

ST JOHN PAYNE



AVITA PRO FIDE



NEWSLETTER JULY 2026

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HEADTEACHER REPORT



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HEADTEACHER REPORT JULY 2026



Dear St John Payne Community

The year has concluded with an array of extra-curricular opportunities and celebration: the CAFOD Live Simply award, winning the Young Catholic Influencers of the Year, remaining District Athletics champions and retaining the Gold School Games Mark, sports day, the Jewish Living Experience, Book Week, field trips & Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, university visits, Year 8 skills festival, Jack Petchey celebration, Year 12 work experience, Year 10 interview day, Year 6 induction, Year 5 & Year 12 taster days, Diocese Citizenship Awards, Leavers' Balls, sleep out in support of Caritas Brentwood, charities week, enrichment trips, and Prizegiving.

We pray for Fr Michael as he becomes parish priest at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Braintree, and we thank all our Deanery priests for bringing Christ to our community throughout the year.

Thank you for your continued support. We wish our whole community a restful summer, and look forward to welcoming students in Years 7 & 12 on Wednesday 2nd and all other Years on Thursday 3rd September.

God Bless.

Mr T. Coen
Headteacher



CHAPLAINCY & FAITH LIFE





CATHOLIC LAY CHAPLAIN



Chaplaincy Reflection – A Year of Faith, Hope and Grace

As we reach the end of another academic year at Saint John Payne Catholic School, I find myself reflecting with immense gratitude on the countless ways God has been present in our community. Throughout this year, our school has continued to live out its mission as a place where faith is not simply taught, but genuinely encountered, celebrated and shared.

One of the greatest blessings of our school is the vibrant sacramental life at its heart. Every Thursday morning, before the school day even begins, students and staff gather for Holy Mass at 8.00am. Many of our young people travel considerable distances to be here, arriving early not because they have to, but because they want to serve, read, sing, pray and, most importantly, be with Christ in the Eucharist. Their witness is a powerful reminder that faith remains alive and flourishing among our young people.

We are deeply grateful to Fr Michael, Fr Barto and all the priests who generously give their time to celebrate these Masses and bring Jesus to us through the Eucharist. Alongside our Thursday morning Masses, our Friday lunchtime Masses continue to be wonderfully attended, with so many priests joining us throughout the year. We are especially thankful to Fr Michael, Fr Barto and Fr Paul, whose presence in our school community is a constant source of encouragement and support.

This year also saw two beautiful celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent. It remains one of the most moving experiences of the school year to witness over 300 students voluntarily seeking this sacrament of healing and mercy. We are indebted to all the priests of our deanery who dedicate their time to enable our young people to encounter the forgiving love of Christ in such a personal way.

Beyond school, many of our students have faithfully represented Saint John Payne at the monthly Brentwood Diocese Youth Masses. These are joyful occasions that bring together young Catholics from across the diocese, demonstrating that they are part of something much bigger than themselves. The demand for places is always extraordinary, and we look forward to welcoming more students to these celebrations in the new academic year.

Our pilgrimage to Rome and the Amalfi Coast was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the year. For many, walking in the footsteps of the saints, celebrating Mass in the heart of the Church and standing just an arm's length from Pope Leo will remain lifelong memories. Pilgrimage is never simply about travel; it is about transformation. It was a privilege to witness the deepening faith, growing confidence and spiritual formation of our young people throughout that journey.

The end of the year brought further reasons to celebrate. Our Year 7 Faith in Action group travelled to Westminster to participate in the Youth Catholic Influencers Award for the very first time - and remarkably, they won. Inspired by their success and motivated by their desire to put faith into action, these students went on to organise, promote and lead a school Sleep Out in support of Caritas Brentwood. More than 70 students and 11 staff spent a night under the stars with only sleeping bags for shelter, raising vital funds to support those experiencing homelessness and vulnerability in our community. It was a wonderful example of Catholic Social Teaching in action: faith expressed through service, solidarity and love for our neighbour.

Continued...



CATHOLIC LAY CHAPLAIN



This week, we were delighted to welcome Fr Gary Dench to celebrate Mass with our new members of staff. Led beautifully by our Faith Ambassadors; who greeted, served and proclaimed the Word. Fr Gary offered a powerful homily that will undoubtedly sow seeds of faith and hope as we look ahead to September and the opportunities that await us.

Prayer continues to be at the heart of everything we do. Over the past year, we have strengthened our commitment to beginning and ending each day in prayer as a community. Through Morning Prayer, Bible Reflection and other opportunities for spiritual growth, our students have become increasingly familiar with a rich variety of prayer traditions within the Church. From September, we will introduce a dedicated prayer slot at the end of each day, offering opportunities for Lectio Divina, Christian Meditation and Silent Contemplation, the Ignatian Examen, and Celebrations of the Word. These traditions, rooted deeply within the life of the Church, will help our young people develop a lifelong relationship with God and discover that prayer is not simply something we do, but a way of living in His presence.

Alongside these initiatives, we have celebrated Welcome Masses, Leavers' Masses, Holy Day of Obligation liturgies, prayer services and countless moments of worship that have united us as one family in Christ. Each celebration has reminded us that our school community is strengthened whenever we gather around God's Word and the altar.

As I reflect on this year, it would be impossible not to mention Callum Stone. Following Callum's death at the beginning of 2026, our school community experienced profound sadness and loss. Yet in that sorrow, we also witnessed something truly remarkable. The love, compassion and faith shown by our Year 11 students taught many of us important lessons about hope, friendship and what it means to carry one another through difficult times.

Callum's own faith, courage and strength continue to be an inspiration. In many ways, his life became a moment of formation for our whole community, reminding us of the promise at the centre of our Christian faith: that death does not have the final word, because Christ has conquered death through His Resurrection. We remain grateful to Callum's family for the example of faith and love they continue to offer us, and we hold them especially in our prayers. During this time, the support offered by Fr Michael was invaluable. His pastoral care, prayerful presence and quiet strength helped guide many members of our community through a period of deep grief. It is through such acts of faithful accompaniment that the Church reflects Christ's compassion most clearly.

As the academic year comes to a close, I am reminded of St Paul's words: "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him." (Romans 8:28) This year has brought moments of joy, challenge, celebration and sorrow. Through them all, God has remained present among us; in the Eucharist, in prayer, in pilgrimage, in service, in friendship and in love.

Thank you to our students, staff, priests, governors, parents and families for helping to make Saint John Payne such a remarkable community of faith.

May God bless you all with a restful summer, and may we return in September renewed in faith, hope and love.

Katy Adams
Catholic Lay Chaplain



YOUNG CATHOLIC INFLUENCER



We are absolutely delighted to share some fantastic news from Westminster, where a team of our Year 7 students represented St John Payne Catholic School at the prestigious joint-diocese Young Catholic Influencers of the Year Award competition.

The challenge required students to create and deliver a presentation centred on Catholic Social Teaching, demonstrating not only their understanding of faith in action but also their ability to communicate its importance to others. Our students rose to the occasion brilliantly, captivating the judges with their knowledge, confidence, and teamwork. Their outstanding performance in the first stage of the competition secured them a well-deserved place in the final.

