

ST JOHN PAYNE



AVITA PRO FIDE



## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2022

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Headteacher: Mr Thomas Coen, BA (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH



# HEADTEACHER REPORT DECEMBER 2022

## HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS

I thank you for your continued commitment to our partnership as we conclude the term and look forward to the joys of the Christmas season.

It has been a term of vibrancy and celebration, bookended by our community Mass as staff gathered in witness with Years 7 & 12 on our opening day in September, and by last night's beautifully spirit filled Advent Service, which the whole community has attended throughout today. We have also enjoyed forging new friendships with Frs Martin & Damien, who are already frequent visitors, and were delighted to welcome former Head Boy Fr Michael Barwick to celebrate his first Mass at the school as he officiated a service of beautiful reverence and spirit in remembrance of our dearly departed.

Students have enjoyed Retreat opportunities, which this year have included visits to Walsingham House for students in Years 10 & 11. A number recently visited Christmas markets in Lille with Mr Bellworthy and the Modern Languages team, whilst the launch of Sports Readers under Mrs Gosling & Mrs Peach's leadership received great coverage on BBC Look East, endorsed by former and current GB athletes and the visit of former premier league and Canada international footballer Simeon Jackson.

Mr Falvey organised a visit to Westminster and the Houses of Parliament for Year 11 business studies students, where Chelmsford MP Vicky Ford kindly devoted her time to greeting our party and offering illuminating insights into political life and the process of government.

Our debating society has enjoyed a strong renewal under Mrs Webb's leadership, drawing great

From our Headteacher,  
*Mr Thomas Coen*



## HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS

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numbers each week. All are welcome as we continue to develop a craft essential to all professions, no matter the technological advancements and efficiencies the world will continue to see. Public speaking, and ability to inspire, debate, reason, consider and reflect will forever be at the heart of our interaction.

We have as ever maintained our charity fundraising, with great generosity to Kids Inspire Christmas hampers, Wear It Pink, Young Lives vs Cancer, Cafod & the local harvest appeal.

Throughout Advent students and staff have gathered in Aquinas foyer to light the Advent candles and begin the week together in prayer and reflection. We have anticipated Christ's birth and the joy of giving and receiving, our faith bequeathed us by Mary's labour in the stable and by Christ's ultimate sacrifice. Her & Joseph's passage to this humble sanctuary is resonant of families new to our community who come seeking safety and welcome. We pray that they and their families will know the peace and love of Christ.

It was lovely to affirm former and current students' achievements at our certificate evening on Monday as they collected official mementos of their success in last summer's exams. Year 11 students have approached their practice exams with great maturity and engagement this month. They can be proud of their efforts, and assured of our continuing prayers.

We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 9th January and to continuing to work with you to support them towards their potential. On behalf of us all, I offer the prayers of our community for a Holy, happy and restful Christmas & New Year.

God bless.



## ADVENT

The Catholic tradition of the Advent wreath is a tradition that is near and dear to my heart. When I was growing up, it was one of the only ways we celebrated the liturgical year at home. My mum always used it as a way to keep Christmas focused on Christ, and she always said extra prayers for the season while lighting it. Each Monday the whole of the SJP community have come together for the lighting of the Advent wreath. We have enjoyed scripture, prayer and hymns – being together in preparation of the coming of Christ.



## ROSARY CLUB

The Chelmsford group of the Legion of Mary have continued to lead Rosary on a Tuesday lunchtime in the Chapel. Our leaders have taught our students the importance to serve God under the banner of Mary, to bring Mary to the world by practicing spiritual works of mercy and through the sanctification of its members by the means of prayers and devotion to Mary and the Holy Trinity and doing apostolic works for the glory of God. The club continues to grow...



CHAPLAINCY &  
FAITH LIFE

From our Chaplain,  
*Mrs Katy Adams*





## MASS IN DECEMBER

This month has been a great month for Mass at SJP. 10F and 9F enjoyed form Mass in the chapel with Fr Martin & Fr Paul. The reverence was impeccable and the students took an active lead with readings and writing of the bidding prayers.

