



ST JOHN PLESSINGTON
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

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





Headteacher's Message

Dear St John Plessington Catholic College Community,

At the end of another very short but busy half term, I wanted to share several important updates and reflections from our school community.

First, I want to acknowledge the passing of John Badger, a significant figure in our school's life.

Our Sixth Form students honoured his memory by forming a guard of honour at his funeral. I am deeply touched by the number of people who came to sign the book of condolences, which clearly demonstrates the profound impact Mr Badger had on so many students' lives. Once again, we extend our sincere condolences to his wife and family.

Today is our review day, and we warmly welcome parents of our Year 8 and 9 students. Simultaneously, our Year 11 students begin their final series of trial exams, which will continue after the half-term break. To our Year 11 students: remember to approach your revision strategically – little and often is key to success.

Some of our Year 11 students recently attended a Jaguar Landrover taster day, supporting their future career planning and exploration. This is an excellent opportunity for them to gain insights into potential career pathways.

Next week, we enter the sacred season of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday. As a Catholic school, this is a time for spiritual reflection, renewal, and considering how we can grow in compassion, service, and understanding.

Our Paris trip departed last night with nearly 100 students – we wish them a safe and enjoyable journey. Last week, St John Plessington had the honour of hosting all secondary Catholic headteachers from across the diocese. We also hosted Mini Dash, bringing together students from all Catholic secondary schools. It was an extraordinary event – the largest Mini Dash ever – filled with fun, deep thought, and moments of spiritual reflection.

Our dance trip to London was a tremendous success. Students enjoyed being tourists and the weekend's highlight was watching the Michael Jackson musical. Our Art students have also excelled, with fantastic entries for the Dot Art competition. We wish our finalists the very best of luck as they head to the Junk Kouture final in Dublin after half-term.

A few important notices for parents: After half-term, we will be performing "The Wizard of Oz" – a production not to be missed. Please secure your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Additional dates for your diary: Friday 27 February is the review day for Year 7 and 10, and Thursday 5 March is our Year 9 GCSE Options Evening.

As per yesterday's email, I remind parents about our expectations regarding uniform and appearance, and I appreciate your continued support in maintaining our high standards.

I wish everyone a wonderful, enjoyable half-term break. Stay safe. School reopens for all students on Monday 23 February.

Mr McLoughlin
Headteacher

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Children's Mental Health Week 2026 took place from 9–15 February, with the inspiring theme "This Is My Place." This year's focus was on helping children and young people develop a strong sense of belonging — feeling safe, valued, and heard in the places that matter most to them.

Throughout the week, students explored this theme in their Personal Development lessons. They discussed practical ways to look after their mental health, including building positive routines, talking openly about their feelings, supporting one another, and recognising when they may need a break or some extra help.

Students also reflected on what makes school feel like their place. They shared ideas about creating welcoming classrooms, showing kindness and respect, celebrating differences, and making sure everyone feels included. By encouraging students to take ownership of their environment, we are helping to build a community where everyone feels they belong.

Importantly, lessons also highlighted where students can seek further support if they need it — whether that is speaking to a trusted adult, a form tutor, a member of the pastoral team, or accessing wellbeing resources available in school.

Children's Mental Health Week reminds us that a strong sense of belonging can have a powerful impact on wellbeing. Together, we continue to work towards making our school a place where every child feels confident in saying, "This is my place."



SAFER INTERNET DAY

On Tuesday 10th February, we marked Safer Internet Day in school. During form time, pupils worked through a range of resources focused on how to stay safe online and what to do if they encounter problems. This included guidance on recognising and reporting issues such as cyberbullying, as well as knowing where to seek support both in and out of school.

In line with this year's theme, "Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI," students also explored how artificial intelligence is shaping the online world. They learned how to spot fake or AI-generated content, think critically about what they see online, and use AI tools in a safe, respectful and responsible way.

Safer Internet Day provided an important opportunity to remind everyone that making smart choices online helps create a safer digital environment for all.