The final round saw our team captain, **Noah F**, take to the stage to deliver a powerful speech entirely from memory. Speaking with remarkable confidence and conviction, Noah held the room's attention from start to finish. His words resonated deeply with the audience, and the silence that filled the room during his speech was followed by thunderous applause in recognition of his exceptional delivery.

We are incredibly proud to announce that St John Payne was named the overall winner, bringing home the Young Catholic Influencers of the Year trophy on our very first attempt at entering the competition.

This achievement is even more impressive given the exceptionally high standard of competition. Our students represented the school with maturity, courage, and faith, embodying the values that make our community so special. Their success is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and willingness to put their faith into action.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all staff and supporters whose understanding, flexibility, and encouragement make opportunities like this possible. These experiences help our young people grow in confidence, deepen their faith, and showcase the very best of St John Payne. We could not be prouder of our Year 7 team and their outstanding achievement.

Congratulations to Noah and the entire team on this incredible success!



Young Catholic Influencers of the Year 2026 ***By Noah F, Year 7, St John Payne Catholic School***

Taking part in the Young Catholic Influencers of the Year Award was an incredible experience and one that I will never forget. Alongside nineteen other Year 7 students, I had the opportunity to represent St John Payne Catholic School at a joint-diocese event in Westminster, where we explored how Catholic Social Teaching can inspire us to make a difference in the world today.

Our team's focus was on homelessness and the dignity of every human person. Through our research and preparation, we learned that homelessness is not simply about people lacking a place to live. It is about individuals who can often feel unseen, forgotten or excluded by society. Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that every person is made in the image and likeness of God and deserves to be treated with dignity, respect and compassion.

In my speech, I spoke about the Gospel call to recognise Christ in those who are most vulnerable. I reminded the audience that whenever we look at the face of the poor, the displaced, refugees, or those experiencing homelessness, we are called to see the face of Jesus. This message is at the heart of our Catholic faith. It challenges us not only to feel sympathy but to take action, standing alongside those in need and working for justice in our communities. Although I had the privilege of speaking in the final round, this achievement was not about one person. It was the result of a huge team effort from all twenty students who took part. Every member of our group contributed ideas, conducted research, helped prepare our presentation and supported one another throughout the competition. Reaching the final and ultimately winning the award was only possible because of the dedication, commitment and teamwork of every student involved.

I was extremely proud when St John Payne was announced as the overall winner of the Young Catholic Influencers of the Year Award. As this was our first time entering the competition, it made the achievement even more special. The experience showed us that young people can have a powerful voice when speaking about faith, justice and the common good.

Our work does not end with the competition. This Friday, more than 100 students from St John Payne will be taking part in a Sleep Out in support of Caritas Brentwood. The event aims to raise awareness of the challenges faced by people experiencing homelessness, develop empathy for those who struggle each day without secure accommodation, and raise much-needed funds to support the vital work of Caritas. While one night outdoors cannot replicate the reality of homelessness, it gives us an opportunity to reflect on the experiences of others and put our faith into action.

The Young Catholic Influencers Award reminded us that faith is not something we keep to ourselves. It should inspire us to serve others, speak up for those whose voices are unheard and build a society where every person is valued. As Pope Francis often reminds us, we are called to go out to the margins and accompany those in need. This is something that we, as young Catholics, can begin doing today. Winning the award was a wonderful achievement, but the greatest lesson we learned was that small acts of compassion and solidarity can make a real difference. Through our work on homelessness and our ongoing support for Caritas Brentwood, we hope to continue living out the Gospel message and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in our school, our local community and beyond.



YOUNG CATHOLIC INFLUENCER





SLEEP OUT FOR CARITAS



Sleeping Out, Waking Up Freddie G 11S

From Friday evening into Saturday morning, over 100 students exchanged the comfort of their own beds for sleeping bags on the school field. The at-points uncomfortable, indeed thought-provoking night offered us all (teachers included who slept out beside us) a chance to grow in empathy, deepen our faith, all putting Catholic Social Teaching into action. Together, we raised money to support people experiencing homelessness through Caritas, while also donating to a cancer charity in memory of Callum, whose joyful spirit was certainly present as we played football and watched movies together.

Blessed with perfect weather, this earnest experience I will never forget began with a visit from two representatives from Caritas, who (with a human bingo and a discussion of Brentwood's Catholic charities) reminded us that homelessness is not simply the absence of a home, but the loss of dignity, security, and hope. As echoed by the Preferential Option for the Poor, behind every statistic you hear on the News is a real person with a story, and as Catholics we are called to recognise that every person is created in the image and likeness of God, when we look at the homeless, we stare into the eyes of Jesus, the eyes that beckon us to give what we can, whether food, a chat, or a prayer.

After sharing a meal and watching a film together, friendships quickly formed across year groups, breaking down isolation, as a quick conversation with the homeless can easily do. Beneath plenty of laughter and constructing makeshift cardboard shelters (with the gradual realisation that cardboard is considerably less comfortable than it appears) was a growing awareness of why we were there, as we learnt in a prayer service, which became the most grounding moment of the night. As we reflected on the dignity of those so often overlooked by society, we were invited to offer bidding prayers out loud. One that particularly stayed with me came from Katy, who prayed simply for our safety throughout the night. Her words took on a new significance. While we were asking God to watch over us for a single evening, many people experiencing homelessness have no locked door to close behind them, no certainty about where they will sleep, and no guarantee of safety when darkness falls.

In that moment, the principle of Solidarity became more than something discussed in RS lessons. It became something we experienced. St Paul urges us to "Carry each other's burdens"; although our discomfort lasted only one night, it encouraged us to shoulder, however briefly, a fraction of the burden that so many people carry every day.

As the hours passed, the novelty began to wear off. The ground grew harder, the night felt longer, and the thought of a warm bed became increasingly appealing. Yet it was impossible to ignore the contrast... we knew that by sunrise we would return home, take a hot shower and climb back into our own beds for a quick nap. The people we were supporting would not. Many have no place to call home, no clean clothes waiting for them, no guaranteed nourishing meal, and not even the certainty of where they will spend the following night.

Thank you to all teachers who made this moral of a night possible: our Sleep Out was a reminder that faith is not simply something we profess on Sunday; it is something we are called to live every day and a poignant call to unconditional love.



SLEEP OUT FOR CARITAS



The Caritas Sleep Out was a tremendous success, with 71 students and 10 dedicated members of staff spending the night outdoors on the school field to raise awareness and funds for those experiencing homelessness.

Throughout the evening, students demonstrated exceptional maturity, resilience, and compassion, embracing the challenge while learning more about the realities faced by many vulnerable people in our communities. Their commitment to supporting this important cause was truly inspiring and reflects the very best of the St John Payne community.

Special thanks go to the staff volunteers who made the event possible: Angela, Anna, Adam, Ben, Bridget, Jamie, Nina, Sarah, Simon, and Tracey. Their enthusiasm and support throughout the night were invaluable.