On Friday 9th December, the whole of Year 11 had a celebration Mass for the end of their mocks. The reverence displayed was outstanding, with students leading the Word of God and singing well-loved hymns. Mr Coen messaged home to express how proud we are of them all.



CHAPLAINCY &  
FAITH LIFE

From our Chaplain,  
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## CHAPLAINCY & FAITH LIFE

### ADVENT SERVICE

#### Longing for Light

During our Advent service yesterday evening, the students involved gave wonderfully joyous witness and reverence that was shared with all students this morning. Ever our greatest ambassadors, our whole student body continues to respond to their faith with great reverence and grace.

I want to thank the many staff members who were instrumental in helping create the beauty in this service: Mr Venables, Mr Sullivan & Mrs Webb.

On behalf of us all, I offer the prayers of our community for a Holy, happy and restful Christmas & New Year.

God bless.

From our Chaplain,  
*Mrs Katy Adams*

A large, stylized graphic of a feather, split vertically. The left half is red and the right half is yellow, both with black outlines and internal details. It is positioned in the top left corner of the slide.

# NEW STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

We extend a very warm welcome to the new members of staff who joined SJP this term.



**Ms B Owusu - LSA**



**Mrs A Eaglestone - LSA**



# STUDENT AWARDS



## HOUSE POINTS

### Year 7

100 HPs

Nana

Connie

Jessica

Anna

Marie Ellen

Jessica

Cara

Zach

Lydia

Charlotte B

Molly

Thomas

Oluwadamilola

Makayla

Xavier

Marta

Luiza

Eleanor

Orla

Emma

Abigail

Kaitlyn

Sophia

Lily

Eddie

Benjamin

Jiya

Piper

Emily

Abigail

Charlie K

Sofia K

Ivy

Ayobami

Michelle

Tenuj

### Year 8

100 HPs

Freddie G

Phoebe H

Stephen J

Anthony M

Dominik K

Ellie-May R

### Year 9

Ariel O - 132

Evelyn S - 123

Joe T - 108

Abibat A - 106

Irven L - 104

Luc L - 101

Dorian J - 100

### Year 10

Victory M - 78

Elena CJ - 74

Rachel D - 72

### Year 11

Reece B - 69

Edward W - 68

Natlíe X - 66

Karenza W - 57

Sharon S - 56

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT





# JACK PETCHEY

(OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL ACCOMPLISHMENT)

Well done to Freddie P 8D who has been awarded a Jack Petchey prize by his football club, Great Bradfords U13 Jaguars. Below is the reason he was nominated and a photo showing him being given his award. Well done Freddie!

*From Mrs J Coleman, Head of Year 8*

I feel that young Freddie Phillips deserved recognition due to his desire to improve and level of commitment in which has shown to achieve his goal.

Freddie is the Jaguars GK, a small lad which means the task at hand is a little harder for him compared to your typical GK.

We had moments where it was unclear if he was going to stick it out but he went away and decided that he was going to make a proper go of it, Freddie was constantly asking for extra training and would sneak an extra 30 minutes in here & there when ever possible.

With his determined head on and his improved attitude to learn Freddie has come on leaps and bounds and had an absolutely fantastic start to the season. Freddie is now considered a major miss when he is not available which sadly has become the case after picking up a knock after standing in to help the Panthers out a few weeks back.

Since Freddie's injury the level of commitment he has shown to his team has been first class as he has not missed a game and has cheered his team mates on from the side lines with the same level of enthusiasm as when he plays.

Goal keepers very rarely get the credit that they deserve as at times it can be one of the most loneliest places on the pitch.



# MY STORY ABOUT ESCAPING UKRAINE

I've never had a serious time when something turned out unexpectedly, except one. It happened in this year in 2022. It was the night of 23rd February, 2022. My sister and I were planning mum's birthday. "Okay, so I will wake up at 5 in the morning, and then I will wake you up, so we can bake a cake together". I said to Shyvika, my sister. "Okay bro. We got this!" she replied, with excitement on her face. Little did we know that the next day was going to be a disaster...

