

ST JOHN PAYNE



AVITA PRO FIDE



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025

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

HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS



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Dear St John Payne Community

The half-term began with the community uniting in prayer at our All Saints Masses, followed by remembrance of our beloved departed and commemoration of all those whose lives were lost in conflict. We thank Fr Paul, Fr Martin, Fr Michael and all our Deanery priests for bringing Christ to our community, and for offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation last Friday.

With Year 11 practice exams concluded, I thank the students for their maturity. Invigilators noted their responsibility, and it is nice to see results offer much cause for encouragement and a foundation upon which to build in next summer's public exams.

With each week of Advent beginning in traditional fashion with prayer and the lighting of our wreath, last night's Carol service was a joyous celebration as we continue to anticipate the coming of Christ.

We look forward to welcoming the students back to school on Monday 5th January. On behalf of us all, I offer the prayers of our community for a Holy, happy and restful Christmas & New Year.

Yours in Christ.

Mr T. Coen
Headteacher



CHAPLAINCY & FAITH LIFE



Lay chaplain : Katy Adams

CHAPLAINCY & FAITH LIFE



As we approach the joyous season of Christmas, I am filled with gratitude for the many ways our school community has come together in faith and fellowship this term.

Our Thursday morning Masses have been truly beautiful occasions, with excellent attendance and a deep sense of reverence. Likewise, the monthly Youth Mass at the Cathedral has continued to be a highlight—always well attended, prayerful, and full of joy.

Each Monday during Advent, we gathered as a school to light the Advent wreath, sharing prayer, Scripture, and hymns that reminded us of the hope and peace Christ brings. A heartfelt thank you to the Legion of Mary, who have generously volunteered every Thursday to lead us in Rosary and Adoration—your dedication is a blessing to our community. I am also deeply thankful to our Deanery priests, who made it possible for so many students to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This opportunity for grace and renewal was embraced by many, and it was inspiring to witness such openness to God's mercy.

One of the most moving moments this Advent was our Carol Service, lovingly prepared by our students. Their creativity and commitment shone through as they presented carols and readings in many languages—a beautiful sign of unity in the Catholic Church. Our Year 8 retreats to Walsingham House were another highlight. The team there exemplifies all that is good in young leadership, and our students returned enriched and inspired. Congratulations also to our Bible Competition winners, who enjoyed a memorable day in London, collecting their prizes and even visiting the Houses of Parliament—a truly special experience!

I am delighted to welcome so many Junior Faith Ambassadors from Year 7 into their new roles. Your enthusiasm and willingness to serve are a gift to our school. Finally, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our wonderful priests for bringing us Jesus in the Holy Mass. Your ministry sustains and strengthens our faith community.

I wish all in our community a Christmas filled with peace and joy. May the Christ Child fill your homes with the love present at that stable over 2000 years ago.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, ..."

With prayers & thanks,

Katy Adams
Lay chaplain

Youth SVP share the Christmas story

On Monday 8th December, the Youth SVP visited the local radio station to record a Christmas broadcast for the hospital and local community. We shared the bible stories leading up to the birth of Jesus, including the visits of the shepherds and Magi.

We also shared how we plan to celebrate Christmas Day and ended the broadcast with a joyful rendition of We Wish You a Merry Christmas. The recording will also feature festive carols performed by the school choir.

The recording will be broadcast at 1 pm on Christmas Day.

You will be able to listen here <https://www.hrc.org.uk/Christian115>

As part of Aisling's visit, she discussed Pax Christi's worldwide engagement in these areas and highlighted the organisation's long-standing support for conscientious objection, emphasising its commitment to peace building and nonviolence across the globe. Aisling reiterated the inter connectedness between inner peace, interpersonal peace and global peace. She suggested that through education, campaigning and prayer, Pax Christi are enabled to achieve their goal of spreading a peace message internationally.

To learn more about Pax Christi and the Catholic Peace movement please visit the website link: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/>



CHAPLAINCY & FAITH LIFE



Red Wednesday 2025

Thank you to parents, students and staff for the support shown during Red Wednesday, as we remembered those who are persecuted for their faith. Throughout the week reflections and prayers were offered for our persecuted brothers and sisters, students and staff responded to the call to wear red and a fantastic £440 was raised to support the work of Aid to the Church in Need.



Aid to the Church in Need

To learn more about Aid to the Church in Need, their campaigns and work around the world please click on the website link: <https://acnuk.org/>

CAFOD World Gifts

This Advent, our Key Stage 5 students embraced the opportunity to put their faith into action by taking part in **CAFOD's World Gifts** initiative. Each form selected the gifts they wished to purchase, enabling students to make a meaningful difference to the lives of others around the world.

Whilst form donations are still being collected, donations so far will enable the following gifts to be purchased on their behalf:

- 2 x goats, feed and training
- 4 x clean water infrastructure, equipment and training
- 2 sets of chickens, equipment and training
- 3 x medical care, nutrition, and post-natal support for mothers and newborns
- A bundle of worms and vermi-compost training
- A vegetable garden: seeds, gardening equipment and training
- Farming tools: watering can, rakes, shovels and seeds
- Period pads, soap and hygiene products

These gifts will support families and communities in developing countries, helping them to grow food, improve sustainability, and access vital resources.

Thank you, Year 12, and Year 13 for your generosity throughout this Advent season.

Should you wish to gift or purchase a CAFOD World Gift this Christmas, the website and catalogue of gifts can be found via this link <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/collections/all>



Students share reflections ahead of parish talk

A small group of Year 11 and Year 13 pupils were invited to share their thoughts ahead of Rev Dr Liam Payne's forthcoming parish talk, part of the Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre's series Finding Hope in Uncertain Times. The talk, which takes place on Wednesday 21st January at 7.30pm at New Hall School, will focus on young people and what 'becoming beacons of hope' might look like for young people today. Our students engaged thoughtfully, offering reflections that will help shape elements of the presentation, and Rev Dr Payne commented that their contributions provided a "rich resource for the talk in January". The pupils took real pride in being involved in something that will be shared with the wider community and they had much fun recording their views, as the outtakes showed. Students, parents and staff are welcome to attend the talk at New Hall School or join online at www.canonesses.co.uk.

