ST JOHN PLESSINGTON
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

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



COMPASSION - RESPECT - DETERMINATION - JUSTICE

Edition 4
Friday 13 November 2026



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and rewarding fortnight at St John Plessington, with much to celebrate across our school community.

Our Remembrance service provided a particularly moving opportunity to come together in prayer and reflection, honouring those who have lost their lives in conflict. Thank you to our pupils, staff and returning colleagues who contributed so thoughtfully. The maturity and respect shown by students during our recent visit to Krakow and Auschwitz-Birkenau also reflected our commitment to compassion, human dignity and challenging prejudice.

We are delighted to have received the National Literacy Trust's Reading Culture Award, recognising our work to encourage reading for pleasure. Alongside this achievement, pupils have enjoyed opportunities ranging from BIMA Digital Day and creative literacy activities to university visits and the Global Women's Leadership Summit. Congratulations also to our sports teams and all pupils recognised in this edition for their effort and achievements.

Our Catholic mission continues through the launch of the Whitechapel backpack appeal, putting our faith into action by supporting people experiencing homelessness. We also keep in our prayers those celebrating the sacraments at this special time.

As we look ahead to Anti-Bullying Week, please reinforce our message that every child should feel safe, valued and heard. Encourage your child to speak to a trusted adult about any concerns and to complete the pupil voice surveys that help us improve our provision.

Attendance and punctuality remain essential. Please ensure your child attends every day, unless too unwell to do so, and arrives promptly, ready to learn. Every lesson matters, and regular absence or lateness means valuable learning is missed. Please contact us early if your family needs support with attendance.

Pupils should use the toilets before school, at break and at lunchtime, rather than during lessons. Lesson-time access is reserved for genuine emergencies and agreed medical needs. Please discuss this expectation with your child so that we can protect learning time while ensuring individual needs are supported.

Finally, we wish our Year 11 and Year 13 students every success as their trial examinations begin. Thank you for supporting their preparation and for your continued partnership with the school.

With best wishes,

Mr McLoughlin
Headteacher

SJP Community Came Together for Remembrance Day

The SJP school community came together for a moving Remembrance Day service to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Junior Leadership Team delivered poignant readings of In Flanders Fields and The Fallen. Former colleagues Mr R Austin and Mr S O'Toole also returned, with Mr Austin performing The Last Post and Reveille.

Following a two-minute silence, wreaths were laid in the Atrium and Peace Garden. Sixth Form students attended in person, while the service was livestreamed to classrooms, allowing the whole school to join in remembrance.

The full service was made available to watch on the school's YouTube channel.



Students Explore the History of the Holocaust During Krakow Visit

During the October half-term, 40 students from St John Plessington Catholic College travelled to Krakow, Poland, for a four-day educational visit exploring the country's history, culture and the lasting impact of the Holocaust.

Now in its sixth year, the trip is organised by the Religious Education department as part of the college's wider enrichment programme, providing students with valuable opportunities to develop their understanding of history, faith, tolerance and respect.

One of the highlights of this year's visit was a particularly moving talk at the Galicia Jewish Museum, where students heard the remarkable story of Maria Nowak, a Polish woman recognised as Righteous Among the Nations for her extraordinary courage in helping Jewish people during the Holocaust.

Students had the privilege of meeting Maria's daughter, who shared her mother's inspiring story of bravery and compassion during the Nazi occupation of Poland. They learned how Maria risked her own life to help her Jewish school friend, Helena Goldstein, by secretly delivering food and medicine into the Krakow Ghetto, before helping her escape, providing shelter and assisting her in obtaining false identity documents.

Following the talk, students were given the opportunity to ask Maria's daughter questions about her mother's experiences and legacy. This was an incredibly powerful experience, demonstrating how ordinary individuals can show extraordinary courage when faced with hatred, persecution and injustice.

Throughout the visit, students also explored Krakow's historic Jewish Quarter, Schindler's Factory and the remains of the Krakow Ghetto Wall, gaining a deeper understanding of Jewish life before and during the Holocaust.

The group also visited Auschwitz-Birkenau, where students had the opportunity to reflect on the experiences of those who suffered and lost their lives during the Holocaust. It was particularly encouraging to see the maturity, respect and thoughtfulness demonstrated by students throughout this deeply moving visit.

Alongside the educational experiences, students enjoyed exploring Krakow's beautiful architecture, rich culture and historic landmarks.

