



ST JOHN PLESSINGTON
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

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





Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy and extremely positive start to the new academic year at St John Plessington Catholic College. I would like to begin by thanking you for your continued support, encouragement and trust. A strong partnership between home and school is essential, and your support helps us maintain high expectations and provide the best possible experience for every pupil.

We were delighted to begin the year by celebrating our improved examination results. Our 2026 outcomes were our strongest for several years and reflect the determination of our pupils and the dedication of our staff. We are proud of the progress made, but we remain ambitious. Our focus is now firmly on building upon these improvements and ensuring that every pupil receives the support, challenge and opportunities needed to fulfil their potential.

It has been a pleasure to welcome our new Year 7 pupils and their families to SJP. They have made a confident and positive start, settling into school life and demonstrating our values of Compassion, Respect, Determination and Justice. We have also welcomed new pupils into other year groups and new students into our Sixth Form.

Our recent Open Evening and Open Mornings were a tremendous success. Visitors spoke very positively about the calm and welcoming atmosphere, the quality of learning and, most importantly, the confidence, courtesy and enthusiasm of our pupils. Our Year 12 and 13 students were exceptional ambassadors as they guided families around the school. Thank you to every pupil, member of staff and parent who helped make these events so successful.

We have already enjoyed several memorable opportunities beyond the classroom. Pupils represented SJP brilliantly during the Chester Zoo Takeover Day, while our Sixth Form students participated in the Emmaus Walk—an important opportunity for reflection, community and personal development. We are committed to ensuring that enrichment, leadership and service remain central to pupils' experiences at SJP.

The start of term has also seen the introduction of our revised timetable, with one-hour lessons supporting greater depth of learning, improved curriculum coherence and more purposeful time in the classroom. Across the school, our teachers are focusing particularly on checking pupils' understanding, addressing misconceptions quickly and ensuring that pupils are ready before moving on to new learning.

Our expectations around attendance, punctuality, uniform and behaviour remain high. Regular attendance is one of the strongest foundations for academic success and wellbeing. Every lesson matters, and even short periods of absence can create gaps in learning. We ask parents and carers to continue supporting us by ensuring that pupils attend every day, arrive on time, wear their uniform with pride and are fully equipped for learning.

We have also strengthened our expectations around mobile phones through the introduction of phone pouches. This is helping us create an environment in which pupils can concentrate on learning, develop positive relationships and enjoy their school day without unnecessary distraction. Thank you for supporting this important change.

We are also looking forward to re-establishing Friends of Plessington, bringing parents and carers together to support fundraising and help provide additional resources and opportunities for our pupils. Further details will follow, and we would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in becoming involved.

I felt that it was necessary to clarify our use of toilets. Pupils have opportunities to use the toilets before school, at break, during lunchtime and at the end of the school day. To minimise disruption to learning, pupils should use these designated times wherever possible and avoid leaving lessons unnecessarily. Pupils with an agreed medical toilet pass will continue to be supported in line with their individual needs, however they should still use the facilities during scheduled breaks. We appreciate parents and carers reinforcing this expectation at home.

There is much to celebrate, but we will never become complacent. We will continue to listen, reflect and improve while maintaining the highest expectations for everyone within our community. I am immensely proud of our pupils and grateful to our staff, governors, parents, carers, parishes and wider community for everything they contribute.

Thank you once again for your continued support. I look forward to working with you throughout the year as we build upon this positive start and continue to make SJP a school in which every young person feels known, valued and inspired to succeed.

With best wishes,

Mr McLoughlin
Headteacher

A Fantastic Open Evening and Open Mornings

St John Plessington Catholic College welcomed hundreds of prospective pupils and families through its doors for a hugely successful Open Evening and Open Mornings.

More than 1,100 visitors attended our Open Evening, exploring the school, meeting staff and pupils, visiting subject areas and discovering more about life at SJP.

Feedback from 86 families was extremely positive, with the overall experience receiving an average rating of 4.30 out of 5. Families praised the warm welcome from staff and pupils, the wide range of activities and the opportunity to hear directly from pupils about their experiences.

One parent commented:

"All the children who volunteered were very helpful and friendly. Our tour guides were very informative."

Our Open Mornings then gave parents and carers the opportunity to experience SJP during a normal school day. Visitors were able to see lessons taking place and experience the calm, purposeful learning environment across the college.