SCHOOLS MEDIA COMPETITION

The Columbanes are looking for students in Britain and Ireland (aged 13-18 inclusive, parental permission required) to submit an original piece of writing or an original image on the theme:

"BECOMING A REFUGEE IS NEVER A CHOICE, BUT HOW WE RESPOND IS."
(UN Secretary-General António Guterres)

Catholic Social Teaching calls us to 'welcome the stranger'. We invite young people to explore perceptions of people seeking sanctuary, considering practical examples of welcome and solidarity.

COMPETITION LAUNCH:
21ST SEPTEMBER 2025 - WORLD PEACE DAY
DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: 14TH FEBRUARY 2026
WINNERS ANNOUNCED: 9TH MARCH 2026

More details: www.columbancompetition.com

PRINT PRIZES	IMAGE PRIZES
1 ST £300	1 ST £300
2 ND £150 • 3 RD £100	2 ND £150 • 3 RD £100

COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES BRITAIN

Entries to Mrs Schluter by Monday 4th February 2026

SIXTH FORM



SIXTH FORM



Criminology London Visit

On Monday 15th December, Year 13 Criminologists took a trip to London to visit the Old Bailey and the Houses of Parliament. Criminologists learn about the court system as well as the law making process as part of the course, so what better way than to make it a real experience. Learners had the opportunity to listen to a case in the 16th century courthouse, before grabbing some lunch in the famous Borough Market. We then travelled to Westminster to visit the sitting House of Commons for oral questions to the Defence Secretary before making our way back to Chelmsford.

Criminology is offered at Year 12 and Year 13

Mr Matthews

Head of Sociology and Criminology



A merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. We look forward to welcoming all our **Business and Economics** students in 2026.

BTEC Business Year 13 Unit 4 Events

As part of the BTEC Business Level 3 course, students partake in Unit 4; managing an event. This unit consists of students combining their creativity and organisational skills to produce successful, memorable events whether for profit or social enterprise.

During lesson time, students have researched successful events on different scales, before creating, and managing their own event in teams.

On Monday 8th December, our first group of Year 13 BTEC Business students held a **Sixth Form basketball tournament** after-school where Year 12 played Year 13.



On Thursday 11th December, our second group of BTEC students held a **Year 7 & 8 Talent Show**, raising money for charity.

The talent show was judged by Mr Hewlett, Mr Coen, Miss Squires and Mrs Nowlan. The winner of the Year 7 and 8 talent show was Janelle Year 8, who performed Halo by Beyoncé and blew the judges away with her performance.



Don't miss the next BTEC Business event, Family Bingo Night on Thursday 29th January at 6-7:30PM. All funds raised will be donated to Brake. Tickets can be purchased on ParentPay for £5 each.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP



STUDENT LEADERSHIP



Purpose and Mission

Student Leadership is welcomed and encouraged at all key stages and in all areas of school life, both in and out of the classroom. The student leadership teams exist to serve the school community by leading with humility, compassion, and integrity, rooted in the teachings of Christ. Their role is to inspire others through example, promote the Catholic ethos, and foster a culture of respect, inclusion, and service.

Guided by the words of Jesus:

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." (Matthew 20:26–28)

The team are called to be servant leaders—placing the needs of others before their own, encouraging faith in action, and helping build a school environment where every student feels valued and heard.

YEAR 7					
	Form Captains	Vice Captains	Sport Captains	Faith Champions	Reading Champion
A	Neriah	Rianna	Angelin	Elsie	Benji M
	Joseph C	Ethan- Josh	Kachi	Aiden	Theo S
B	Jenny J	Emma O	Bridget K	Emma O	Ben F
	Alma M	Nate U	Milo G	Nate U	Jenny J
C	Noah F	Sam M	Harrison K	Zach	Gilly M
	Frida R	Gilly M	Florence	Zara	Gilly M
D	Anu A	Lilly M-A	Oliver J	Lilly M-A	Lilly MA
	Dapo O	Kadhija M	Abigail K	Kadhija M	Eden H
F	Tanaka	Hattie	Albie	Hattie	Chloe F
	Michaela	Autumn	Sofia	Autumn	Lewis T
S	Irene	Ethan	Jessica	Ethan	Megan J
	Faaiz	Clodagh	Seni	Clodagh	Finlay N

STUDENT LEADERSHIP



YEAR 8					
	Form Captains	Vice Captains	Sport Captains	Faith Champions	Reading Champion
A	Grace	Juleeyan	Ruby	Juleeyan	Luke M
	Eliza	Bethel	Ben	Bethel	Janelle O
B	Jude	Kamsi E	Esme	Declan	Kamsi E
	Lois	Elaina S	Dwayne		Ahana B
C	Mayah M	Hugo H	Nathan J	Shanice	Shanice W
	Thomas M	Siyona G	Saskia		Thomas M
D	Tiegan	Caitlyn	Isidore		Jayden K
	Laurie	Isla	Klaudia		Faustina L
F	Sophie	Janelle	Agnese	Ioanna	Ben R
	Ioanna	Patrick	Luca		Courtney U
S	Elizabeth	Lacey M	Una P	Maxwel	Lydia B
	Anna	Ella	Joseph K		Maxwel J
YEAR 9					
	Form Captains	Vice Captains	Sport Captains	Faith Champions	Reading Champion
A	Tanishq	Alex	Ed	Ed	Daniella O
	Caitlyn	Daniella	Eleanor		Luca G
B	Aurana I	Abiha F	Raheema A	Zach C	Annmiya D
	Fatima H	Alencia S	Maeve K	Seb W	Vaeh D.
C	Chloe G	Elsie C	Annabel M	Caelen	Joshua C
	Samson M	Ralph J	Harley H		Elsie C
D	Louis Ryan	Naisey	Robbie R	Naisey	Bailey C
	Kamdi E	Morayo	Dee	Morayo	Annaise W
F	Ade	Michael J	Melissa	Ade	Aida P
	Ciaran B	Mercy C	Amelia S	Olivia	Ayla K
S	Pixie	Romina	Kayla	Kacper	Olive M
	Eniola	Olive	Katie	Williams	Romina N