YEAR 11 DANCERS TOOK LONDON BY STORM

Our Year 11 BTEC Dance students enjoyed an unforgettable trip to London, representing our community with real pride. After arriving in the capital, the group took in the sights, making the most of a morning of sightseeing and shared memories. They then headed to Pineapple Dance Studios for an inspiring class, stepping into a professional environment and embracing the challenge with confidence. Later, the students watched MJ The Musical, and it left everyone speechless, a brilliant end to a packed day. On the journey home, spirits were high, and it was clear just how special this experience was for the group.



YEAR 10 AND 11 RUGBY TEAM RAN IN FIVE TRIES

Our Year 10 and 11 rugby team played a friendly fixture against Woodchurch and produced a strong performance built on teamwork and determination. The squad showed great discipline, moved the ball well, and supported each other throughout, reflecting the togetherness we value across our community. The team scored five tries, a fantastic return that came from hard work in training and strong communication on the pitch. A special mention goes to Blake, who was named Man of the Match for an excellent all round display, and for setting the standard in effort and attitude. Well done to everyone involved.



TED EARNED A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY AT SALE ACADEMY

Congratulations to Ted, who continued to impress through his training with Sale Academy. Being part of an academy programme is a fantastic opportunity, and Ted approached it with real commitment, maturity, and ambition. Everyone is incredibly proud of the hard work he has put in, and the way he has represented himself and our wider community. Experiences like this can be transformative, building confidence, raising aspirations, and helping young people see what is possible through dedication and persistence. Ted's progress so far has been brilliant, and we are excited to see where this pathway takes him next. Keep going Ted, we are behind you.



YEAR 9 CREATED POWERFUL 'JOURNEY INTO THEIR FUTURE' ARTWORK

Year 9 produced outstanding 'Journey Into Their Future' pieces, and their resilience, determination, and creativity were clear in every submission. Students explored Dot Art using mixed media, layering, collage, and text, resulting in work that was both personal and visually striking. The atmosphere in the art space was brilliant, with pupils encouraging each other and taking pride in their progress, a real reflection of our shared sense of belonging. Mrs Davies and the Art team celebrated the achievements of the group, and it was a lovely moment when Miss Taft visited to see the work and share in the success. Well done Year 9, a superb effort.



YEAR 11 EXPLORED APPRENTICESHIPS AT JAGUAR LAND ROVER

A group of Year 11 students attended a 'Try Before You Apply' event at Jaguar Land Rover's Halewood site, gaining an excellent insight into apprenticeship opportunities. They were welcomed warmly, introduced to the brand, and heard an inspiring talk from the Production Manager, who shared his own apprenticeship journey and career progression. Students toured the plant, witnessed the manufacturing process, and took part in a range of practical dexterity activities, including quality checks, electrical fitting, and pattern recognition. James achieved the fastest time in the disc sort challenge, a brilliant highlight. The visit ended with guidance from the recruitment team about applications, which opened after half term, week commencing 23/02/2026.



RUBY AND JAMES HIT INCREDIBLE TASSOMAI MILESTONES

A huge congratulations to Ruby and James, who secured £50 voucher prizes in Mr Lysaght's Year 11 Science classes for achieving the most Tassomai points in the first term. Their focus and consistency were outstanding, showing the impact of steady effort over time. James achieved nearly 32,000 points in just two months, an incredible milestone that reflects real commitment to learning and improvement. Ruby's achievement was equally impressive, demonstrating great motivation and determination. Moments like this are a brilliant reminder of what pupils can achieve when they set goals and keep pushing, and it is fantastic to see success celebrated across our community. Well done both, keep it going.

ST JOHN PLESSINGTON
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

TASSOMAI

James - 11b

| Questions Attempted | Questions Correct | Points Achieved |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 12659 | 9139 | 31974 |

Ruby - 11a

| Questions Attempted | Questions Correct | Points Achieved |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 4542 | 2528 | 6662 |

A huge congratulations to Ruby and James for securing their £50 voucher prizes

THE WIZARD OF OZ REHEARSALS BROUGHT THE MAGIC TO LIFE

Rehearsals for our upcoming production of The Wizard of Oz got underway, and the cast and crew made a superb start. From early scene work to music and staging, pupils worked with energy and focus, supporting one another and building confidence as a team. The atmosphere has been brilliant, and it is already shaping up to be a magical production for our whole community to enjoy. Performances will take place on Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 March at 7.00pm in the College Hall. Tickets were available from Reception, with prices set at Adults £5 and Concessions £3. We cannot wait to share the show with you.