The school would also like to extend sincere thanks to Owen and Mark from the Site Team for their outstanding assistance with setting up, clearing away, and ensuring the event ran safely and smoothly.

Donations remain open, and any contribution, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated as the school aims to maximise its impact in supporting the work of Caritas. Well done to everyone involved in making this such a meaningful and memorable event.





JEWISH LIVING EXPERIENCE



Jewish Living Experience Exhibition: A Week to Remember

St John Payne's Religious Education department once again hosted the Jewish Living Experience Exhibition, welcoming visiting pupils from Year 3 upwards into a week of hands-on learning led by our own Year 10 students.

Facing a room full of unfamiliar religious artefacts and being ready to teach visiting pupils just 45 minutes later is no small task — but that is exactly what our Year 10s achieved on the very first morning. Organising themselves into teams, they drew on their GCSE learning to weave together stories and learning sequences that captivated every group who came through the door.

As the week progressed, their confidence grew visibly. They developed real expertise in their chosen areas, brought the objects to life in the true spirit of a "living" exhibition, and asked increasingly thoughtful questions of their own. Visiting members of the Jewish community, including a visiting Rabbi, praised the students' engagement and maturity.

By the end of the week, students were making connections between the artefacts on their own tables and comparing them with practices in other faiths, and their conversations with younger visitors had become natural, warm, and proactive. In doing so, our Year 10s learned something beyond the syllabus: how to teach, how to adapt to an audience, and how to connect with children much younger than themselves.

Throughout, they were superb ambassadors for the school — inclusive, flexible, and full of enthusiasm — embodying the emphasis on educating the whole child that sits at the heart of our community.

Particular thanks go to the RE department for their support and oversight, which kept the whole event running smoothly.





JACK PETCHEY AWARD



Jack Petchey Achievement Awards 2026 - Monday 13 July

Congratulations to our student award winners **Isaac, Mano, Lore, Scarlett, Heidi, Ioanna, David, Carys** and **William**, along with our Staff Achievement Award winner, **Jamie Sweeney**. Each recipient was nominated in recognition of their exceptional contribution to school life, their commitment to others and the positive difference they make within our community.

The Jack Petchey Achievement Award is a prestigious honour that recognises young people who demonstrate resilience, leadership, kindness, determination and service. These qualities are reflected so clearly in all our award winners, each of whom has played a unique part in enriching the life of Saint John Payne Catholic School.

The evening itself was a wonderful celebration, bringing together schools and youth organisations from across Essex to recognise the remarkable achievements of young people. As each award winner took to the stage, it was a proud reminder of the talent, generosity and character that exists within our school community.

We are equally delighted to congratulate Jamie Sweeney, whose unwavering dedication, encouragement and commitment to our students made him a thoroughly deserving recipient of the Staff Achievement Award. Jamie's positive influence is felt by so many members of our community and this recognition is richly deserved.

As a Catholic school, we believe that each person is gifted by God and called to use those gifts in the service of others. Our award winners embody this beautifully through their actions, leadership and care for those around them.

The evening was made even more memorable by the extraordinary performance of **Ellen**, who wowed the audience with her beautiful Slip Jig. As a national champion dancer, her talent shone through in every step and she held the theatre spellbound. It was a wonderful reminder of the gifts our young people have been blessed with and the dedication required to develop them. Ellen represented Saint John Payne with great pride, and I genuinely look forward to the day when I can say I watched her here before seeing her perform professionally on a much bigger stage. She is a remarkable young woman with a very bright future ahead of her.

Congratulations to all our winners on this well-deserved recognition. They are a credit to themselves, their families and the entire Saint John Payne community.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP





CHARITY WEEK



Charity Week: Together, Making a Difference

Our Charity Week was a fantastic celebration of generosity, community, friendship and faith in action. Taking place from Wednesday 15th to Thursday 16th July, the week brought students and staff together to raise money for CAFOD, supporting the charity's important work with communities around the world.

Throughout the week, students enthusiastically took part in a variety of fundraising activities. These included a Scavenger Hunt, Festival Day, carnival games, penalty shootout, bean bag throw, tuck shops, live music and a photo booth. Each activity helped create a joyful atmosphere around the school while encouraging students to think about how their actions can make a positive difference to the lives of others.

One of the main highlights was Culture Day, where students were invited to wear cultural dress and celebrate the rich diversity of our school community. During break time, students enjoyed visiting the photo booth with friends, while the tuck shop was also a popular stop throughout the day.

At lunchtime, the Culture Catwalk took place in the Aquinas Hall and proved to be a wonderful celebration. Students proudly showcased their cultural dress, supported by their peers, creating a vibrant and memorable moment for the whole school community. It was a lovely opportunity to celebrate identity, heritage and togetherness, while raising funds for a very worthy cause. As a Catholic school, Charity Week was a powerful reminder of our mission to serve others and put our faith into action through kindness, generosity and solidarity. We are incredibly proud of the students for their enthusiasm, creativity and support throughout the week.

Thank you to everyone who donated, participated, organised and encouraged others to get involved. Charity Week truly showed the strength of our school community and what can be achieved when we come together for others.

Families can watch our Instagram reel to see some of the wonderful moments captured across the week.



STUDENT AWARDS





STUDENT AWARDS



	Total Year Group Achievement Points	Highest Form Achievement points	Highest Achievement Points In the Year
Year 7	72,404	7S 15,811 Achievement points	Noah F 7C 612 Achievement Points
Year 8	68,358	8B 14,385 Achievement points	Ahana B 8B 660 Achievement Points
Year 9	74,450	9C 13,012 Achievement points	Annaise W-W 9D 726 Achievement Points
Year 10	36,949	10D 7804 Achievement points	William B 10D 506 Achievement Points
Year 11	18,775	11S 4496 Achievement points	Freddie G 11S 338 Achievement Points





PRIZEGIVING EVENING



Our Annual Prize Giving Evening, held in Aquinas Hall on Monday 6 July, was a wonderful celebration of student achievement, dedication and service across our school community. Families, staff, governors and students came together to recognise and applaud the many young people who have excelled throughout the academic year.

The evening began with prayer and worship, centred on the theme “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart” from Colossians 3:23. This set a fitting tone for the celebration, reminding us of the importance of commitment, perseverance and giving our very best in all that we do. This was followed by a welcome address from Headteacher Mr T. Coen, who reflected on the positive impact our students have on the school community and thanked families for their continued support.

Awards were presented to students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 in recognition of their outstanding approach to learning, academic progress and citizenship. Head of Year Awards were also presented to students who have consistently demonstrated excellence, commitment and a positive contribution to school life. Each award represented not only achievement, but also the hard work, resilience and determination shown by our students throughout the year.

We were also delighted to formally introduce our new student leadership team for 2026, including our Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl, Head Boy and Deputy Head Boy, alongside our House Captains and Chaplaincy and Faith Leaders. Their commitment to serving others and contributing to the life of the school was a fitting reminder of the important role young people play in shaping our community.

Despite the exceptionally warm weather, the atmosphere throughout the evening was one of joy, pride and celebration. It was a lovely opportunity for parents, carers and staff to come together to recognise the achievements of our students and to celebrate all that they have contributed to school life. Congratulations to all of our prize winners and award recipients.