STUDENT LEADERSHIP



YEAR 10					
	Form Captains	Vice Captains	Sport Captains	Faith Champions	Reading Champion
A	Charlie S	Leo Q	Riley T	Leo Q	Millie T
	Cian D	Oli M	Marho A	Oli M	Jesse O
B	Acelynn	Isabella	Remin	Isabella	Juliet J
	Eiljah	Marie	Joseph	Marie	Stephanie R
C	Clara	Lela	Zach	Lela	Cara D
	Samuel	Cara	Olivia	Cara	Anna C
D	Makayla	Oliver B	Lydia	Oliver B	Dami M
	Daniel	Charlotte	Ronald	Charlotte	Beth T
F	Orla	Ishwin	Marta	Ishwin	Gwynfor P
	Martin	Favour	Jeremiah	Favour	Jeremiah O
S	Kyron	Nichelle	Sofia K	Nichelle	Piper JR
	Ayobami	Sophia A	Charlie	Sophia A	Filip P

YEAR 11					
	Form Captains	Vice Captains	Sport Captains	Faith Champions	Reading Champion
A	Dominik K	Noah T	Tallulah C	Leo Q	Ellie-May R
	Ellie-May R	Gibbeh T	Freddie R-E	Oli M	Anthony M
B	Jason N	Sophie N-G	Dean M	Isabella	Jacob B
	Grace-Rose P		Lyla M	Marie	Austin W
C	Lore S, Angel U and Joanna N		Lore S, Angel U and Joanna N	Lela	Joanna N Sharon A Oluwasemilore S
				Cara	
D	Jayven D L C	Denie C	Sanmi A	Oliver B	Jayden D
	Arabella g	Suhana G	Amy B	Charlotte	Erinn M
F	Daniel T	Kaitlyn B	Benji E	Ishwin	Issy S
	Issy S	Julia L	Sophia S	Favour	Piotr K
S	Aoife P	Archie B	Jasmin R-L	Nichelle	Freddie G
	Manogyna K	Christian F	Chester B	Sophia A	Aoife P
					Phoebe

STUDENT LEADERSHIP



YEAR 13

Head Students	House Captains	Chaplaincy team	Lourdes Team	Diversity and Inclusion	Sports Day Volunteers
Ariana P	Lyla W (A)	Carys C (Team leader)	Joseph A (Team leader)	Diversity Chair Avni L	Millie H
Aruun S	Ameila S (A)	Matthew S	Matthew D	Inclusion Chair - Georgia M	Fraser M (A)
	Cezary C	Rebecca C	Oliver C		Gabriella K (A)
Deputy Head Students	Alexandra O A	Lilian G (A)	Amy C		Johanna B (A)
Franci B	Alex L	Lola W			Greena R (A)
Amine G	Jesu-Tega U	Paige D			Chidinma E
	Lacey M				Theo C (A)
	Adam L				Elizabeth A
	Georgia M				Jamie E
	Lois L				
	Joseph N				
	Luke G				

Prefects

Sophia	Joe	Anthony	Annette	Lucas
Samara	Freddie	Stephen	Ellie-May	Manogyna
Timmy	Gabriel	Honor	Austin	Evangeline
Abigail	Nidia	Grace-Rose	Tyson	Maahi
Faith	Angel	Kelvin	Lore	Owen
Joanna	Emmanuel	Maisy	Rodney	Sofia
Suhana	Jayven	Cheryl	Jacob	Aoife
Natalia	Jayden	Arabella	Quynhvy	Connie
Kaitlyn	Matteo	Piotr	Evie	
Scarlet-Rose	Daniel	Carmen	Sanmi	
Charlie	Logan	Archie	Nathan	
Chester	Christian	Evan	Freddie	
Ella	Olivia	Jasmin	Issy	

STUDENT AWARDS



STUDENT AWARDS



	Total Year Group Achievement Points	Highest Form Achievement points	Highest Achievement Points In the Year
Year 7	10,772	7C 2226 Achievement points	Zara N 232 Achievement Points
Year 8	11,008	8B 2450 Achievement points	Marco A 236 Achievement Points
Year 9	9,856	9D 1868 Achievement points	Annaise W-W 9D 294 Achievement Points
Year 10	5,458	10S 1018 Achievement points	William B 10D 206 Achievement Points
Year 11	4,508	11S 912 Achievement points	Freddie G 11S 169 Achievement Points



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT





What's the link between GCSE Sociology and Skittles?

Sampling = Random/Systematic/Stratified/Quota/Opportunity/Snowball

In November, year 10 GCSE Sociologists took part in a creative lesson using the confectionery in order to define these 6 methods of sampling used to carry out sociological research. We learned that it is vital to use suitable participants in any given population. For example, if the sample of participants is taken from sixth form colleges in Essex, the findings of the study can only be applied to that group of people and is not representative of all sixth form students in the UK and certainly not all people in the world. However, it is not usually possible to test everyone in the target population, therefore



Sociologists use sampling techniques to choose people who are representative (typical) of the population as a whole. If your sample is representative, then you generalise the study results to a wider population.

The Skittles represented the target population, but 25 sweets represented the sample participants, which were selected according to the 6 sampling methods and the representation of participants was calculated (i.e. how many colours of each Skittles were selected). In this creative way of studying sociological methodology students were able to better put into their long-term memory basic terminology and concepts ready for their end of term/year GCSE Sociology examinations.

However, we are unsure how accurate the results were, as many Skittles may have been eaten along the way, by **Mr Bellworthy** and **Miss Chimes (Year 10 Sociology Teachers)**.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Sports Readers 2025 Our Y7 and 8 Sports Readers have made an excellent start to the year showing dedication and commitment as they've embarked on the project. Together with their excellent Y12 buddies, students have enjoyed diving into their morning reading alongside a delicious breakfast... and hot chocolate! We're very proud of the hard work and resilience shown by our students and we had a wonderful time celebrating their achievements at the Sports Readers Christmas party & sports sessions.



The Brilliant Club 2025 Selected Y9 and Y10 students have been working hard in their weekly seminar sessions learning all about the 'History of Childhood' from our guest lecturer. They have shown diligence, perseverance and aspiration – well done! Over the break, they will be working on their final assignments, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements with a trip to Cambridge University for their graduation ceremony in February.



Key Stage 3 science club has re-started this term. Fun was had by all - making sugar crystals.



Sparx Reader – inspiring a love of reading and improving reading ages all at the same time!