A SIXTH FORM WHERE YOU BELONG

Following our Sixth Form Information Evening in November, applications for our Sixth Form are now open. Choosing the right next step is a big decision, and every young person deserves a high quality education, strong support, and the chance to feel known, valued, and confident about their future.

If you are a parent or carer, and you know a young person who is looking for a Sixth Form place this September, please encourage them to come and have a look around; we would love to meet them and show what we can offer.

Follow the link below to visit our website, where you will find the course guide, application form, and key information about life in our Sixth Form:

[Find out more](https://www.stjohnplessington.com)



Mr John Badger – RIP

1951 – 2026

John joined SJP in January 1976, at the same time as his good friend Deb Cushion. He became Head of Learning and was part of SLT. He left briefly in 2009 before returning in 2010, where he worked as a cover supervisor until 2020, before retiring 'to enjoy time with family and see the world'.

You always knew when John was in school because you would hear classical music gently playing from the open door of his classroom, with not a sound from the students, who would be working away, appreciating a calm, controlled place of learning.

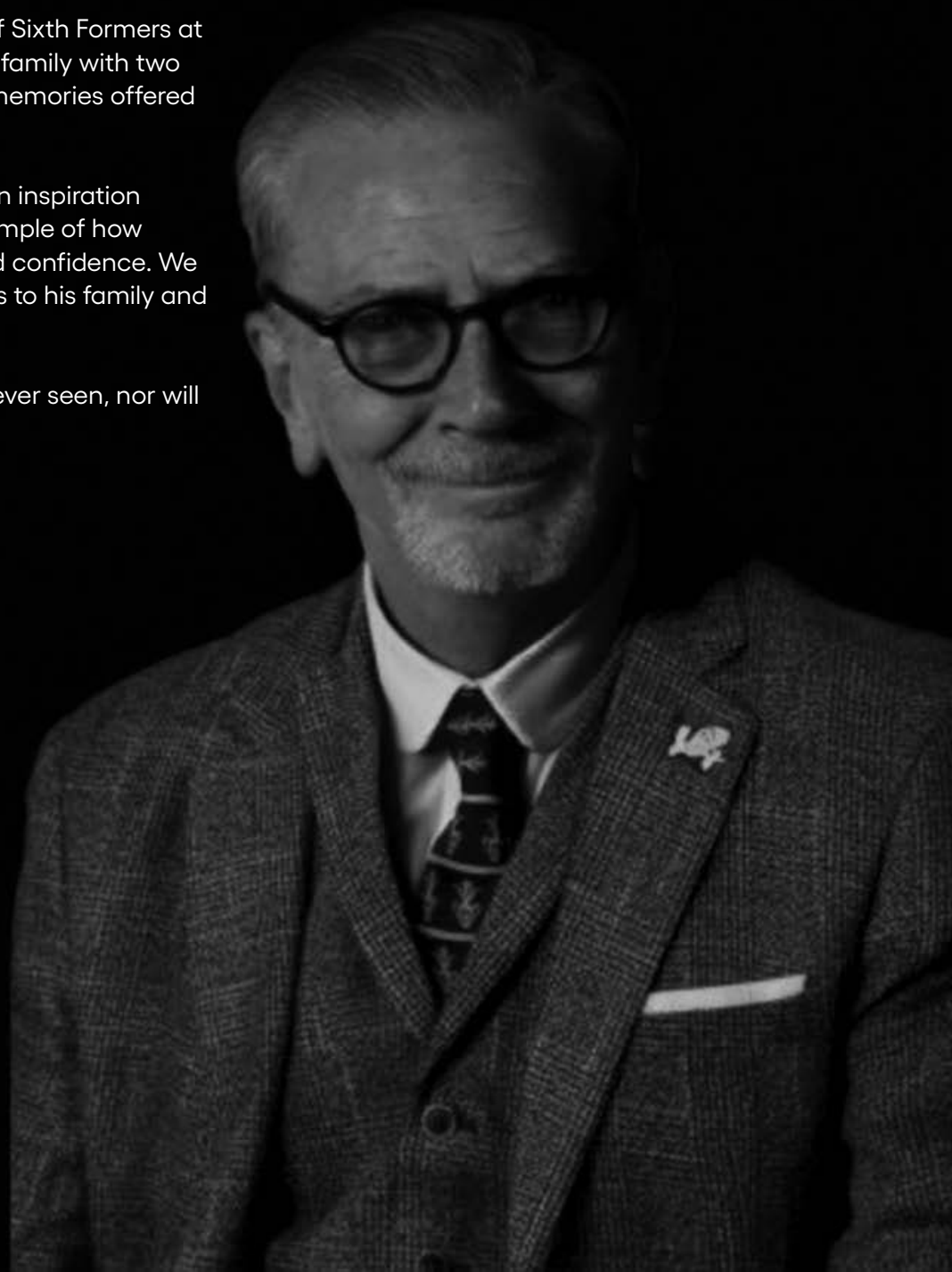
The response of grief and love from staff and former pupils has been overwhelming. John had a massive impact on his pupils and colleagues because of his wit, his personality, his love, his dedication and his ability to bring out the best in the people around him.