We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and look forward to seeing their continued success in the years ahead.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT





Judo Success for Artem

Congratulations to **Artem** on an outstanding period of success in judo, marked by impressive achievements at both individual and team level.

On Saturday 27th June, Artem competed in the Kent Open Championship 2026 in Gillingham and delivered a superb performance to win the gold medal. The Kent Open is one of the region's most respected judo competitions, attracting athletes from clubs across the South East and beyond. With competitors facing multiple challenging contests throughout the day, the event provides an excellent test of skill, determination, and tactical ability. Winning gold at such a competitive tournament is a significant achievement and reflects the hard work Artem has put into his training.

Artem's success continued when he was selected to represent the Northern Home Counties (NHC) Area at the National Teams Championships in Walsall.

Representing NHC is an honour in itself, as only selected judoka are chosen to compete at this prestigious national event.

Competing against some of the strongest regional teams in the country, Artem and his teammates rose to the challenge and secured an outstanding first-place finish. This victory was particularly special as it marked NHC's first National Teams Championship title in six years, making the achievement a memorable milestone for the entire squad.



National Dance Champion Success

Congratulations to **Olivia**, who recently competed in the prestigious Ballroom and Latin National Championships held at the iconic Winter Gardens in Blackpool. Olivia delivered an outstanding performance and was crowned Latin Champion in the 16–22 age category, a remarkable achievement against some of the country's top dancers. This is a fantastic accomplishment, and the whole school is incredibly proud of her success. Well done, Olivia!

KEY SCHOOL EVENTS





CREATIVE ARTS EXHIBITION



Creative Arts Exhibition

We were delighted to welcome families, students, and members of the school community to this year's Creative Arts Exhibition. The event showcased an outstanding selection of work produced by all Year 11 GCSE Art and 3D Design students, alongside the exceptional portfolios of our Year 13 A Level Art and Photography students.

The exhibition celebrated the creativity, dedication, and achievements of our students, highlighting the breadth of talent and the hard work they have invested throughout their courses. Guests enjoyed the inspiring displays while performances from the Music Department provided a wonderful live backdrop, creating a warm and vibrant atmosphere. It was a fantastic evening of celebration and collaboration across the Creative Arts, and we are incredibly proud of all our students for their commitment, creativity, and achievements.

Images of students' work have been blurred, as sharing examination work online or via social media is not permitted until results have been received, in accordance with JCQ examination regulations. We look forward to sharing the students' fantastic work in full in our September bulletin.





DofE BRONZE AWARD



Celebrating Our DofE Volunteers

We are delighted to share that St John Payne Catholic School, Chelmsford has received a certificate from The Duke of Edinburgh's Award recognising the outstanding contribution our students have made through volunteering. Our DofE participants collectively completed 650 hours of volunteering between April 2025 and March 2026, an achievement that has been recognised by the charity with a special thank-you certificate.

The students have dedicated their time to supporting the local community in a variety of ways, including litter picking, coaching younger sports teams, helping to run youth groups, and volunteering with organisations such as Rainbows and Beavers. Their commitment to serving others reflects the values of both the DofE programme and our school community.

According to the certificate, the social value of these volunteer hours is estimated at £4,907, highlighting the positive impact our students have had on the lives of others.

We are incredibly proud of all of our DofE participants for their dedication, generosity and willingness to give their time to help others. Their efforts make a real difference within our local community and are an achievement well worth celebrating.

Congratulations to everyone involved!





Reading for Success: Sparx Reader Champions 2024-2025



This year we have introduced Sparx Reader into our homework plan across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 as part of a homework initiative to encourage reading for pleasure and increased literacy skills among students. The outcome, overall, has been highly successful in improving students' engagement, reading skills and literacy.

Regular reading habits have been developed through consistent, personalised reading practice which has helped increase reading stamina, fluency and comprehension. Students have built on their repertoire of language by reading a wide range of vocabulary, including more challenging words.

The monitoring and feedback features of the Sparx Reader platform allows teachers to track progress efficiently and provide support where needed. Literacy at St John Payne Catholic School continues to contribute positively to student achievement not only in English lessons but also makes an impact on other subjects in the wider curriculum.

The students who achieved the highest amount of Sparx Reader points across the school are as follows:

Year 7

Gershon. J – 161,068 SRP, Clodagh M.S - 37,640 SRP and Israel. A – 33,699 SRP.

Year 8

Mia-Rose B – 37,633 SRP, Ben. R – 26,439 SRP and Oliver. G – 24,401 SRP.

Year 9

Annmiya. D – 79,800 SRP, Bailey.C – 23,806 SRP and Mimi. S – 20,014 SRP.

Year 10

Gwynfor. P – 38,703 SRP, Aksa. J – 38,703 SRP and Snehitha. S – 23,650 SRP.

A huge congratulations to all our achievers this year.



ENRICHMENT DAY 2026



Enrichment Day 2026

St John Payne Catholic School's annual Enrichment Day once again provided students with a wide range of exciting opportunities beyond the classroom, rewarding their hard work and positive attitude throughout the academic year.

Students across all year groups enjoyed a memorable day designed to broaden experiences, develop new skills and strengthen friendships. Whilst many students travelled off site to a variety of destinations, those who remained in school took part in a full programme of engaging activities led by staff and external specialists.

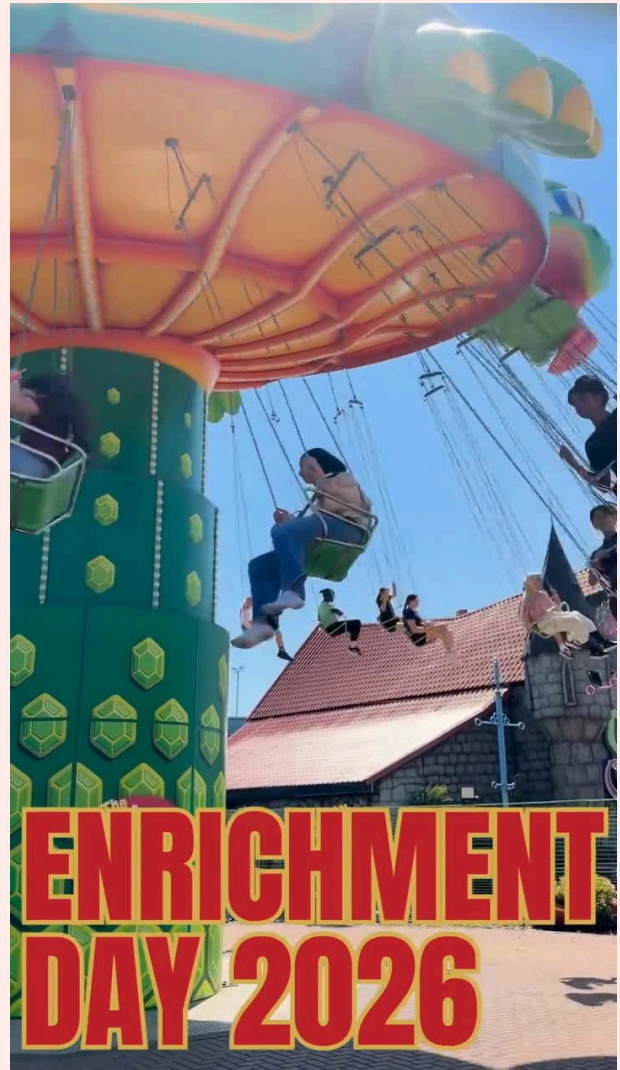
- **Year 7** enjoyed a traditional seaside experience in Clacton-on-Sea, spending time on the beach before visiting Clacton Pier, where they were able to enjoy rides and amusements.
- **Year 8** visited Colchester Zoo, exploring the many exhibits and learning more about wildlife and conservation while enjoying one of Essex's most popular attractions.
- **Year 9** travelled to Adventure Island in Southend-on-Sea, where they enjoyed unlimited access to rides and attractions as a reward for their positive contribution throughout the year.
- **Year 10** spent the day in London, taking in some of the capital's most iconic landmarks. Beginning their visit at Buckingham Palace, students enjoyed a guided walk through central London before making their way to the River Thames. Highlights of the day included a riverboat cruise and a ride on the London Eye, offering spectacular panoramic views of the city and providing students with a memorable cultural experience.