One parent praised the:

"Calm learning environment throughout school."

Our Year 12 and 13 guides also made a particularly strong impression, with families highlighting their confidence, honesty and knowledge of the school. Parents visited a wide range of subjects including science, art, drama, PE, music, media and food technology, helping them gain a real understanding of everyday life at SJP.

Across both events, families also highlighted our Catholic character, reputation, SEND provision, pastoral support and welcoming school community.

A huge thank you goes to every pupil, member of staff and sixth-form guide who helped make our Open Evening and Open Mornings such a success, and to every family who came along to visit us.



New Homework Hub Launched for Families

Following feedback from parents and carers who told us they were sometimes unsure how to access homework platforms or find their child's homework information, we have created a new Homework Hub on the SJP website.

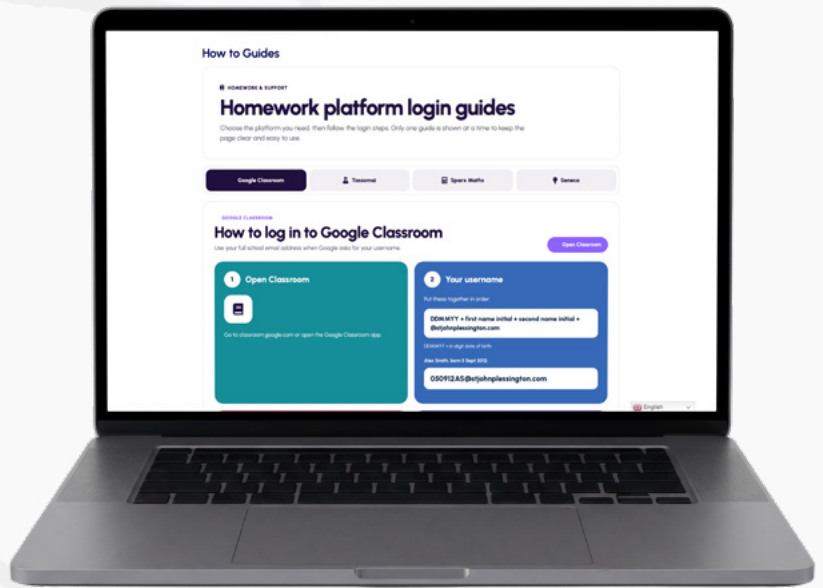
The new page brings everything together in one place. Families can view the KS3 and KS4 homework timetables, check homework days and after-school support sessions, and find step-by-step login guides for Google Classroom, Tassomai, Sparx Maths and Seneca.

There is also a dedicated password reset request form, making it easier for pupils to get help if they are having difficulty accessing one of the platforms.

The aim is to make homework information clearer and easier to access, while giving parents and carers the information they need to support learning at home.

Visit the Homework Hub:

<https://stjohnplessington.com/curriculum/homework-at-sjp/>



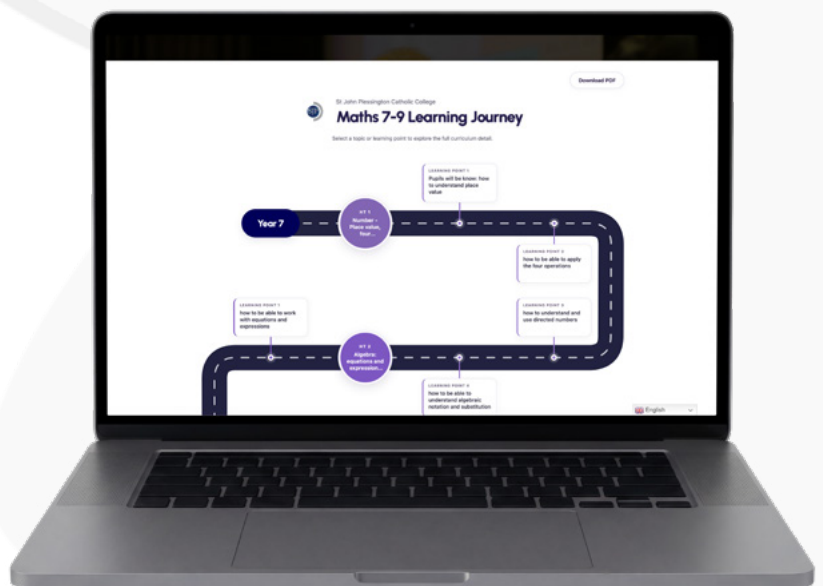
Explore Our Learning Journeys

Parents and carers can now explore our new Learning Journeys, showing the roadmap pupils follow through each subject during their time at SJP.