BOOM! BOOM! My eyes opened. I thought everything was good, I'd slept pretty well. But, why did I wake up at 4 in the morning? I had one more hour to sleep, before actually having to wake up to prepare a handmade chocolate cake for my mother's birthday. BOOM! I was really confused. What was happening? Why was mum panicking on the phone? I checked my phone. My friend told me something that would change my life. "Russia has invaded Ukraine. The war has started". I couldn't believe it! My country was being bombed. That's why I woke up. That's why my mum was panicking on the phone. "Please, stay there in Lviv! We will figure out a way to escape!" said mum when talking on the phone with dad. My dad was in another city for work. He was in Lviv, a western Ukrainian city, close to the border with Poland. Lviv was safe at the time. My mother, my sister, and I were a bit outside of Kyiv, in the outskirts. The far outskirts of Kyiv were being bombed and troops were also there.

My sister woke up next. She didn't understand what was going on. I told her:

"Shyvika, the war has started". I couldn't imagine what I was saying. Never had I imagined that I – Satyam, who had a nice life in Ukraine – would be in his country during war. I never thought that Ukraine would be in a war. I never thought people of Ukraine would be running, looking for shelter. I never thought, everybody in my country would suddenly wake up at 4 am to the sound of bombs.

My sister wasn't really terrified, but she was scared. Mum saw that we had woke up and told us to get ready, because we might be leaving at any time. After we got ready, we packed suitcases and bags. At that time, my friend

and told me that she had a friend whose father was in the Russian army. She told me they were planning to launch a missile around 1 pm. I don't know how they managed to get this information, but I knew that I had to close all curtains of the house and gather my family in the corridor. At 12:30, I closed all the curtains and till 12:55, we were in the corridor. 13:00. Nothing. 13:10. Nothing. 13:20. Nothing. We thought it was fake news and I went to open the curtains. I opened one and went to the living room curtains. WHOOSH! BOOM! Right when I was opening curtains, a missile flew through at the speed of sound and landed somewhere. We quickly went to the corridor, panicking. We could see the smoke coming out of the window! Next thing, our dad called. "I'm coming to Kyiv. I just got on the train." I heard through the phone. "Wait, what!" mum said. "Please be safe! We all love you!"

It was almost evening and dad wasn't at home. It turned out, the train was heading back to Lviv, because the rails were bombed and destroyed. After a while, dad said the train is headed to Kyiv again. They were going to use a different route. Our neighbours told us we could be at their house, as it would be safer together. We quickly grabbed a few bags, thanked them, and went to their house. Everyone was watching the news. "President Zelenskyy just declared a state of emergency! Please do not leave your homes after 5 pm". We stayed for the night at our neighbours. All day, we didn't want to do anything. We heard another missile fly over our house. During the night, we had to wake up two times due to bombing. Our dad still wasn't in Kyiv.

After a few hours, dad told us he was at the station, but couldn't leave, because it was a state of emergency. After an hour, when you could be outside, he somehow got a taxi and arrived. We went to our house, thanking our neighbours. When we got home, our parents told us to sleep, because anything could happen. "Papa, I'm really scared. What is happening? Where are we going to go?" my sister was saying, at the brink of crying.

When we woke up, our parents told us that some of our friends would be coming over, because it would be safer. After an hour 5 people showed up, a cat and a fish. There was a family and an uncle and everything was happening really quickly. The uncle brought a bag of water with him, where



there was a fish and the family brought their cat with them. The uncle didn't waste a second. He pulled out an aquarium out of his bag and poured the water with his fish in it. We all greeted each other and were happy to see each other. I was especially happy to see my two friends. One was 12 and her sister was 6. I greeted them to my room and the adults went to talk in the living room.