For students in Years 7–10 who remained on site, staff organised a varied programme of rotating activities throughout the day. Students participated in practical science investigations, creative art projects, energetic PE sessions and a popular circus skills workshop delivered by an external company.

The science sessions challenged students to think creatively and apply their investigative skills, while art activities encouraged imagination and self-expression. PE sessions promoted teamwork, resilience and healthy competition, and the circus skills workshops provided plenty of fun as students learned new and unusual skills under expert guidance.

Meanwhile, Year 12 students remained on site and benefited from a programme focused on their future aspirations. Students welcomed visitors from Talk The Talk, who delivered workshops aimed at developing confidence, communication skills and employability awareness. They also took part in sessions led by representatives from the University of Essex, gaining valuable insight into higher education pathways, student life and future opportunities.

SJP would like to thank all staff, trip leaders, support staff and external providers whose hard work and commitment ensured that Enrichment Day 2026 was both enjoyable and memorable for all involved.





SVP Students Support Year 6 Pupils with Their Transition to Secondary School

On 30th June our health and social care students visited Broomfield Village Care home. This was a great way for the students to see first-hand what a care home is like.

The students joined in with knitting with the residents and chatted to them about their experience of living in a care home.

The students were an absolute joy to take. They gave the residents huge smiles on their faces. They were polite, kind, caring and patient with the residents.

These are some of the comments from our students;

'When I walked in all I could think of is how beautiful and calm the calm home was. I loved getting to know the residents, they are very lovely people'.

'Everyone was really nice and smiley I, it was so welcoming'

'I had such a positive experience learning about life inside of the care home. Not just the residents but also the staff were welcoming! Thank you for such a lovely time'

'My experience of Broomfield Village Care home was nothing but fantastic. It was so lovely speaking to everyone whilst partaking in knitting. We were welcomed with open arms and everyone I spoke to was lovely'.

'I got to see how the littlest of things can make such a difference for them, everybody was so kind, I really enjoyed myself'.

'Thank you for the teachers who came with us and to the care home to allow us to have a wonderful time with these beautiful people'.

'I loved to see their beautiful smiles, it made me feel like they are enjoying their lives there. I would like to visit there again'.

'I think the residents have a lovely environment and support around them. It was truly so sweet and I enjoyed talking to them'.

'I really enjoyed talking to the residents at the care home- they were all really kind! Thank you to the lady who taught me how to knit and for the drinks and snacks'

The students gained so much from this trip. It was such a lovely way for them to learn about the benefits of living in residential care home. Broomfield Village Care home was an incredible place with such brilliant caring staff and wonderful residents. Such an amazing experience and a positive memory for everyone.

We have now established a lovely link with the care home and we hope to go back to visit next year.

A big thank you to Laura the customer relationship manager (a former SJP student) and Cathy the wellbeing lead at Broomfield Village care home for letting us come and visit and for showing such kindness to the students.





GEOGRAPHY



Year 12 Geography Fieldtrip to Southwold

Last week Mr Hewlett, Mrs Thomson and myself were fortunate enough to take our fantastic group of Year 12 Geography students to sunny Southwold, where they begun their A-Level Geography NEA (Non-examination assessment coursework) fieldwork independent projects.

We were based at the Geography Fieldwork Academy (GFA), who once again, were excellent in the way they set the students up to design their own independent fieldwork enquiries. We spent the first day learning more about Southwold and the NEA process, in a mixture of classroom-based learning and touring round the town.

Following this we headed back to our accommodation at Darsham Country Centre, not before stopping off at Southwold Rugby Club to watch the England football team beat the DRC 2-1 in what was a very tense game!

Once we had cooked dinner at our accommodation, students spent time creating their NEA investigation questions, some students not stopping for the evening until gone 10.30pm. The next day, students cooked themselves a full English breakfast before setting off round Southwold in groups to gather data for their self-designed fieldwork projects.

Mr Hewlett and myself were so impressed with everyone on the trip. The way they engaged with our teacher Anna at the GFA, the way they asked questions, took advice and really got stuck into the process in a mature and motivated way. Upon our return to school we have begun the write up process and it has been wonderful to see their excellent approaches to learning continuing. We are really looking forward to reading their finished projects in September.

It was an absolute pleasure taking them away, and as well as all the hard work on the trip, we all had a lot of fun both in Southwold around the town/on the beach and back at the accommodation cooking and playing games. Well done Year 12 Geographers!





Carnegie Shadowing Group celebration and winner announcement

On Friday 26 June, the Carnegie Shadowing Group met formally for the final time in the Aquinas Conference Room to enjoy a small celebration while watching the prestigious Carnegie Medal Award Ceremony. Broadcast from the set of Matilda in London, the ceremony celebrated reading, libraries, teachers and the power of books, and announced the winners in both categories: the **Shadowers' Choice Award** and the **Carnegie Medal for Writing**. As ever, this meeting was full of interesting comments and opinions about the books we had read and the winning title. We had an absolutely fantastic time!

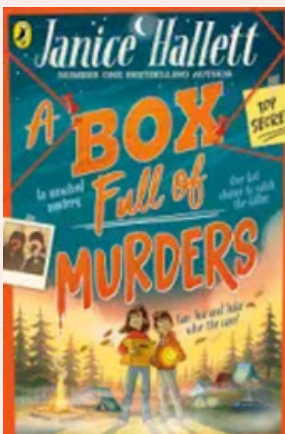
All of the nominated books are now available in the school library, so if you're curious about the titles we read, we encourage you to check them out and discover your own favourite.



