3 BTEC exams

**Friday 9th January 2026**

Y13 Level 3 BTEC exams

## Week A

**Monday 12th January 2026**

Y13 Level 3 BTEC exams  
Year 8, 9, 10 Assessments commence

**Tuesday 13th January 2026**

Y13 Level 3 BTEC exams  
Y11 Trial Exam Mock Results presentation P2

**Wednesday 14th January 2026**

Y13 Level 3 BTEC exams

**Thursday 15th January 2026**

Y13 Level 3 BTEC exams  
HFCMAT Changemaker Project in  
collaboration with Chester Zoo

**Friday 16th January 2026**

Y13 Level 3 BTEC exams

# Rewards & Recognition

## Year 7

Muhammad Affan, Asher Gati, Penelope Whittaker, Kiera Burns, Karol Linto, Niall Adams, Molly Redmond, Matthew Igoe, Charlotte Fitzgerald

## Year 8

Ela Gokce, Minan Salih, Harrison Jones, Bella Sanders, Cassidy Young, Tia Rae Evans, Evlynn Barratt, Mason Rooke, Harday Bhatt, Bella Cawley, Jack Piercy, Samuel Fergusson, Lois Carew

## Year 9

Olivia Glover; Macy Howells; Pedro Linto; Milly Harrison; Lucy Sawley; Allan Kuriakose; Jake Formston; Lucian Armstrong; Jack Connolly; Maisie Thompson; Keira Lewis Middleton; Caitlin Nolan; Ellie Grattan; Oliver Barnett; Blake Rodrigues; Charlie Connolly; Zac Reynolds

## Year 10

Callum March, Lily McVeigh, Isla Rose Dakin Mills, Laura Howell, Alisha Noble, Charlie Wylam, Blake Domville, Mya Newcombe, Noah Gladwin, Freya Foy, Holly Duncan, Seren McLoughlin, Awie Osman, Will Carr, Honor Burnett, Jemaine Aiyejina, Will Gibbs, Lucian Darkholm, Miley Fowler, Eloise Bennett, Marley O'Neill, Phil Brett, Libby Taylor, Lexie Trantom, Max Liddicoat, Lee Makonese, Daniel Welch, Harry Lawson, Rhys Rickards, Joe Norman, Zac Reynolds, Aston Hunt

## Year 11

Marden Ferrol-Fox, Daniel Greaves, Angesh Kanagasingam, Nicholas Connor, Kryspin Grodski, Alfie Roberts, Ellie Jones, Ava Conway, Riley Mohammed, Zac Conway, James Binks, Rebecca Caliman, Alona Paul, Freya Atherton, Evie Wallwork, Charlie Spiers, Max Morgan, Maisey Naughalty, Katie Hazlehurst, Jayden Boyd, Mia Atherton, Dylan Hughes, Isaac Kennedy, Huw Maddox, Tom Moynihan, Seb McArdle, Carly Smith, Niall Robinson, Nicole May, Aeden Larnicol-Ringwood

## Year 12

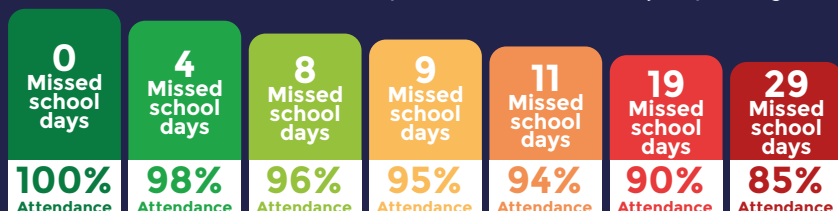
Lily Garnett; Beth Gladwin; Gabby Ubah; Libby Agrellis; Jack Roberts; Tia Rae Evans; Evlynn Barratt; Annabelle Barnes; Harday Bhatt; Bella Cawley; Max Cheshire; Seren McLoughlin; Jana Games; Alona Paul; Freya Atherton; Evie Wallwork; Charlie Spiers; Pietro Frigo; Max Morgan; Maisey Naughalty; Katie Hazlehurst; Bithiah Alwin George; Valentine Nyathi; Daniel Sass; Marcus Goodwin; Alfie Hearnden; Daniel Chung; Charlotte Jaggering; Jo Van Zelm; Lewis Mohammed; Madi McVeigh; Cameron Wilcocks; Ethan Charles; Ava Bryan; Oliver Hughes

## Year 13

Summer Jones Hughes; Ben Saji; Elwin Eldho; Alex Davies; Joe Dodd Berry; Poppy Jamieson; Sophie Haslam; Blake Domville; Gabriel Harrison; Syeda Rahat; Mya Newcombe; Noah Gladwin; Freya Foy; Harriet Wootten; Jack Piercy; Andrew Sarson; Maria Rita Alberio; Beatrix Manley; Jacob Taylor; Adele Harwood; Sienna Bramo; David Fatokun; Liam Blackburn; Isobel Wilcox; Sarah Descalzo; Scarlett Reynolds; Maggie Lloyd; Sinead Daly; Amelia Jones; Amelia Roberts; Lee Makonese; Seb McArdle; Luke O'Gorman; Isis Newcombe; Harry Lawson; Luke Boston;

Old Chester Road, Bebington, Wirral, CH63 7LF

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