SJP provided an honour guard of Sixth Formers at his funeral and presented John's family with two volumes of written thanks and memories offered by colleagues and ex-pupils.

John Badger was and remains an inspiration to the work of the Trust and example of how educators can provide hope and confidence. We extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends.

A better dressed man SJP has never seen, nor will again.

May he rest in peace.



Reflection from our Trust Chaplain

One of the best reasons for schools and going to schools is the way schools teach us to live well together. At school, we learn to recognize our rights and responsibilities. We learn to recognize and appreciate the talents of others. We are given many opportunities to contribute to a community. It is, at school, not about me but about us.

This past half term we have been focusing on this quality in schools by looking at Catholic social teaching in practice. Catholic social teaching consists of a series of principles that help us live together in the way Jesus intended.

The key concept or way of thinking about how we can build the school Jesus wants us to be is the common good. The common good is all the things we share and which make us all flourish more. Private good is necessary. For example, I am wearing a jumper as I write this. While I am wearing this jumper is good for me and I need it and do not share it. It is a private good.

But pupils have quickly understood and embraced the idea that schools are in fact a common good. School is a place and culture we share, where everyone needs to make a contribution so that we can all flourish. Forms have been encouraged to come up with ways they can improve the common good. The results which they presented to their year group reveal the tremendous variety and acuity of pupils and staff.

Many forms chose to focus on kindness. They started anonymous mail services which bring notes of encouragement to teachers and to others. They suggested including a moment to share encouraging words with classmates on a daily basis. One teacher even produced beautiful flowers to take to LSAs and other teachers. One form created a "pep talk" jar where a person who is feeling low can go to pick up a message of encouragement.

For many forms there was focus on the environment. Litter picks, more bins, and a determination to plant trees, grow indoor plants and create a small orchard on the farm. One entire year group speculated on appropriate pets which would raise the spirit of everyone in a form room.

And there were many ambitious plans of construction and analysis. Mr Gunthorpe's 9 Bosco are conducting, in conjunction with the eco-club, a sustainability survey of the school. Their documents include a website, graphs, and a desire to understand the school community's habits along with strategies to improve our environmental impact. Ms Davies' form are building a bench in honour of Mr Badger, a place to sit and rest.

Our Sixth Form responded brilliantly to the invitation to become ambassadors for the Mary's Meals charity taking a leadership role in making sure our community is in solidarity with those places in the world where children can't go to school because they have nothing to eat.

Moving our mindset from school as an act of consumption to an act of participation is a key Catholic principle. All of us are included, all of us need to contribute to the common good. It has been so encouraging to see the enthusiasm and creativity of staff and pupils in pursuing this understanding of what a school is and what it is for.