DEAR time Spotlight

DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time takes place for 15 minutes every day for students in Key Stages 3 and 4. The focus on silent, self-selected reading helps to foster a lifelong love for reading, whilst also encouraging vocabulary expansion and emotional wellbeing. Tobi in 7A has been reading 'A Box full of Murders' by Janice Hallett. Miss Winter, who happens to know the bestselling author, contacted her and we were delighted to receive the following reply:

AMAZING!!! 🤩 This has made my day! Thank you so much for letting me know! The way this book appeals to boys as well as girls really warms my heart! ❤️



Janice Hallett
5d · 🧑

Yay!! 🤩 My second book for children aged 8-13 is out today! A follow-up to A Box Full of Murders published last year. Death At The Museum features the same modern day kids, Ava and Luke, investigating a cold case through documents discovered in a mysterious old box... this time they're looking back to a crime that happened at the Natural History Museum in 1983... available now (special signed and sprayed-edged editions are available in Waterstones and some independent retailers)



LIBRARY



Book Week 2026 at SJP was a fun celebration of reading and different book formats. This year's theme, "The Power of Pictures," focused on comics, graphic novels and manga. Students enjoyed a range of activities during form time, PSHE lessons and assemblies, learning about comics, graphic novels and visual storytelling. They also took part in exciting library challenges, including searching for comic book heroes, drawing graphic novel characters, creating comic-themed bookmarks and 3D comic reader figures, and completing colouring activities, word searches, and puzzles. Many prizes were given, and plenty of house points were awarded. Students were also able to explore and borrow books from our growing collection of graphic novels and comics, helping them discover new ways to enjoy reading.

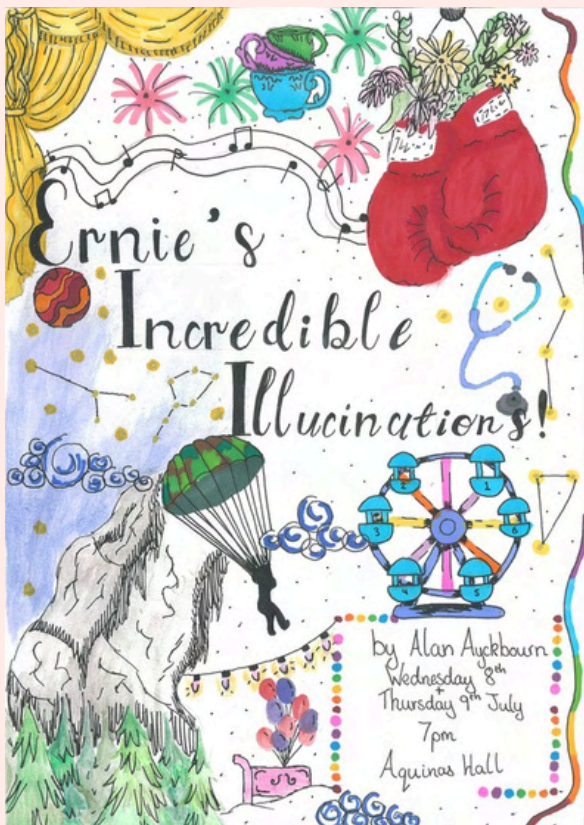




LOWER SCHOOL PLAY



Congratulations to the 48 Year 7, 8 and 9 students who took part in this year's Lower School production of *Ernie's Incredible Illucinations*. Across four fantastic performances, including two morning shows for local primary schools and two sold-out evening performances, the cast delivered an entertaining and immersive theatrical experience that captivated audiences from beginning to end. Performing "**in the round**", with audiences seated on all sides of the stage, brought its own unique challenges, yet the students embraced every moment with confidence, enthusiasm and remarkable talent. Their achievement was made even more impressive by the conditions in which they performed. With temperatures reaching 32°C in the hall during one of the hottest weeks of the year, the cast showed extraordinary resilience, dedication and professionalism throughout rehearsals and performances.



Despite the heat, students worked tirelessly, supported one another and approached every rehearsal and show with positivity and determination, never once complaining. Audiences were often left wondering where to look as the action unfolded all around them, creating a truly memorable theatrical experience.

Mrs Nowlan, Head of Drama and Director, thanked the many staff and students who helped make the production possible, including those who supported backstage, Front of House, props and the wider organisation of the show.

The production was a wonderful example of SJP's creativity, teamwork and community spirit, and everyone involved should be incredibly proud.



Our Maths in real life continues...

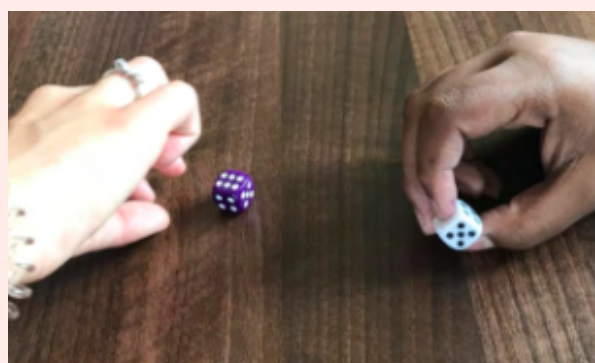
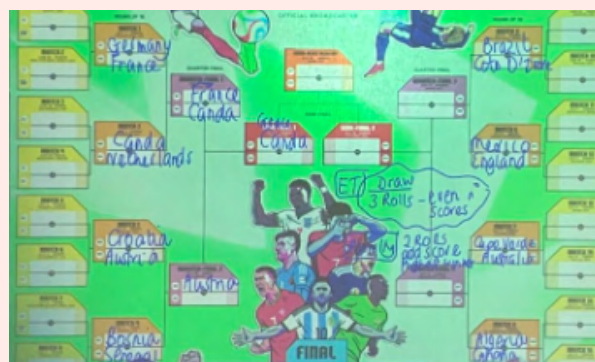
The World Cup

Over the past few weeks, KS3 classes have been introduced to the concept of mathematical modelling. From Monopoly, a model of life, to improving how an aeroplane flies... and finally to the World Cup!

From a simple model, the students look to refine and extend the model using their own ideas and research. The repeated simulation using the refined model provided interesting results!

The World Cup competition presented the maths department at SJP with an ideal opportunity to introduce mathematical modelling and the simulation of 'events'. Students were given a very simple model for a game of football that involved rolling a dice to simulate an attempt at goal. If a 6 was scored, the team 'scored' a goal. Once the simulation had been completed, students were asked to 'refine' the model so that the simulation better represented real life. Students were very creative and started to rank the teams, giving teams with a higher ranking a greater probability of winning by them 'scoring' by rolling a 5 and a 6. Some students excelled within this field by adding a defensive element as well. More importantly, everyone was involved and got to experience how maths is all around us in everyday life.

Here you can see some of our classes taking part in the mathematical model.



UKMT maths challenge

This half term saw the turn of year 7 and 8 to enter the UKMT maths challenge – over 60 students took part and we had the best results ever, with 6 students going forward to the Kangaroo challenge.

Special congratulations to **Julian G, Roisin S** and **Miles G** who qualified for the Bronze award in the Advanced next stage Kangaroo challenge.



Logic Grid Puzzles – your summer challenge!