"This is mad! We saw two tanks when we were driving to you! I'm really scared" my friend said. "What?! Were there any signs on them? Maybe a letter "Z" or "V""", I said. The Russian tanks were marked usually with a "Z" or a "V" I heard on the news.

"I don't know, to be honest. Maybe there was a "Z"" she replied.

"This is bad" I said, plainly without any emotion.

None of us were in the mood of doing anything. The 6-year-old friend and my sister were scared. We could see it on their faces. I was scared but I kept telling myself, everything is going to be okay. "Yesterday we woke up to bombs and it was terrifying" said my 12-year-old friend. "Same, at 1:30 yesterday, we could see smoke coming out from somewhere, when a bomb landed" I said, recalling the moment in my head. It was recalling in my head all the time.

For the next 3 days we lived in fear and terror. We had taped all of our windows in case there was shooting, so the windows didn't shatter. Each night there would be bombing. Every evening, whether we heard it or not, if there was news of bombing, we would turn off all lights and close the curtains. At one point, someone rang our door bell and we didn't want to open as it was unsafe. We went upstairs to check and it was a very suspicious looking man, with army clothes, who refused to show his face. We realized it was a soldier from Russia and we were shocked and terrified. We didn't know what to do. We were all in the living room and we decided not to open the door and leave it at that. During these 3 days, all of us tried to live our lives like everything was perfectly normal, but it didn't work, as we had poor sleep and restless nights. We would have to be alert at all times. We played games like UNO, but nothing changed the fact that we were hiding in a house from war, with taped windows, food running out and dark nights. At one time, when we were all sitting with sad faces and my dad and the uncle tried to cheer us up, my 12-year-old friend just started

crying. These were really sad moments for us...

On 28th February, we decided that we needed to evacuate. We ordered a van which agreed to drive us to the border. Unfortunately, the cat and the fish couldn't come. A woman agreed to take care of the cat while we all would be away and the parents of my friend sadly agreed. My friends cried as they saw their family member leaving and I'm pretty sure the cat had tears too. I was saddened by this also. After an hour we had packed everything and we were ready. The uncle had tears as he was leaving his fish. I had three full bags and small suitcase with me.

During the ride, which was 8 hours long, we experienced something we never expected. I don't remember which city we were in, but I could see missiles falling to the roads parallel to us. Large explosions. Fire. Sparks. Screams. I remember bombs striking right behind us. If we would've stopped at that point on the road, a bomb would've fallen on us. I remember sitting on the seat and seeing all of this. I remember feeling it. I remember not being able to move from shock. Our lives were in danger. We carefully drove. There were security men everywhere. We finally got to the border of Romania. But there was a huge line. So, we decided to walk few kilometres and got to the border of Romania. We were safe.

*Satyam C 10F*

## SCHOOLS BIBLE PROJECT 2022

On Tuesday 29th November 2022, Alexander S 9C along with his parents and his RS teacher, were invited to Westminster Abbey to receive his prize as part of the Schools Bible Project 2022.

All secondary schools are invited to participate in this annual competition where students are invited to study some of the major events in the life of Christ, and to write about one of them as if they had actually been present. A number of students in Y8, Y9 and Y10 have already received individual prizes commending their entries but Alex's story was selected to be one of the specific prizes awarded in London.

Prizewinners had a personalised tour of Westminster Abbey and were presented with their awards by Baroness Cox. It was a wonderful day to join with other schools from England and Northern Ireland and was a well deserved award for Alex's efforts in the competition. Well Done!





# KEY SCHOOL EVENTS



# ESL CLUB

Designed to give SJP's thriving cohort of English as a Second Language students a platform into the wider curriculum and life within the UK, our ESL club is held on Thursday lunchtimes in A105. This ongoing daily-life-driven Language course covers the fundamentals of day-to-day communication and foundational grammar as well as integrated aspects of life and culture in a modern, diverse Britain.

We encourage students of all backgrounds and nationalities to attend these growing sessions with a view to expanding the school's ESL provision for future academic years. With numerous years of teaching experience overseas, the sessions are led by a Qualified TEFL Instructor and are tailored towards meeting the needs of students who identify as speaking English as a Second/Foreign language.