The chaplaincy is very grateful to Ms Gerard who is leaving us at the end of this half term to take up her next training placement. She is a trainee teacher who taught the Alpha course to our Sixth Formers on Wednesday afternoons. This course became a real faith-sharing group and is the basis of much prayer, friendship and lively discussion. Thank you Ms Gerard!





CAREERS FOCUS – Apprenticeship Week

The focus for careers this week has been National Apprenticeship Week (NAW 2026).

Working with a range of our partners, including 'Amazing Apprenticeships', our students have been given opportunities to learn all about what apprenticeships are. With a video, quizzes and games all made available on Google Classroom, students have had access to information on the different levels of apprenticeship, as well as gaining an understanding around the timelines of when they should apply, if this pathway is one that may appeal in the future.

Year 11 to 13 students have been invited to a series of webinars throughout the week, including apprenticeships linked to logistics, law, audit, retail, finance and more. This information will continue to be highlighted throughout the year as companies open up more apprenticeship opportunities. One of the highlights of the week was an all day visit to the Jaguar Land rover (JLR) plant at Halewood. Selected Year 11 students spent a very 'hands on' day learning about what a Level 3 manufacturing apprenticeship looks like.

Hot on the heels of NAW, after the half term break National Careers Week (NCW 2026) will be upon us (week commencing 2nd of March), and then at the start of May we will hold our annual Careers Fair. As well as a range of further and higher education organisations joining us for the day, we are hoping to welcome a range of businesses, with major players such as Airbus and John Lewis already expressing a keen interest in attending.

Short 'explainer' video on apprenticeships
<https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/the-apprenticeship-assembly-film/>

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

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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 23rd February 2026

School re-opens to all students
Chinese New Year Celebrations
Junk Kouture World Final in Dublin
Year 11,12 & 13 Trial Exams

Tuesday 24th February 2026

Chinese New Year Celebrations
Junk Kouture World Final in Dublin
Year 11,12 & 13 Trial Exams

Wednesday 25th February 2026

Chinese New Year Celebrations
Junk Kouture World Final in Dublin
Year 11,12 & 13 Trial Exams
PE U13 Girls Wirral Football Cup Fixture at
Hilbre 14:30 – 17:00

Thursday 26th February 2026

Year 11,12 & 13 Trial Exams

Friday 27th February 2026

Year 11,12 & 13 Trial Exams
Y7 & 10 Progress Review Meetings

Week A

Monday 2nd March 2026

Year 11,12 & 13 Trial Exams
PE Y9 Wirral Boys Football Cup

Tuesday 3rd March 2026

Year 11,12 & 13 Trial Exams

Wednesday 4th March 2026

Year 11,12 & 13 Trial Exams
Student Mass 14:40

Thursday 5th March 2026

Year 11,12 & 13 Trial Exams
Key Stage 4 Information Evening
World Book Day – Pop-up Photo Booth

Friday 6th March 2026

Year 11,12 & 13 Trial Exams
Careers- Experience of Workplace

Rewards & Recognition

Year 7

Leo Jones, Alexander Dennis, Charlie Hardman, Theo Jones, Annie Kevill-Whiting, Charlie Hardman, Dolly McCulloch, Isla Cameron-Richards, Jaiden Nag, Donilele Saliboko, Frankie Hobbs, Logan Ogden, George Moynihan, Liam O'Toole, James Booth, Charlotte Large, Lois Stevens-Duvall, Nancey-Rose Reynolds, Kyle Kewley, Rex Martins Ajayi, Joann Joseph, Matthew Igooe,

Year 8

Alfie Rooke, Sofia Frost, Connor Mc Grac, India Doherty, Zach Jones, Ruben Maguire, Kaiden Detleff, Sofia Spencer, Harrison Jones, Sophia Corless, Alisha Davies, Sophia Cunningham, Jack Evans, Alan Joshy, Saania Mustafae, Jawad Daod, Katie Lewis, Abel Linson, Bella Sanders, Agnas Sanju, Finley Shone, Joel Harvey, Anya Robinson