The trip provided students with lasting memories and important lessons that extend far beyond the classroom. In particular, Maria Nowak's remarkable story served as a powerful reminder of the importance of compassion, human dignity and having the courage to stand up against prejudice and discrimination

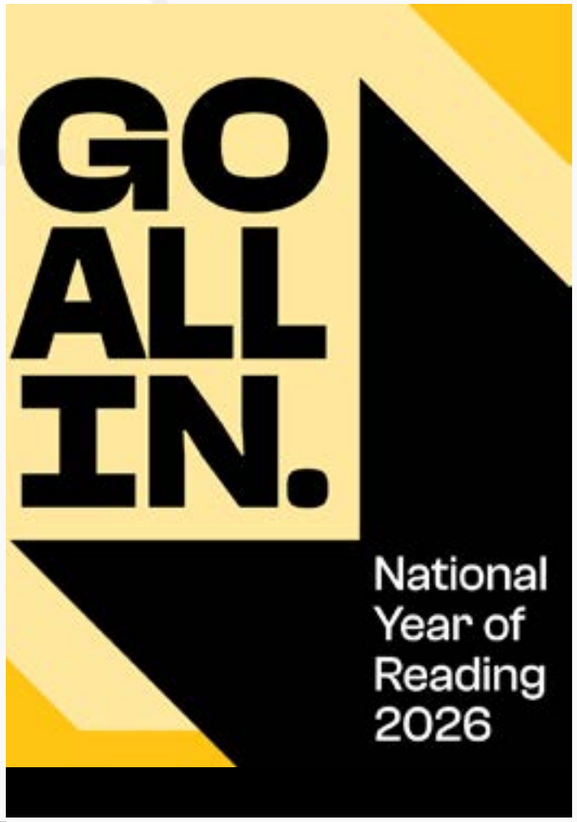


SJP Celebrates National Reading Culture Award!

We are thrilled to announce that St John Plessington Catholic College has officially achieved the Reading Culture Award from the National Literacy Trust, in recognition of our dedicated work to promote reading for pleasure across our school community.

This award has come from a video submission to the NLT sharing our reading initiatives over the past two years, including our participation in the National Year of Reading. The NLT praised the high quality and authenticity of our work, and has even invited us to feature as part of their 'national legacy' resources to help inspire other schools across the country and beyond. We will be sharing this video with you very soon!

A huge thank you to all the staff and students whose passion for reading made this achievement possible.





Unlocking Literacy and Creativity with Comics Youth CIC

Local organization Comics Youth CIC recently visited school to run a creative workshop for some of our students in Years 7, 9 and 11. Held in our Library, the workshop explored the process of comic strip creation including character design, narrative building, and story arcs. The students produced wonderful and detailed work, which will be displayed in school.
Research shows that comic books and graphic novels build literacy by using rich visual cues alongside concise text to strengthen reading comprehension, expand vocabulary, and engage reluctant readers through accessible, multimodal storytelling.

Comics Youth CIC are based in Birkenhead and run a number of accessible creative workshops and events for young people.
If you would like to learn more, please visit www.comicsyouth.co.uk

Sixth Form Attends Global Summit at Hope University

Last week, students from sixth form attended the annual Global Women's Leadership Summit 2026 at Hope University. The school was fortunate to be invited personally by Dr Sylvia Forchap-Likambi, founder and host of the event. Dr Likambi and her family visited SJP earlier this year, where Latoya, Caleb and Destiny spoke to students about the process of story writing and their amazing published works.

The summit offered our students an empowering opportunity to engage with inspirational leaders, receive mentoring, hear diverse career insights, and take part in discussions around equity, progress, and future opportunities. They attended talks from a number of leaders and trail blazers, including HRH Queen Naa of Ghana; Lord Mayor of Liverpool William Shortall; Anne Marie Lubanski, Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health and Deputy Chief Executive for Liverpool City Council; and Natalie Reeves Billing, Author and Deputy Lieutenant of Merseyside.
While there we also spotted our own SJP sixth form student Summer who did some modelling for Latoya Likambi's 'Thrive' magazine, after meeting her during her school visit!

It was a fantastic experience that left our students feeling motivated, inspired, and ready to lead the way in their own future endeavors!

BIMA Digital Day 2026.

A group of 23 Year 9 pupils at St John Plessington took part in BIMA Day 2026, working with digital agency readingroom.com to tackle a real-world digital brief.

The challenge involved developing a digital solution for Vue Cinema. Pupils had to think about their target audience, explore possible ideas and agree on a solution to develop as a team. They then prepared a pitch to explain how their idea would work and how it answered the brief.

Throughout the day, pupils used their creativity and computing skills while practising teamwork and problem-solving. Choosing between ideas and presenting their final proposal encouraged them to listen to others, explain their decisions and communicate clearly.