This term, the English Department has introduced Sparx Reader for all students in Years 7-11. The aim of introducing this homework was to build confidence and resilience among students when meeting and engaging with new and unfamiliar texts – something they will all have to do in their GCSE exams.

Sparx Reader gives students access to a range of fiction texts suitable for their reading age. As students read, they answer questions. This makes their reading visible to teachers, empowering them to actively build a culture of reading. This reading data can also be used to measure students' improvement.

Studies have shown that regularly completing Sparx homework has a positive impact on reading ages, with those who complete their 300SRP each week progressing at an average rate of 1.44 years per year: an additional 5.3 months' progress.

The key focus is on careful, close reading, and students are already enjoying the benefits. We hope they will enjoy their reading through the Christmas break.

The launch of a Christmas Sparx competition has really motivated a lot of our students to find their inner reader! In the three weeks leading up to Christmas, each Year Group has had a tub of chocolates awarded to the English class with the highest average Sparx Reader Points -and it has led to some VERY healthy competition between the classes!

So far, students have had 12 pieces of homework set on Sparx, with an expectation to have reached 3,600 points by the start of the Christmas holiday. Whilst many students are already on target, a HUGE congratulations needs to be given to the following students who have gone significantly above and beyond by crossing the 10,000 point mark:

Surname	Reg. group	SRP earned (All-time)
DANIEL	9B	32,131
JEGASEELAN	7S	31,228
NITHIYANANTHAM	7B	26,767
OKPOCHINI	7D	23,892
FONSECA	7B	20,354
OBADIARU	8A	18,897
SRICHANDAN	7B	16,051
CLIFFORD	7F	15,468
MAKOWSKI	7B	13,292
BAKER	8D	13,218
GRZEGOREK	8F	12,997
MCDEVITT-INSALACO	7S	12,797
EVANS	7A	12,520
ACHEAMPONG	7C	12,266
SZUMINSKI	8F	11,700
OGUNKEYE	7B	11,587
MATHEW	9F	11,183
RIPTON	8F	10,898
TUMANG	8D	10,861
ACHEAMPONG	11C	10,204
SALIBINDLA	10D	10,200
KOMOLAFE	7D	10,135
IRVINE	8B	10,091
JINSON	10D	10,067

KEY SCHOOL EVENTS



KEY SCHOOL EVENTS



A Level English Language Conference 2025

On Thursday 27th November the Year 12 A level English Language class attended the annual language conference run by the English and Media centre. As ever, it was a fantastic day, offering the students the chance to hear from real experts in the field of linguistics. In the afternoon, our students were selected to put a range of questions to the panel on the topic 'Is the English Language getting worse?.'

See below for a selection of our questions and Grace's review of the day!

Mrs Coen & Mrs Ingrouille



How would you respond to someone who believes that tiktok or 'brainrot' language is the main perpetrator of language getting worse?
(Grace)

How can we balance respect for 'traditional' language with the recognition that language needs to evolve to fit cultural needs?
(Tobi)

Why are people (particularly older generations) so against language change and often correct young people's use of language?
(Lyla)



The conference took place at Friends House in Euston, London, which was way bigger than I thought it was as there were many more A level classes present. Our class had a brilliant view of the speakers as we were sat right in the middle!! The speakers were experts in a range of topics, ranging from etymology to internet language and even the development of a program that can differentiate between multiple northern accents such as Scouse and Geordie. My personal favourite speaker was Christian Ilbury, as his wide range of knowledge on accent bias and language used on social media fascinated me, along with his optimistic descriptivist outlook that social media is helpful for aspects of language change and development. I would 100% recommend going to this conference if you take English Language A Level and make sure to take notes - you never know if the speakers' up to date studies may be useful for Paper 2 Questions!

Grace Year 12



KEY SCHOOL EVENTS



Enhancing Exam Skills and Theological Thinking in Religious Studies

We were pleased to welcome Reverend Dr Julie Gardiner to school for a day of enrichment and support within the Religious Studies department.

Rev Dr Gardiner ran a targeted support session for GCSE students, focusing on those working at borderline grades. The session helped students better understand how to improve their exam responses, with a clear focus on practical skills such as structuring answers, using key terminology effectively, and securing additional marks. The aim was to give students tools they can continue to use independently as they prepare for their exams.



In addition, Rev Dr Gardiner delivered an engaging lecture for A-level Philosophy and Ethics students on Feminism and Liberation Theology. This session encouraged students to think more deeply about how philosophical and theological ideas connect to issues of justice, equality, and society, while also strengthening their understanding of key topics within the course.

The sessions were well received and provided valuable support and challenge for students across both key stages. We are grateful to Rev Dr Gardiner for her time and contribution, which enriched our Religious Studies provision and supported students in building confidence and understanding.

Silent Film: A Trip to the BFI

On 8th of December, our Year 12 Film Studies class, along with the Year 13 class, attended a Silent Film Study Day at the BFI in London. During the day, we studied different types of silent film, such as Realism and Expressionism. The event was led by Matthew Daintrey-Hall, a Film Education lecturer and writer, who thoroughly explained the key aspects and features of silent cinema.

The main silent film we studied was *Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans* (1927), which is a named text on our EDUQAS course. It was a fantastic and memorable opportunity to experience a silent film accompanied by a live pianist. British-based pianist Neil Brand aided the narrative and created emotion and story through his improvised music.

The day concluded with a Q&A session, where we were able to ask Neil Brand questions about his experience working within the silent film industry. Overall, this trip was a helpful and enjoyable experience for everyone who attended and will greatly aid our studies and understanding of film more generally.

By Ash Skelcher 12D



KEY SCHOOL EVENTS



Careers Fair

On Wednesday 5th November, we welcomed over 20 exhibitors to our annual Careers Fair. It was a fantastic opportunity for students in Years 9-13 and their families to explore future pathways and connect with professionals from a wide range of industries. The event was well attended, with engaging industry speakers and interactive stands that provided valuable insights into higher education, apprenticeships, and career options.

What kinds of industries would you like to see represented in school next time? Please let us know by emailing g.pellicci@sjp.essex.sch.uk – we would love to hear what you think!