Year 9

Bobby Chun, Pedro Linto, Mia McCarthy, Logan Davies, Max Morgan, Arsh Dolshat, Archie McEvitt, Karl Evans, Noah Lewis, Thomas Hennessy, Jillian Tan, Piotr Babol, Lucian Armstrong, Finley Shaw, Finley Irving, Ruben Bhullar, Cohen Flournoy, CiCi Chihondo, Lexie O'Toole, Lilly Jane Jones, Laura Millington, Eleanor Morton

Year 10

Awie Osman, Amelia McCready Waters, Lily Fearon, Max Liddicoat, George Brine, Ethan Dulsan, Laura Howell, Ava Snape, Megan Redford, Archie McCaffrey, Jacob Clyne, Georgia-Mae Spencer, Samuel Poulouse, David Garnett, Abbie Culimore, David Smith, Sam Keeley, David Smith, Joseph Norman, Lexie Jones, Alex Hagan, Charlotte Rostance, Korey Jones, Jude Barkley, Christopher Chinedu, Elsie Wooten, Imogen Lawrence, Lee Makonese, Paddy Moore, McKinley Dawson, Peyton Buck, Ryan Cherian, Harry Lawson, Aston Hunt, Fin Lawson

Year 11

Nancy Collins, Nehal Anup, Jake Clark, Lucy Price, Meg Byrne, Charley Metcalfe, Aiden Kelly, Kaylin Quayle, Mitchell Welsman, Niall Robinson, Emily Burnett, Connor Mc Dougall, Daniel Hunter, Liam Baskeyfield, Caitlyn Hicks, Olivia Murphy, Jacob Peers, Isaac Kennedy, Alfie Roberts, Freya Lucas, Eowyn Cliff, Noah Fergusson, Callum Davies, Alwin Liju, Zach Tierney, Kryspin Grodski, Sam Roberts, Toby Layfield, Lilly Walker, Oliver Dahl, Chloe Slack, Brooke Hughes

Year 12

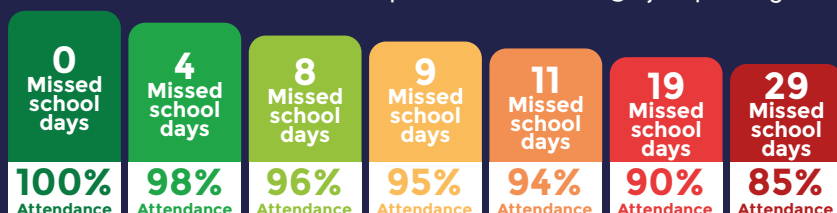
Gabriela Hyde, David Fatokun, Gabby Ubah, Evie Gelling Reynolds, Olivia Wainwright, Austin Formston, Maya Khan, Leighton Bibby, Daniel Esparza, Sarah Linge, Neve Murphy, Maggie Lloyd, Frazer Watkinson, Libbie Lefebvre, Pietro Frigo, Jack Sharp, Max Wood, Natasha Higgans, Gabby Ubah, Amelia Hodgkiss, Evie Gelling Reynolds, Jovile Kleibaite, Tiarna Corway, Maddie Macallow, Kieron Westlake-Mearns, Erin Boardman, Ines Westfalkewska, Lola Barrett, Georgia Read, Pietro Frigo, Erin Boardman, Daniel Chung, Ann Marie Thomas, Jismi Joseph

Year 13

Isis Newcombe, Angel Kumar, Emil Shibu, Georgina Thurston, Libby Lamb, Beatrix Manley, Georgina Thurston, Bithia Alwin George, Ethan Chow, Amelia Roberts, Ruby Wylam, Ethan Chow, Isabelle Hewitt, Sam Watterson, Sherin Sabu, Sheyla Diaz Baez, Jana Games, Alex Davies, Josh O Toole, Darcie Wilcock, Helen Henry, Beatrix Manley, Yousif Yousif, Liz Joseph, Liam Evans, Caitlin Adams, Josa Devis, Jack Lally, Darcie Sutton, Madison McVeigh, Luke Boston, Charlotte Williams

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- 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