Working with industry professionals gave pupils an insight into the digital industry and the careers available. It helped them see how the skills they develop in the classroom can be applied in the workplace. Well done to all 23 pupils who took part, and thank you to readingroom for supporting the day and sharing their expertise with our pupils!









Anti-Bullying Week

Next week, St John Plessington Catholic College will be marking Anti-Bullying Week 2026, with this year's focus on 'Break the Silence'.

Throughout the week, students will take part in dedicated Personal Development Spotlight Sessions and year group assemblies, exploring the different types of bullying, the impact bullying can have on others and the support available to young people who may be experiencing or witnessing bullying.
A key focus of the week will be encouraging students to be upstanders, not bystanders. We will be reminding our young people of the importance of speaking out, challenging unacceptable behaviour safely and reporting any concerns to a trusted adult. Students will also be reminded that reporting bullying is not just about seeking help for themselves, but about protecting and supporting others.

Our message throughout the week will be clear: everyone has a responsibility to help create a safe, respectful and inclusive school community where bullying is never accepted and every voice is heard. We encourage parents and carers to continue these important conversations at home, reminding their children that they should never feel afraid to speak up if something is worrying them. Together, we can help break the silence and ensure that every young person feels safe, valued and supported.

Personal Development: Pupil Voice

Over the past few weeks, we have shared several pupil voice surveys, including those focusing on World Mental Health Day, our wider Personal Development provision and, most recently, the Misogyny and Sexual Harassment assemblies attended by all year groups.

We greatly value the views and feedback of our pupils, as these play an important role in helping us reflect on and continually improve our Personal Development provision. We want to ensure that our curriculum and wider activities reflect the needs and experiences of our young people.
We would therefore be grateful if parents and carers could encourage their child to complete these surveys if they have not already done so. The more feedback we receive, the better informed we will be when reviewing and shaping our future provision.

If you have any questions about Personal Development or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr M Jones, Teacher in Charge of Personal Development, by emailing the school office with your enquiry or requesting a call back. Information about Personal Development including RSHE, the Personal Development Curriculum and Citizenship & Careers Curriculum can be found in the Personal Development section of our College website.

www.stjohnplessington.com

YEAR 11 TRIAL EXAM TIMETABLE 2026 WITH QR CODE REVISION SUGGESTIONS

Please use this wall chart to help you plan and prepare your revision activities.
Each department has provided some revision resources linked specifically to each exam.
Highlight each of the exams that you are due to sit because some exams will not be relevant to you.
Use a QR scanner to scan each QR code to take you to revision links for the specific examinations.
GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!

Date		Mon 16/11/26	Tue 17/11/26	Wed 18/11/26	Thu 19/11/26	Fri 20/11/26
Subject(s)	AM	English Literature	RE	Maths	Geography, History	Science
Exam(s)	AM	GCSE Component 1: English Literature Macbeth and Poetry Anthology (2 h)	Catholic Christianity (1 h 45 min)	Paper 2: Calculator (1 h 30 min)	Geography: Paper 1 Living with the Physical Environment (1 h 30 min) History: Paper 1 Medicine Through Time (1 h 20 min)	Combined Science: Chemistry Paper 1 F/H (1 h 15 min) GCSE Chemistry: Chemistry Paper 1 F/H (1 h 45 min)
Subject(s)	PM	Maths	Science	Engineering	Product Design, Hospitality, Textiles*	Spanish, Mandarin, Computer Science
Exam(s)	PM	Paper 1: Non-Calculator (1 h 30 min)	Combined Science: Biology Paper 1 F/H (1 h 15 min) GCSE Biology: Biology Paper 1 F/H (1 h 45 min)	Engineering: Unit 3 Solving Engineering Problems (1 h 30 min)	Product Design: AQA GCSE Design and Technology (1 h 30 min) Hospitality: WJEC Hospitality & Catering Unit 1 (1 h 20 min) Textiles: OCR GCSE Design and Technology (1 h 30 min)	Spanish: Paper 4 Writing H/F (H: 1 h 15 min, F: 1 h 10 min) Mandarin: Paper 4 Writing H/F (H: 1 h 15 min, F: 1 h 10 min) Computer Science: Paper 1 Principles of Computer Science (1 h 30 min)