Christmas Challenge for All

Santa is getting ready for Christmas - sorting presents, filling sacks and working out his route to make sure he can deliver all his wonderful presents to the children of the world in time for when they wake up Christmas morning. The trouble is, every year just before Christmas, the reindeer have nothing to do and mostly stand around getting rather bored. They are always asking if they can help but there's nothing they can do until Santa's ready to go. This year, Santa is prepared for them and he's set them a little challenge to help keep them busy. He's given them the following problem: Five children from five different families living in five different counties of England have asked for a different gift each, two of which are a bicycle and a pony. From this information and the following clues, for each child, can you help the reindeer determine who's who, where each child lives and what present each has asked for?

1. Neither Cliff nor Jennifer lives in Kent.
2. Young Crawford asked for the pony.
3. Young Rowlands does not live in Yorkshire and did not ask for a bicycle.
4. The gift due for delivery to Cornwall is a computer.
5. The computer is not for the child surnamed Rowlands.
6. Liz, who has asked for the painting set, is not from Kent. Her surname is not Jamison.
7. The child who lives in Essex has asked for a guitar.
8. Alan lives in Cumbria.
9. Sarah's surname is not Crawford.
10. Jennifer's surname is Feather.

Please submit your entry to Mr Newman, B028, by Monday 5th December to enter into our competition.

		Last	City	Gift
First	Alan			
	Cliff			
	Jennifer			
	Liz			
	Sarah			
Gift	Bicycle			
	Computer			
	Guitar			
	Paint Set			
	Pony			
City	Cornwall			
	Cumbria			
	Essex			
	Kent			
	Yorkshire			

	Last	City	Gift
Alan			
Cliff			
Jennifer			
Liz			
Sarah			

© Ahapuzzles.com
Feather Jamison Crawford Rowlands Northey Cornwall Cumbria Essex Kent Yorkshire Bicycle Computer Guitar Paint Set Pony

Play This Logic Puzzle
ahapuzzles.com/uk/p73

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year
Mrs O'Leary and the maths team.

MATHEMATICS



Welcome to the SJP maths team!

There have been so many exciting events over the past 14 weeks of the Autumn term.
Here are just some of the highlights.

Year 10 & 11 Functional maths – BTEC award – Led by Mrs O'Leary

Our Year 10 and 11 functional maths students have been working hard and completed the first round of their formal assessments.

Congratulations to our Year 11 and Year 10 students. Demmi, Bluebelle, Jayden, Zanzie, Emma, Zohra, Tain, Shannon, Riley, Reese, Charlie, Declan and Liam.

Year 11 Further maths GCSE group – Led by Mrs Peterson and Mrs Sanal

Our Further maths GCSE group have been working hard this term. Their additional tuition nexts place every Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime in B002. They are exploring new topics such as Matrices and Calculus along with practicing extended answer questions based upon GCSE topics.



Year 11 – Additional tuition every Tuesday after school – Led by Mrs Machin and the maths team

Our year 11 students have been working hard on reviewing key knowledge and applying this to complete extended answer problems. Well done to the 20 students who attend each week. This is a GCSE G4 & G5 focus – all are welcome to attend Year 10 & 11 – Additional tuition before school and during registration time led by Mr Acton and Mrs Peterson

This is by invite only and it was great to see a good number to students taking up this opportunity to be involved in both reviewing and extending their own knowledge and skills. A new cohort, from year 10 and 11, will be invited for the Spring term – contact col@sjp.essex.sch if you would like to be involved.

Year 12 & 13 – Additional tuition every Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime led by Mr Newman, Ms Wright and Mrs O'Leary
All students in KS5 are welcome to attend – review current topics, prior topics and explore extended answer exam style questions!

Cultural capital and careers opportunities UKMT team challenge by Irven

The UKMT senior team maths challenge a time of uncertainty and challenge yet many joys. After period 4 when I finished, me and my teammates went to our allotted parking space to meet up with Mr Acton. To embark on this journey, we would need a glorious stead the school minibus, a pristine and reliable vehicle with served the school for years, and off we went. At Westcliff, we were swiftly taken to the where the challenge was being held. After reaching our table for the challenge, we settled in to start the challenge.

It was a tough start and, unfortunately, due to nerves our team dropped 18 marks out of 60 for the first round. The second round on the other hand started of majestically as did the next two subsequent rounds with our team consecutively getting full mark. A dip in performance in rounds 4 and 5 meant we dropped 18 marks.

Finally, in the final and most difficult round, the maths crosswords, we came out with 53/60 marks.

This granted us 8th place overall in the challenge – the highest ever for SJP maths.

Special thanks to Mr Acton for both preparing us for the event during lots of lunchtime sessions and for taking us to the event.
Same time, same place next year please Sir!

UKMT Individual challenge by Mr Acton

The year 12 and 13 Maths students took part in the Senior Maths Challenge, last half term.

Gold and silver certificate winners are mentioned below.

Congratulations to Isaac who received an invitation to the Kangaroo, the next round.

We wish Isaac all the best. Isacc- Gold Best in School, Khorvash- Silver Best in Year, Caiden- Siliver, George-Silver, Karol-Silver, Ryan-Silver, Stanley-Silver, Salvador-Silver, Joshua-Silver, Tauran-Silver and Alex-Silver.

28th January 26

**Intermediate Mathematical
Challenge**

29th April 26

**Junior Mathematical
Challenge**



GAME ON – enrichment and careers opportunity – Mrs Green and Miss James

Game On! Careers Event – Inspiring Futures in Game Design

On Wednesday 15th October, a group of our students attended the Game On! careers event at Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford. Organised by the Chelmsford Science and Engineering Society (CSES), the event offered an exciting insight into the world of game design, sound engineering, and creative careers in the gaming industry.

Students took part in interactive breakout sessions led by industry professionals. They explored career pathways, asked questions in live Q&A panels, and even networked during an informal dinner session.



We would like to encourage students to explore further opportunities by joining CSES and Spark!, a youth forum for 13–25-year-olds involved in cultural projects across Chelmsford.

Membership is free for SJP students - visit cses.org.uk/membership to sign up.

KS5 Annual Christmas Lectures – 10th December – Mrs O'Leary and Mr Newman

An exciting opportunity for our Year 12 and 13 students.

The CSES Christmas lectures – The Atomic Human, with a follow up tour of ARU campus university along with lots of Careers information.