The Logic Grid Puzzles initiative is one way in which we are promoting a love of mathematics and related skills. In solving each puzzle, students have to read and process written text, spot logical connections between each clue, and work systematically to deduce – usually by a process of elimination – the correct combination of items. In order to do this, students are required to be patient and resilient; to take risks and to persevere. All these skills are important in everyday life, and they are integral to success in maths. We have been delighted to see so many students enjoying these puzzles and celebrating when each is successfully solved.

Remember to print out or email over your solution to Mrs O'Leary or Mr Newman – judging will take place during w/b 1st September.

Car Wash - Logic Grid

Four friends are taking their old cars to the car wash. Each one bought a ticket and has a car from the '80s. What color is Brian's car?

1. The newest car got ticket #84.
2. Of ticket #82 and the car from 1983, one belongs to Brian and the other is white.
3. Walter's car is one year older than the white car.
4. Robert got ticket #83.
5. The owner of the black car didn't get ticket #81.
6. Walter's car was manufactured sometime after the red car.

		Tickets				Years				Colors				
		#81	#82	#83	#84	1981	1982	1983	1984	black	gray	red	white	
Names	Brian													
	George													
	Robert													
	Walter													
Colors	black													
	gray													
	red													
	white													
Years	1981													
	1982													
	1983													
	1984													

Names	Tickets	Years	Colors
Brian			
George			
Robert			
Walter			

CSES Summer STEM Challenge

We are delighted that so many SJP students who applied for places have been accepted on the CSES Summer challenge. CSES have contacted us to thank you for your outstanding support. Given the volume of students from our school that applied, they even considered hosting it at SJP!

We look forward to hearing about your experiences when you return to school in September.





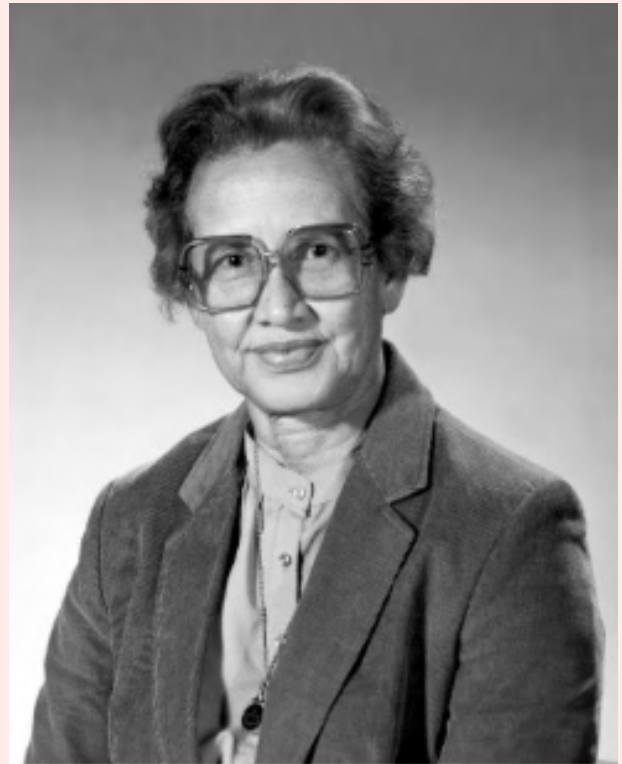
Mathematicians factsheets

In September we will launch a reading initiative for KS3, to coincide with DEAR time. Conscious that some students find it difficult to see a human aspect in mathematics, we produced a series of factsheets on the lives and work of a series of mathematicians from history. The intention here has been to help the students to appreciate that the rules and methods they are learning have a rich history; they needed to be discovered, and the people that made such contributions led rich and colourful lives. It is our hope that students will realise that a life dedicated to mathematics is not a boring one, and that some may be inspired to choose a mathematical career when they finish school.

These factsheets have also been a useful way to promote the contributions made to mathematics by people of diverse backgrounds, both in terms of gender and ethnicity. Whilst mathematics is universal, we acknowledge that over recent

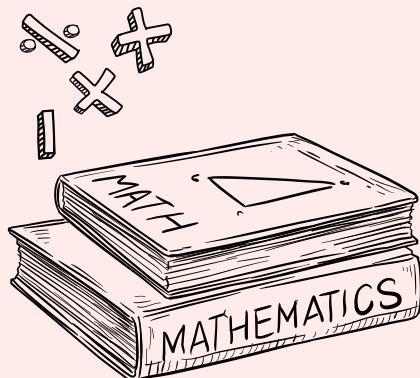
centuries, western, white males have received most attention. In order to address this, the maths department has produced fact sheets on the likes of Hypatia, Ada Lovelace, Srinivasa Ramanujan and Katherine Johnson – to name a few. We have been pleased to promote the valuable work made in our field by all peoples and look forward to continuing to do so.

There will be a House competition launched in October based upon Mathematicians from History.



Maths Ambassadors

We would like to take the opportunity to introduce our Maths Ambassadors; **Joe, Amelia** and **Maria**. These students will work closely with the department to promote maths and our exciting events that will be launched next year.





MATHS



Online platforms – SPARX and MethodMaths

These learning platforms will be suspended for the summer holiday although students can still work on their XP boost and individualised learning. For MethodMaths, students can look to improve all papers to their best possible GCSE grade.

MethodMaths will be introduced to year 9 in September!

Year 7

Yearly Leaderboard This academic year			
1	Alaina	(Alaina the Lionheart)	67,364 XP ...
2	Kate	(Kate the Lightning)	66,272 XP ...
3	Moreen	(Moreen the CEO)	45,843 XP ...
4	Gershon	(Gershon the Specter)	44,551 XP ...
5	Sam	(Sam the Infinity)	44,500 XP ...

Year 8

Yearly Leaderboard This academic year			
1	Ben	(Ben the Nemesis)	51,540 XP ...
2	Kamsi	(Kamsi the Visionary)	43,118 XP ...
3	Oliver	(Oliver the Comet)	42,241 XP ...
4	Kamile	(Kamile the Artist)	42,054 XP ...
5	Joshua	(Joshua the Mentor)	40,068 XP ...

Year 9

Yearly Leaderboard This academic year			
1	Agastya	(Agastya the Architect)	82,518 XP ...
2	Sanya	(Sanya the All-Star)	41,735 XP ...
3	Dylan	(Dylan the Gladiator)	39,692 XP ...
4	Rose	(Rose the Comet)	35,011 XP ...
5	Abigail	(Abigail the Ace)	30,931 XP ...

Year 10

Yearly Leaderboard This academic year			
1	Aksa	(Aksa the Shadow)	37,849 XP ...
2	Torrin	(Torrin the Alchemist)	34,781 XP ...
3	Xavier	(Xavier the Intelligent)	34,151 XP ...
4	Snehitha	(Snehitha the Professional)	33,482 XP ...
5	Eleanor	(Eleanor the Architect)	28,066 XP ...

Whole School Winners

Yearly Leaderboard This academic year			
1	Agastya	(Agastya the Architect)	82,518 XP ...
2	Alaina	(Alaina the Lionheart)	67,364 XP ...
3	Kate	(Kate the Lightning)	66,272 XP ...
4	Ben	(Ben the Nemesis)	51,540 XP ...
5	Moreen	(Moreen the CEO)	45,843 XP ...