Each journey breaks the curriculum down by year group and half term, showing the topics pupils will study and the key learning points they will develop along the way. Parents can select individual points on the roadmap to see more detail about what their child will be learning.

Learning Journeys are available across a wide range of subjects, helping families understand how knowledge and skills build as pupils progress through school.

They are a simple way to see where pupils are now, what they are learning next and where their subject journey is taking them.



View Subject Learning Journeys:

<https://stjohnplessington.com/curriculum/curriculum-plans-2026-27/>

★ National Teaching Assistants Day! ★



Today is National Teaching Assistants Day, and we want to take the opportunity to celebrate and thank our incredible team of **33 Learning Assistants and HLTAs**.

Our Learning Assistants play such an important role in the life of our school. Every day, they go above and beyond to support our pupils, remove barriers to learning and help our young people to thrive.

We are incredibly grateful for the care, dedication and commitment they show to our pupils and the wider school community.



A special shout-out to Mrs Hughes!

Celebrating an incredible

20 years

as a Learning Assistant!

Thank you, Mrs Hughes, for two decades of dedication, hard work and commitment to our pupils and our school. You are truly an invaluable member of the team!

33



Learning Assistants and HLTAs

10



former SJP pupils in our team!



Countless positive differences made every day!



♥ Happy National Teaching Assistants Day! ♥

THANK YOU ALL — YOUR DEDICATION MAKES A REAL DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY!

Welcome to Our New Year 7s

We have been delighted to welcome our new Year 7 pupils into the SJP community.

They have made a fantastic start to life at St John Plessington, settling into their new routines, meeting new friends and getting involved in lessons and school life.

Starting secondary school is a big milestone, and it has been wonderful to see how quickly our new pupils have grown in confidence and begun to feel at home.

We are very proud of the way they have started their journey with us and look forward to seeing all they achieve over the years ahead.



Shrek: The Musical Auditions

It has been a very busy week for our Performing Arts Department, with auditions taking place for this year's production of Shrek: The Musical!

Across two evenings, more than 80 students auditioned for a place in the cast, demonstrating fantastic talent, enthusiasm and commitment. Mr Payne, Mrs Ousey, Mrs Stevenson and Ms Farrell were incredibly impressed by the standard of the auditions and the confidence shown by everyone who took part.

With the cast now taking shape, excitement is already building ahead of rehearsals beginning next week.

We cannot wait to see the production come to life!



KS3 Coding, Esports and Minecraft Clubs

Our KS3 Coding, Esports and Minecraft Clubs take place every Thursday from 3.15–4.15 pm in IT5 and IT6. The clubs are run by Mr Slane and Mrs Kennedy and are open to all KS3 students.

KS3 Coding Club

Students can develop their programming skills, complete coding challenges and create their own games and interactive projects. No previous coding experience is required.

KS3 Esports Club

Students can compete in exciting gaming challenges while developing valuable teamwork, communication and strategic-thinking skills.

KS3 Minecraft Club

Students can build incredible worlds, take part in creative challenges and work collaboratively to solve problems and bring their ideas to life.

All KS3 students are welcome to attend. Come along, try something new and get involved in one of these exciting opportunities!



Shamelia Signs for Everton

A huge congratulations to Shamelia in Year 9, who has signed for Everton U14 Girls.

This is a fantastic achievement and reflects all the hard work and dedication Shamelia has put into her football. We are incredibly proud of her and look forward to seeing how she progresses this season. Well done, Sham!



U16 Basketball Team Secure Victory

Congratulations to the SJP U16 Basketball Team, who produced a brilliant performance against South Wirral High School.

The team secured the win by eight points, demonstrating excellent teamwork and determination throughout the game.

Well done to everyone involved!



U15 Rugby Team Beat Woodchurch

Well done to our SJP U15 Rugby Team, who secured an impressive 20-5 victory against Woodchurch High School.

The team put in a strong performance from start to finish, with Karl E named Man of the Match for his contribution.