It seems that wherever we look, on TV, on the internet, or in newspapers, people are telling us how they are using AI to give us better experiences but are they? What does that mean? Is it safe? Should we be concerned?

Artificial Intelligence refers to the ability of machines to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. This includes capabilities like learning, problem-solving, decision-making, and perception but, as generative AI reshapes the technology landscape, we face fundamental questions about human-machine interaction.

In this talk Professor Lawrence will talk about the limitations of artificial intelligence, why he finds the notion of artificial general intelligence absurd, and how there's a part of us that can never be replaced by the machine.



Neil Lawrence is the inaugural DeepMind Professor of Machine Learning at the University of Cambridge where he leads the University's flagship mission on Artificial Intelligence, AI@Cam. He has been working on machine learning models for over 20 years. He recently returned to academia after three years as Director of Machine Learning at Amazon.

His main interest is the interaction of machine learning with the real world. This interest was triggered by deploying machine learning in the African context, where 'end-to-end' solutions are normally required. This has inspired new research directions at the interface of machine learning and systems research, this work is funded by a Senior AI Fellowship from the Alan Turing Institute.

Neil is also visiting Professor at the University of Sheffield and the co-host of Talking Machines. He is the author of the book *The Atomic Human*.



Year 9 Christmas lectures and Careers talk – 15th December – Mrs Machin and Ms Wright

Amazing update for this event with year 9 – over 40 students on the waiting list. If you missed out on this event, we will look into running a similar event later on in the year.



Do you love being in the company of your pets or seeing animals in other settings such as farms, zoos or in the wild? Maybe you prefer to keep your distance from our furry, scaly, or feathered friends. In this presentation Grace Dickinson will talk about human-animal relationships from the earliest times to the present day, including the therapeutic effects of interacting with animals, and her experiences training animals for both human interactions and filming. How do you teach a mouse to tackle an assault course? Why doesn't a rat like to eat from a man's beard, and how can you overcome that? How can you persuade a lizard to do what you want it to? We will hear the answers to all of these questions and much more!!

We might even get to meet a few four, six or eight legged film stars too.

Grace Dickinson is an animal presenter, educator, movie animal wrangler and managing director of "Reptiles Etc". She began working professionally in zoos and as a film industry wrangler/trainer in 2002 (with many years voluntary work previous to this!) specialising in herpetology, falconry, education, displays and animal behaviour and training. She has enjoyed a career spanning a variety of taxa as well as zoological collections both in the UK and abroad, alongside working in reptile rescue and rehoming as well as wildlife rehabilitation and conservation volunteering, plus a stint as a keeper/instructor at an animal college teaching FE and HE courses as an exotics specialist. Grace has a National Diploma in Animal Care, BSc Hons Degree in Animal Behaviour, LANTRA falconry qualification, animal transport certification, C&G Award in Education and Training, Diploma in Animal Assisted Therapy and Diplomas in Understanding Autism and Mental Health first aid and advocacy in the workplace.



Year 10 GCSE PE Trip to the University of Essex

On Friday 7th November, 50 Year 10 GCSE PE students had the exciting opportunity to visit the University of Essex Colchester Campus. The day was packed with engaging activities, including fitness testing and injury identification workshops, giving students a real insight into the practical applications of sports science.

The facilities at the university were truly impressive, showcasing state-of-the-art equipment and resources. This experience not only enhanced students' understanding of their GCSE PE curriculum but also inspired aspirations for higher education and careers in the sporting field. It was a fantastic day that broadened horizons and motivated our learners to aim high!



SJP Cross Country at Hylands Park

This year marked my 18th time attending this wonderful event, and once again Hylands Park proved to be an exceptional venue for our runners. It is always inspiring to see how the training and preparation—both in and outside of school—allow our students to shine.

We enjoyed a fantastic afternoon, with good weather and ideal running conditions for what is always a competitive yet joyful event. With around 15 schools competing from across the Mid-Essex area, including Brentwood, it was never going to be an easy race; however, our students did SJP incredibly proud.

There were several standout performances:

- Our Junior Girls and Boys (Years 8 & 9) achieved a brilliant 5th place overall.
- Our Inter Boys (Years 10 & 11) secured an impressive 4th place overall.
- Our Year 7 Girls also earned a strong 6th place finish overall.

A particularly pleasing outcome was the number of SJP students selected to represent the Mid-Essex Team, who will go on to compete against other areas of the county in January. A huge congratulations and good luck to those selected: Joe D, Edward D, Luca C, Abigail K and Jack N.

Well done to all students who took part—you represented the school brilliantly.

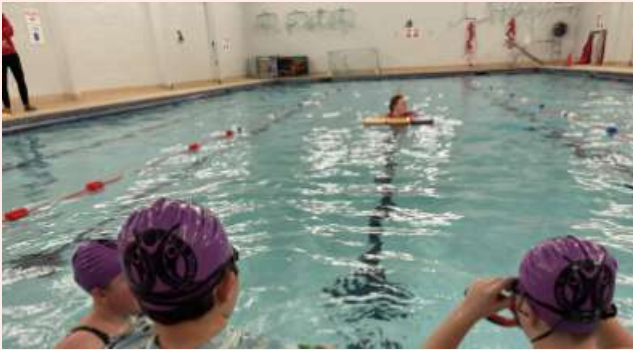




KS3 Panathlon Swimming Competition

On Thursday 11th December, a group of KS3 students took part in the Panathlon Swimming Competition at Moulsham. The event was filled with excitement as students engaged in a series of fun relay races, showcasing teamwork, determination, and plenty of smiles along the way.

It was a fantastic experience for all involved, and we are thrilled to see our students enjoying competitive sport in such an inclusive and supportive environment. Our teams placed 3rd and 5th! We look forward to being invited to the next Panathlon competition and continuing to celebrate the achievements of our young athletes!



Football

Year 9 Boys: A fantastic performance saw the team win their Round of 32 match in the Essex Cup, securing a place in the Round of 16.

Football

Year 7 Boys: The squad has progressed to the Round of 32 in the Essex Cup after some impressive early displays.





Basketball

Year 10: The team remains unbeaten in the MESSSA League, continuing their dominant run. Top scorer: Jake, whose scoring ability has been key to the team's success.

Lots of basketball matches scheduled for the next term. Make sure you check the fixture lists up in the sports hall for more information!