Date		Mon 23/11/26	Tue 24/11/26	Wed 25/11/26	Thu 26/11/26	Fri 27/11/26
Subject(s)	AM	English Language	Science	Geography, History	Spanish, Mandarin, Computer Science	Art, Mop-Up
Exam(s)	AM	GCSE Component 1: English Language Fiction and Narrative writing (1 h 45 min)	Combined Science: Physics Paper 1 F/H (1 h 15 min) GCSE Physics: Physics Paper 1 F/H (1 h 45 min)	Geography: Paper 3 Geographical Applications (1 h 30 min) History: Paper 2 The American West (55 min)	Spanish: Paper 1 Listening followed by Paper 3 Reading H/F (H: 1 h 45 min, F: 1 h 20 min) Mandarin: Paper 1 Listening followed by Paper 3 Reading H/F (H: 1 h 45 min, F: 1 h 20 min) Computer Science: Paper 2 Applications of Computational Thinking (2 h in Computer Room)	Art: Component 1 (5 h, all day in Art Room)
Subject(s)	PM	Maths	RE	Core Mop-Up*	BTEC PE	
Exam(s)	PM	Paper 2: Calculator (1 h 30 min)	Judaism (50 min)		Component 3: Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity (1 h)	

*** During these sessions students who study both Geography and History will complete their History papers.**

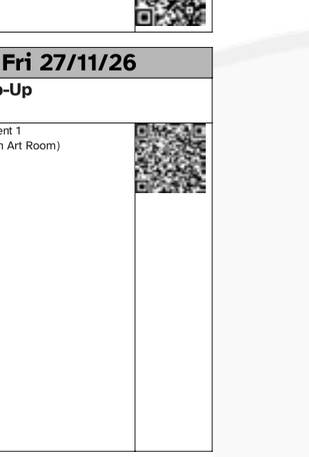
COMPASSION - RESPECT - DETERMINATION - JUSTICE

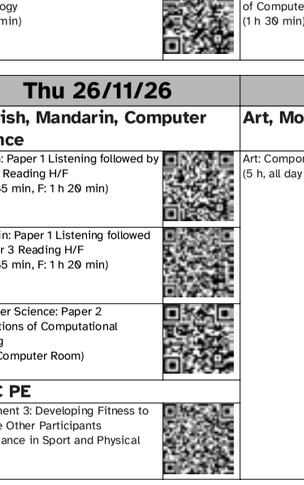
Sports Success

Year 12 Sports Students Explored University Life at LJMU

Year 12 sports students enjoyed an insightful Football Science Industry Taster Day at Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU).

Students experienced university-style lectures, learnt about student life and accommodation, and took part in practical activities linked to the course. They also discovered more about LJMU's extensive range of over 400 programmes, gaining valuable insight into potential future study and career pathways.





SJP Girls Represented School at Tranmere Rovers Tournament

The Year 7 and 8 girls' football team proudly represented SJP at the Tranmere Rovers U13 Utilita Cup, demonstrating excellent teamwork and playing some brilliant football throughout their matches.

A special thank you went to Year 12 students Liv and Rach, who supported and coached the younger players while developing their own leadership skills. Well done to everyone involved!



SJP U16 Basketball Team Secured Impressive Victory

The SJP U16 basketball team celebrated a fantastic 35–25 victory over South Wirral High School (SWHS). The team put in a brilliant performance, with Will G earning the Player of the Match award for his outstanding contribution. Well done to everyone involved!





Reflection

It is all happening this week.

We launched our Whitechapel Pledge. Each form at SJP collaborates on the challenge of filling one backpack with useful items for a homeless person or family. Last year we filled an entire minibus with backpacks and carryalls filled with socks, hats, gloves, new underwear, hoodies, toiletries and Christmas chocolate. This year, we want to remain faithful to this service as part of our focus on Catholic social teachings' insistence on solidarity, recognizing in others our brothers and sisters and sharing as well as caring.

This week 23 SJP pupils will be confirmed by Bishop Mark at St Anne's Church. Last Saturday, several pupils received the sacrament of baptism and First Holy Communion. It is a wonderful privilege for our school to accompany young people searching for God and desiring to follow Jesus in his Church. There is a special power in witnessing young people go on this journey themselves, often in the face of incredulity of their peers. Powerful stuff.

On Wednesdays we were able to commemorate Armistice Day. Our thanks to Mr Austin and Mr O'Toole who played their bugles adding solemnity a lustre to this sacred occasion. For many pupils, being able to visit with Mrs Austin who had returned with her husband for a visit was a reminder of the bonds of family and solidarity which sustain our school. The presence of cadets, scouts and St John ambulance pupils reminded all of us that each generation must assume responsibility for the common good and for the values which we hold as precious.

Our commemoration was enhanced by a beautiful display made by Ms Jones, Ms Cheung and Ms Davies with help from Adonia from our sixth form. We also attended to the memorial plaque of Douglas Halliday, a former SJP pupil who died in the war in Afghanistan aged 20. The cadets of the school laid the wreath.