It would be our pleasure to welcome you to the sessions!

*Mr J Lingard, Teacher of English and Tutor to 10B*

# REMEMBRANCE DAY 2022

As always, Mr Bellworthy commemorated Remembrance Day by playing The Last Post following the national two minute silence - a sombre but moving performance. Click the link to see a snippet:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/6aTPaJOjk6o?feature=share>



Thank you to all those students (and their families!) who contributed to Mrs Cameron-McIntosh's remembrance door. Every student Mrs Cameron-McIntosh teaches was set the optional homework over half term to make a poppy or two and this was the result. The variety was amazing - knitted, tissue paper, hama beads, salt dough, decorated rocks and even recycled plastic bottles. The overall effect was really impressive. Well done.  
*From Mrs R Cameron-MacIntosh, Teacher of History*

# KIDS INSPIRE CHRISTMAS APPEAL



Thank you so much to all the students, staff and parents who donated to the Kids Inspire Christmas appeal. I was so overwhelmed with everyone's generosity and special thanks to all the Yr 8, 9 and 10 Elves who helped with checking, packing, labelling and carrying. Myself, Lyn Conway and 4 yr 8 elves helped to deliver the items to Kids Inspire and we could only just fit in the minibus! As a community we gathered together over 65 full hampers, some spare hamper items, over £200 in vouchers and so many gorgeous gifts that I lost count.



All I can say is, the SJP community rose magnificently to the challenge. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

*From Mrs J Coleman, Head of Year 8*





# BRAZIL DONATIONS



We are delighted to share an update of Mrs Leleu's appeal for stationery for school children in Brazil, to which the SJP community so generously responded! A huge thank you to everyone who kindly donated to this appeal and well done to Mrs Leleu for all her hard work in making the stationery appeal such a success!


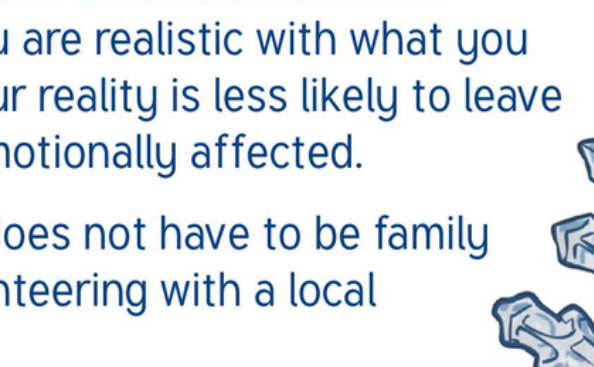




# PASTORAL CARE, MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

## Keeping Your Mind Healthy at Christmas



- Be honest with other people about how you are feeling, this ensures other people understand you and can support you.
  - Feel comfortable saying 'no'. Christmas can get very busy and overwhelming; you do not have to do everything. Have a planned response for when you want or need to say 'no'.
  - Get fresh air and be active. Exercise boosts your mood and the fresh air is great for your soul.
  - Don't try to compete with or measure yourself by social media posts. People will be sharing a selective version of their events and this needs interpreting appropriately.
  - Make sure you are well-rested. The Christmas holidays can get incredibly busy.
  - Happiness is often defined as the difference between expectations and reality. If you are realistic with what you expect to experience, then your reality is less likely to leave you feeling disappointed or emotionally affected.
  - Spend time with others. This does not have to be family or friends; it may involve volunteering with a local charity or organisation.
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neighbourly



Changing Lives  
Community Services

# *Xmas* *Free Food* FOR ALL

DEC 24.7:30-10:30 P.M

PATCH, 5-6 GRAYS YARD, CHELMSFORD, CM2 6QR

FREE SURPLUS FOOD FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY  
GIFTED BY LOCAL SUPERMARKETS  
VISIT US AT PATCH ON CHRISTMAS EVE

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*Happy Holidays*