Table Tennis

We have partnered with Chelmsford table tennis club this term. They have been delivering coaching sessions on a Friday afterschool 3.15-4.15pm. The club has been a great success and we look forward to continuing in the new year. If you would like to attend please let the PE department know so you can be set up on parent pay to make the appropriate payment.



A-Level PE Students Take Theory to the Driving Range!

On Monday 8th December, our A-Level PE students joined Mrs Watson and Mr Hewlett at Channels Driving Range for an exciting practical session. This was a fantastic opportunity to put classroom theory into practice, focusing on the principles of skill acquisition in a real-world sporting environment.

It was great to see students actively engaging with their knowledge and applying key concepts while developing their technique. A brilliant example of learning beyond the classroom!

Chelmsford City Football Club

As neighbours to the school, we're delighted to offer **200 free tickets** for our upcoming home games this festive season:

- 20th December
- 29th December
- 3rd January



Simply use the code **CCFCSJP** on our ticketing website to claim your free tickets for any of these matches.

Join us at **Chelmsford City Football Club** and make this Christmas period even more memorable!

Home - Chelmsford City Football Club

Rugby Tournaments

Year 7: Played 4 matches, winning 2 and drawing 1. Standout players: Riley and Nathan for their determination and skill throughout the tournament.

Year 8: Competed in a group of three teams with highly competitive matches. Standout players: Tom and George, who showed excellent leadership and resilience.

Girls basketball and netball

This term has been an outstanding one for our girls' sports teams, with incredible performances in both netball and basketball. Their hard work, determination, and teamwork have truly paid off.

Netball

Year 7: a 6-4 win, Year 8: a 27-1 victory and year 10 playing in an U16 netball tournament against teams a year older than them, showcasing how hard they have worked.

Basketball Highlights

Year 8 Girls securing a 26-19 win and the Upper Years Tournament with year 9,10 and 11 placing 1st, 2nd and 3rd.



Congratulations to parents and students who use
the French and German Knowledge Organisers
www.sentencebuilders.com and www.linguascope.com and activehub.pearson.com

Term 1b 2025-26

There is nothing complicated about learning languages, but it takes hard work.

These students have showed particular grit, resilience, curiosity and effort in embedding French/German knowledge into their long-term memory. They will have a very strong start to the start of 2026 in French and German because they have not given up and have continued to ask questions and check their memory week in, week out.

Year 7 French	Year 8 French	Year 8 German	Year 9 French	Year 9 German
Elsie S (7A)	Juleeyan S (8A)	Kian K (8C)	Joshua C (9C)	Morayo A (9D)
Sam M (7C)	Nathan W (8C)	Una P (8S)	Olive M (9S)	Patrick G (9F)
Ada O (7D)	Oliver G (8F)	Teddy K (8A)	Eric R.P (9A)	Eric R-P (9A)
Sofia I (7F)	Kamile R (8B)	Thomas M (8C)	Jessica L (9C)	Jessica L (9C)
Grace G (7S)	Jenson B (8D)	Erin R (8F)	Daniel M (9F)	Katy W (9S)

Moreover, SJP Top Linguastars are chosen amongst all others for their excellence.

Lirithika N (7B) Excellent attitude to learning and participation in class. Her excellent application of new vocabulary and grammar will continue to secure better understanding and spoken and written French.

Kamile R (8B) What an outstanding approach to learning. She works hard at every task and homework given. By showing great enthusiasm in her learning, Kamile will develop a great aptitude for communicating in different contexts. Ideal GCSE French candidate!

Luca W (8B) demonstrates excellent participation in class. Luca has worked hard to learn the new vocabulary and grammar we have covered this term thanks to his hard work on www.sentencebuilders.com and how he applies the new structures/vocabulary to communicate well. Ideal GCSE German candidate!

Aurana I (9B) She approaches her studies of French with great positivity, resilience and pride. She strives to do her best and is already a very good linguist. Ideal GCSE French candidate!

Daniella O (9A) has produced written work of a very high quality this term thanks to her effort in homework and participation in lessons. Ideal GCSE German candidate!

Emma F (10D) has had a brilliant start to GCSE French, as she shows interest, resilience, enthusiasm in spades and is working very hard. A-Level French candidate?

Oliver M (10A) demonstrates a natural confident and committed approach to GCSE German. He gives 100% effort in lessons/homework and particular inhibition in having a go, which motivates the rest of the class. A-Level German?

Cian D (10A) has demonstrated excellent class participation and written work this term. A-Level German candidate?

Joseph D (11A) Amongst the most resilient students in the class due to his committed approach to GCSE French revision, always going the extra mile in vocabulary learning and grammar application. 100% effort in lessons/homework. A-Level French candidate?

Nathan O (11S) Amongst the top grades in the class due to his committed approach to GCSE French revision, always going the extra mile in vocabulary learning and grammar application. 100% effort in lessons/homework. A-Level French?

Freddie G (11S) A very talented linguist, who attends all revision sessions and has produced a very high quality of work. A pleasure to teach and goes the extra mile. His written work is of an exceptional standard. A-Level German candidate?

Library News



November was dedicated to Non-Fiction reads, with library lessons for Year 8 students on how to correctly identify the specific elements of non-fiction books, including features such as the index, glossary, bibliography, etc.



The library continues to be a vibrant hub for activities!

Puzzle Club and Craft Club remain very popular, and Dungeons & Dragons Fridays have been such a success that from January, sessions will run twice a week (Mondays and Fridays). A big thank you to Michael (Y9) and Kaitlyn (Y11) for their commitment in running this fantastic club.



We are excited to announce that the Manga Club will restart in January — everyone is welcome to join! New books have recently arrived and are already proving to be popular reads.

MANGA CLUB

Student led activity
Speak to Sureya (7F) or Gabriel (10C) for more details



As we approach the festive season, we encourage all students to take part in the Christmas Reading & Baking Competition — details are on the attached poster.

Wishing everyone a joyful holiday season and happy reading!

Reading Champions 2025-2026

Reading Champions in Years 7-11 have recently been presented with their badge and certificate in assemblies in acknowledgement of their leadership role. We welcome these students in their new positions as ambassadors to promote a genuine love for reading and help to cultivate our positive reading culture in school. Their responsibilities include the following:

- Remind teachers about D.E.A.R time.
- Offer to lead Register and Read and Word of the Week discussions.
- Volunteer or organise others when there is an opportunity to read.
- Promote Library competitions and get involved in World Book day and Book Week activities.
- Be prepared to recommend and share books with peers.