Upcoming Events

Week A

Monday 16th November 2026
- Y11 & Y13 Trial Exams

Tuesday 17th November 2026
- Y11 & Y13 Trial Exams

Wednesday 18th November 2026
- Y11 & Y13 Trial Exams
- Cheshire Table Cricket Competition

Thursday 19th November 2026
- Y11 & Y13 Trial Exams
- Y8 Chester Zoo Science Trip

Friday 20th October 2026
- Y11 & Y13 Trial Exams

Week B

Monday 23rd November 2026
- Y11 & Y13 Trial Exams

Tuesday 24th November 2026
- Y11 & Y13 Trial Exams

Wednesday 25th November 2026
- Y11 & Y13 Trial Exams
- LJMU - Physical Education Programme (BSc) Taster Day

Thursday 26th November 2026
- Y11 & Y13 Trial Exams
- Life Under the Microscope
- Mozart Clarinet Concerto - Liverpool Philharmonic

Friday 27th November 2026
- Y11 & Y13 Trial Exams
- 7-9 Reports

Rewards & Recognition

Year 7
Teddy Crosse, Isla Marsh, Jaxon Walker, Noah Coburn, Grace Murphy, Ava Cawley, Jason Olorunsola, Chun De Choo, Theo McLavey, Aiyaz Uddin, Kaiden O'Shea-Dennett, Jason Busutill, Raya Davies, Ethan Smith, Pearl Holmes, Christian Paku, Olivia Hammon, Theo McCarthy, Mila Williams O'Gorman.

Year 8
Charlie Hardman, Lincoln Kelly, Charlie Kelly, Charlie Murray, Alfie Jervis, Abigail Martin, Madison Sadler, Evelyn Campbell, Orla Whiteside, Brooke Wilson, Jackson Davis, Isaac Hawkins, Juvan Jorvin, Miles Devaney, Ethan Grant, Alfie Hope, Karol Linto, Sophia Leece, Emily Allerston, Athena Hickman.

Year 9
Leighton Carress, Jax Kelly, Ruby Jebb, Georgia McCormick, Matthew Green, Harley-Rae Lennon, Sofia McGuiness, Cole Povall, Saania Mustafee, May Pryce, Evie Smith, Charlie-Leigh Westlake-Mearns, Amblessed Paku, MaryJane Akhimien, Regan Baker, Riley Dunne, Harley Kurits Murray, Ruby O'Dowd, Inioluwa Kayode, Elijah Willis.

Year 10
Mia Wilde, Sasha Semanova, Leighton Bridges, Nirmal Sinsho, Imogen Davies, Imogen O'Gorman, Ella Owston, Bray Jones, Beau McNellis, Alice Brown, Archie McEvitt, Ethan Turner, Emmy Rose Hulse, Macey Hillman, Ava Davies, Lily Jane Jones, Ava V Ossei, Olivia O'Toole, Immy Davies, Ellie Thomas, Autumn Cunninghame, Finley Irving, Mia McCarthy, Olivia Connor, Grace Meenan, Robyn Rose Matthews, Sheryl Grattan.

Year 11
Berfin Kus, Jasmine Grieve, Joshua Steadman, Jamie Gordon, Lily Fearan, Tobi Burns, Lucy Sawyer, Leonidas Stamos, Scott Carey, Freya Foy, Liz Williams, Liyo Thomas, Ollie Hope, Kaitlyn Rose, Elsie Wootten, Alex Cornett, Aron Joshy, Yasin Hussain, Ava Byrne, Libby Taylor, Psalm Espiritu, Kate Thelwell, Faith Robinson, Sienna-Jae Davies, Awie Osman, Benjamin Matthew, Abel Henrique Correia Mayer, Amelia Parry, William Carr, Imogen Lawrence, Evan McKeever.

Year 12
Kaleb Craze, Mason Evans, Kuziva Chikaka, Benje Varapurath, Nicole May, Hanna Macht, Meg Byrne, Kayleigh Taplin, Joanna Abraham, Kiera Butler.

Year 13
Evie Gelling Reynolds, Patryk Szyba, Joshua Gallagher, Kady Jenson, Molly Higham, Matei Stoica, Kaleb Dobbins, Pheabe Cullen, Neve Murphy, Jacob Taylor, Sophie Wheeler, Natasha Higgins, Maya Kahn.

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	152 Days of education	162 Days of education	171 Days of education	184 Days of education	190 Days of education
75% 47 days absent	80% 38 days absent	85% 28 days absent	90% 18 days absent	97% 6 days absent	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