A fantastic result, well done!



Emphatic Win for SJP U16 Rugby

Our SJP U16 Rugby Team produced an outstanding away performance against Woodchurch High School, securing an emphatic 36-0 victory.

It was an excellent team display, with Ed M earning the Man of the Match award.

Congratulations to the whole team on a superb result!



SJP Change Makers Take Over Chester Zoo

Students from St John Plessington Catholic College became Change Makers at Chester Zoo as part of HFCMAT's third annual Zoo Takeover Day.

The event brought together pupils from six schools across Holy Family Catholic Multi Academy Trust, giving young people the opportunity to speak directly to members of the public about important environmental and sustainability issues.

SJP students focused on the impact of climate change on our own school grounds, particularly the increasing risk of flooding and the ways in which the college can respond.

Students shared soil samples taken from around the SJP site, explaining how much of the ground is made up of clay. Because clay soil absorbs water slowly, periods of heavy rainfall can increase surface water and the risk of flooding.

They also spoke about an exciting project at SJP following £50,000 of funding from United Utilities. The funding will support the creation of new flower beds and planting areas across the college, helping to manage rainwater more effectively while increasing biodiversity and improving the school environment.

Rather than simply learning about climate change in the classroom, the Chester Zoo Takeover gave students the opportunity to apply their knowledge to a real issue affecting their own community and then share that learning with hundreds of visitors.

"Days like the Chester Zoo Takeover are incredibly important because they give our young people a genuine voice. As Change Makers, they are not simply learning about environmental challenges; they are researching issues that affect their own community, speaking confidently to the public and encouraging others to think about the changes we can all make. Experiences like this help students realise that their ideas and actions really can make a difference."

The event forms part of HFCMAT's wider commitment to sustainability, Catholic Social Teaching and Laudato Si', encouraging young people to care for our common home and become confident, active participants in creating a more sustainable future.

A huge well done to our SJP students for representing the college with such knowledge, confidence and passion.



We are greening SJP during the month of September. As part of the Care for Creation month, each form has begun growing crops and flowers from seeds. There is already much excitement in the Assisi forms as they appear to have germinated several lettuces already.

So far 68 small growing pots and seeds have been distributed throughout the school. It can be difficult inside a school building to continue to marvel at creation: its abundance, its beauty, its generative capacity. Hopefully, through this project, we will be reminded of God's gift of creation and our chance to steward rather than exploit it.

We have also begun our sacramental preparation classes in conjunction with St Anne's and St John's parish. Pupil who wish to be confirmed or receive their first Holy Communion meet every Thursday in the Chapel to learn more about the sacraments and to share the deepening of their faith. Every Friday pupils can join the St Anne's confirmation preparation group as well. This group meets at 18:30 at St Anne's Church.

Next week we will launch our Harvest Fast. You can already make a donation here <https://www.justgiving.com/page/johannes-van-mourik-broekman-1>

I would appreciate it if you could watch as a family this brief video about Maggie, a girl who attends a school which recently installed running water. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QIbFPEF2Jw>

Our target this half term is to raise enough money to ensure a school like Maggie's also has running water. We do this through the CAFOD Harvest Fast. Families and pupils forego some treat or food. For example, we might pledge to not buy a coffee, but to make one at home or to skip a Maccies visit. The funds of this fasting then go to the charity. Pupils will have collection boxes for small change in their form rooms, but you can donate directly to CAFOD through the page or by texting CAFOD

You can donate to CAFOD by texting CAFOD to 70460 to give £10

Here is a prayer for the beginning of the school year

Come Holy Spirit, fill our hearts as we begin this school year
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Help us to see your presence in our lives
And to follow you
Amen



Upcoming Events

Week A

Monday 28th September 2026

Pitch & Post Project (Cathy Charnley from Kraken Comics)

Tuesday 29th September 2026

Krakow Trip - Parents' Information Evening
16:30-17:30 M Jones
Cathedrals in Liverpool - R Davies Y10 Art

Wednesday 30th September 2026

SENDCO open morning 4 (LED) 9am-10.30am

Thursday 1st October 2026

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day
Sixth Form Taster sessions (Alpha)

Friday 2nd October 2026

Dash & Mini-Dash
Sixth Form Taster sessions (Beta)

Week B

Monday 5th October 2026

Year 11 English & Maths Assessment / Year 12
Initial assessment UCL Year 8
Ski Trip Information Night

Tuesday 6th October 2026

Wednesday 7th October 2026

Thursday 8th October 2026

Y11 Progress Review Meetings (15:45-19:00)

Friday 9th October 2026

Rewards & Recognition

Year 7

Deon Jacob, Noah Coburn, Jude Dalton-Johns, Olicia Hammon, Pearl Holmes, Shay Allen, Laavina Vino Rooban, Leo Jones, Mikes McGee, David Pavoloska, Diana Pavoloska, Jia Jeejo, Abigail Mathew, Wanna Ali, Aarush Jithin, Jase Holmes, Theo Irving Prince, Albie McCaffery, Leo Robinson, Callum Kewley, William Allright, Kieran Patten

Year 8

Jameson Hensby, Charlie Murray, Bobbie Power, Darcie Leigh Down, Saanvi Poreddy Mahender Nath, Tilly Woolman, Niall Adams, Lincoln Kelly, Muhammad Affan, Divine Obagagie, Kiera Burns, Poppi Smith, Jacob Barker, Keira Burns, Lincoln Kelly, Holly Parry, Abigail Martin, Charlie Hardman, Brooke Wilson, Orla Whiteside

Year 9

Charlie-Leigh Westlake-Mearns, Ela Gokce, Joel Hale, Ted Robinson, Oscar Jordan, Mathew Munashe Moyo, Cassidy Young, Sophia Birss, Md Towsif Chowdhury Sabith, Kosi Ohunbunwa, Latrell Omijie, Ava Willis, Levin Linson, Cole Povall, Joan Kasimu, Georgie Wilmshurst, Olivia Davies, Hannah Brewer, Neev Ooman, Moses Chung, Johan Jijo, Isla Mason, Joseph O'Reilly

Year 10

Isabella Doyle, Ani Kharashvili, Thomas Hennessey, Joseph Deeny, Imogen O'gorman, Ann Linson, Ellie Grattan, Lily Tasker, Jacob Smyth, Charlie Linane, Amber Camilleri, Tommy Lowe, Macy Howells, Ellie Stewart, James Redgrift, Logan Davies, Oliver Fox, Thomas Walsh, Megan Hanaghan, Piotr Babol, Shirley Leighton, Charlie Southern Hunter, Ellis Taylor Ward, Delilah Doyle, Freddie McDonnell, Lily Jane Jones, Liv Quinn, Reece Gillam

Year 11

Alex Cornett, Mia Kent, Ethan Goldrick, Lily McVeigh, Jake O'Gorman, Maximus Liddicoat, Jessica Rutter, Zak Kerrigan, Alex Cornett, Laura Howell, Freya Foy, Samuel Poullose, Leighton Houghton, Kaitlyn Rose, Vinnie Martin, Awie Osman, Charlotte Rostance, Ethan Dulson, Ava Byrne, Beth Murphy, Benjamin Buckley, Hanaa Elhassan, Lucas Harrison, Callum March, David Smith, Blake Casino, Owen West, Edward Merrin, Josie-May McIntyre, Ryan Cherian, Charlie Brown, Luca Redmond, Tobi burns, Psalm Espiritu, Connor wilson

Year 12

Mila Schoos, Libby Wilson, Olivia Murphy, Kayleigh Taplin, Dylan Hughes, Meg Byrne, Sebastian Mcardle, Matthew Hulmston, Freya Bennett, Lois Smith, Ed Whittaker, Lois Smith, Aiden Kelly, Thomas Moynihan, Sebastian McArdle, Charlie Crawford, Chloe Atkinson, Alona Paul, Emily Mosedale

Year 13

Gabriella Hyde, Beth Gladwin, Leo Carvell, Rosa Turk, Ben Redford, Myah Khan, Gabriel Ostrowski, Annabelle O'Brien, Lewis Mohammed, Sarah Linge, Hannah Mazier, Joshua Gallagher, Sophie Wheeler, Caitlin Kelly, Hattie Jebb, Daniel Cheung, David Fatokun, Skye Robinson, Libbie Lefebvre, Dom Simmons, Leighton Bibby, Isabel Iranzo, Hannah Mazier, Charlotte Freaney



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