In a recent meeting, our Reading Champions shared their reading preferences. Most students read outside the school at least a few times a week and the majority of students described reading as interesting, relaxing and peaceful. 85% of students like reading quietly by themselves, but the second most popular option was listening to audiobooks/podcasts/other online platforms such as Sparx Reader. Most of the books owned by students were received as a gift, bought from a bookshop or purchased online. 48% of students use a local library.

Most popular genres in order:

Mystery, Fantasy, Adventure, Humour, Sci-Fi, Horror, Classics, Historical Fiction, Comics/ Graphic Novels, Romance, Animal Stories, Poems, Biographies

Library News



Here is a range of some of their favourite books:



Favourite Authors:

Key Stage 4- Rick Riordan, Anthony Horowitz, Holly Black, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Susanna Gregory, Oscar Wilde, Franz Kafka

Key Stage 3, J.K. Rowling, Roald Dahl, David Walliams, Michael Morpurgo, A.F Steadman, Ravena Guron, J. R. R. Tolkien, John Flanagan



CHRISTMAS READING AND BAKING COMPETITION

Read a book of your choice and create a dish inspired by the story. Whether it's something a character eats, a meal from the setting, or a treat that matches the book's mood.



Get creative and festive!

To enter:

1. Choose any book to read over the Christmas break.
2. **Bake or cook** a dish inspired by the book.
3. Take a photo of your dish.
4. Write a short explanation (150 words) linking your dish to the book.
6. Include book title, dish name and the photo in your explanation.



Email your entry to W.Zawadzka@sjp.essex.sch.uk
by Friday, 9th January 2026

www.chch.ox.ac.uk/towerpoetry-enter

PASTORAL CARE, MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING





The Educational Psychology (EP) Helpline for Parents

We know that you might have questions regarding supporting your child through school.

This helpline is here to give you advice, support and signposting. This is a confidential, private and safe service for parents and carers. You don't need a referral—just book an appointment. We're here to help you support your child's unique needs.

You might want help with:

- Supporting your child at home.
- Understanding their needs in school.
- Finding out what extra help is available.

Our team of qualified educational psychologists are here to listen and guide you. The helpline:

- is confidential and personal details will not be recorded and nor will information be passed onto other sources
- is staffed by qualified educational psychologists who listen to parents' concerns and work with them to find a positive way forward
- consists of a discrete piece of work with no follow up

It does not:

- fast-track a visit for your child in school
- make a referral to the EP or any other LA service
- obtain an EP assessment or to diagnose a condition
- accelerate EP involvement with the child
- substitute for an EP working directly with the child

New Now Easier to Access: The booking is designed to provide an easier and more convenient experience.

- Available on alternating Mondays and Tuesdays
- 1:00pm – 5:00pm
- 25-minute appointments bookable via MS Teams
- No more waiting – instant booking confirmation

For booking details and further information, please visit [EP-Parent-Helpline](#)

Information will also be available on the **Essex County Council Local Offer** Pages

<https://schools.essex.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send/send-services-and-support/essex-local-offer-website>



E-SAFETY



E-SAFETY



We're thrilled to announce the relaunch of our official Facebook and Instagram pages in 2026! These platforms will be your go-to destination for the latest school news, celebrating student achievements, showcasing events and activities, and sharing helpful resources for parents and students.

Follow us to stay connected and be part of our vibrant school community.

Let's make 2026 a year of connection, celebration, and community spirit! Find us on Facebook and Instagram and join the conversation today.



12 Days of SJP



By Freddie G 11S



On the First Day of Christmas, SJP gave to me... a compassionate school community!

On the Second Day of Christmas, SJP gave to me... two marvellous musicals and a compassionate school community!

On the Third Day of Christmas, SJP gave to me... three Saints blessing our main buildings, two marvellous musicals, and a compassionate school community!

On the Fourth Day of Christmas, SJP gave to me... four Evangelists teaching, three Saints blessing our main buildings, two marvellous musicals, and a compassionate school community!

On the Fifth Day of Christmas, SJP gave to me... five learning days, four Evangelists teaching, three Saints blessing our main buildings, two marvellous musicals, and a compassionate school community!

On the Sixth Day of Christmas, SJP gave to me... six Houses competing, five learning days, four Evangelists teaching, three Saints blessing our main buildings, two marvellous musicals, and a compassionate school community!

On the Seventh Day of Christmas, SJP gave to me... seven year groups giving, six Houses competing, five learning days, four Evangelists teaching, three Saints blessing our main buildings, two marvellous musicals, and a compassionate school community!

On the Eighth Day of Christmas, SJP gave to me... eight sport clubs and counting, seven year groups giving, six Houses competing, five learning days, four Evangelists teaching, three Saints blessing our main buildings, two marvellous musicals, and a compassionate school community!

On the Ninth Day of Christmas, SJP gave to me... nine GCSEs accomplished, eight sport clubs and counting, seven year groups giving, six Houses competing, five learning days, four Evangelists teaching, three Saints blessing our main buildings, two marvellous musicals, and a compassionate school community!

On the Tenth Day of Christmas, SJP gave to me... ten charities supported, nine GCSEs accomplished, eight sport clubs and counting, seven year groups giving, six Houses competing, five learning days, four Evangelists teaching, three Saints blessing our main buildings, two marvellous musicals, and a compassionate school community!

On the Eleventh Day of Christmas, SJP gave to me... eleven Brentwood Youth Masses attended, ten charities supported, nine GCSEs accomplished, eight sport clubs and counting, seven year groups giving, six Houses competing, five learning days, four Evangelists teaching, three Saints blessing our main buildings, two marvellous musicals, and a compassionate school community!

On the Twelfth Day of Christmas, SJP gave to me... twelve Disciples guiding, eleven Brentwood Youth Masses attended, ten charities supported, nine GCSEs accomplished, eight sport clubs and counting, seven year groups giving, six Houses competing, five learning days, four Evangelists teaching, three Saints blessing our main buildings, two marvellous musicals, and a compassionate school community!

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:11



MERRY
Christmas
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR