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all students for their hard work over the past academic year – have a safe summer and we look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Mrs O'Leary and the SJP mathematics team



French Theatre Brings Language Learning to Life at SJP

Year 7 and Year 8 all enjoyed a French experience on Tuesday 16th June when France came to SJP in the form of a touring theatre company. Léa & Théo are the ultimate "YOLO" couple — so when Léa decides they are going to throw a big party tomorrow, it's all go, go, go. There's just one small problem: No venue, no food, no outfits, no invites sent, no theme and no real idea! With just hours to organise the perfect (and very French) party, will chaos take over? Also, to make it even more entertaining members of the audience get pulled into the story and action to play the other characters in this play. Léa dreams of Parisian vibes but Théo just wants something more Marvel. Their friendship, the vibe, and the whole party hangs by a thread. Is it really about the party — or just proving something to their friends?

SJP students were called upon to play the actors and actresses piecing the story together with scripts, cues and enthusiasm.



*I watched a French show for the first ever time, and to be honest I really enjoyed it. Even though I could not really understand anything and let me be honest there were like about 100 unfamiliar words I did not understand, I somehow understood 70% of the play! The story perfectly encapsulates the tense environment of a last-minute party, and the audience (including me) was clearly entertained, especially by the audience participation. I like both Lea's and Theo's personality and they are expressed well. Overall, the play was a wonderful experience for us, and I would really like the opportunity to attend it again! To summarise the whole play: Imagine doing a huge chunk of homework last minute, instead the homework is a party. **Maxwell J (8S)***

On Tuesday, 16th June, Onatti Theatre came to SJP and performed a play for us called Répondez s'il vous plaît! (RSVP)

In the play, couple Léa and Théo throw a "together forever" party, and throughout the play, they argue on many things; food, invites & decoration. In the end, they throw the party & everything goes well. In conclusion, I really enjoyed the play. Participation from the audience broke the 4th wall, and I really felt interested in the story. This is a good French-speaking experience for teenagers, and I am very grateful that it was brought to the School.

Janelle C (8F)



Paris 2026: Through Our Students' Eyes

In June, students from the Modern Languages Department enjoyed an unforgettable four-day cultural visit to Paris and Parc Astérix. The trip provided opportunities to experience French language and culture first-hand, from exploring the historic streets of Montmartre and visiting famous landmarks such as the Sacré-Cœur and the Eiffel Tower, to sampling local food, enjoying a Seine river cruise and spending a thrilling day at Parc Astérix.

Rather than simply reporting on the visit, we wanted to share the experience through the words of the students themselves. The articles below have been written by students who took part in the trip and capture their personal highlights, favourite memories and reflections on their time in France. Their accounts showcase not only the places they visited, but also the enthusiasm, curiosity and enjoyment that made the trip such a success.



Paris 2026 – Trip at a Glance

- **Thursday 18 June:** Travel to Paris and arrival at the hotel.
- **Friday 19 June:** Montmartre, Sacré-Cœur, Champs-Élysées, Arc de Triomphe and Eiffel Tower area.
- **Saturday 20 June:** Full day at Parc Astérix.
- **Sunday 21 June:** Paris market visit, Seine river cruise and return journey to England.

Continued...





Paris 2026: Through Students' Eyes

Our recent Paris trip gave students the opportunity to experience French culture, history and cuisine first-hand. Here are some of their favourite memories from the four days.

"Despite the early morning we were all in high spirits, excited for the day to come. A whole day of travelling seemed boring but flew by. A ferry crossing and two pit stops later, we were sitting in Flunch and, after a few confused conversations in French about our meal vouchers, sat down to eat a mixture of poulet, saucisses and pâtes. Weary from a long day of travelling, our hotel room was more than welcome."

The following day began with students enjoying their first French hotel breakfast.

"There was lots of choice! It ranged from croissants with Nutella to baguettes with honey, which truly felt like we were living in France."

One of the highlights of the visit was exploring Montmartre and the Sacré-Cœur Basilica.

"We started the day by climbing the steps to Montmartre, which were quite steep and harder to climb due to the baking hot sun. Then we arrived at la Basilique de Sacré-Cœur. Inside, it was magnificent: stained-glass windows lining the walls that stretched into a dome, with the most spectacular mosaic illustrations adorning the vast space with light and colour. We had the privilege to arrive whilst a Mass was taking place in French and Latin. The day felt truly remarkable and we felt so grateful to witness such a beautiful moment: Nous adorons Paris!"

The group then visited some of Paris' most famous landmarks.

"For the first time for most of us, we got to go inside la Basilique de Sacré-Cœur and walk around Montmartre. The history and views were breathtaking and Instagram-worthy. After lunch, we visited the Champs-Élysées and les Champs de Mars and spent time under the watchful gaze of la Tour Eiffel."

For many students, the highlight of the trip came on Saturday.

"Parc Astérix was the most exhilarating day by far. Despite the sunburnt shoulders, it was an unforgettable day, filled with joy, laughter and some screams of fear from the highest ride in France. The tallest and most breath-taking montagne russe, Toutatis, is not for the faint-hearted!"

Before beginning the journey home, students spent time experiencing everyday Parisian life at a local market.

"The bakery stall had incredible baguettes and pains au chocolat, with a honey stall right beside it selling unique flavoured honey in all sizes. Overall, the market was an amazing experience and I really wish we had more time there. I may have spent more funds that day than all the other days combined!"

The trip concluded with a river cruise along the Seine.

"It's not a Parisian holiday if you don't take a photo of la Dame de Fer and landmarks such as Notre Dame from a bateaux-mouches. The coach ride back was quiet as we said goodbye to la belle ville de lumière. Four days and 30,000 steps later, some of us were grateful to be back, others were yearning to return to Paris."

Student contributions by **Divya (9S), Maeve and Aurana (9B), Aoife (11S), Maahi, Natalia, Cheryl and Kobi (11D), and Faye (12F).**



MODERN LANGUAGES



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 3a 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
Ethan G (7A)	Greeshma (8A)	Luke M (8A)	Anmiya D (9B)	Haylee S (9B)
Alma M (7B)	Eliza C (8C)	Nathan W (8C)	Charlotte F (9D)	Morayo A (9D)
George B (7C)	Ruby B-W (8B)	Elaina S (8B)	Jacob M (9B)	Emma C S (9A)
Natalia J (7D)	Caitlyn (8D)	Rayan J (8D)	Mimi S (9D)	Jessica L (9C)
Autumn-Lily C (7F)	Gabriel S (8F)	Joshua R (8S)	Ieva J (9S)	Mercy C (9F)

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

Sudiksha T (7S) has shown fabulous effort and contribution throughout the year thanks to high-level concentration in lessons and focussed homework tasks. A GCSE French candidate! Maxwell Java (8S) listens well every lesson and puts into practice what he has learned off by heart at home. Thanks to his willingness to understand grammar, he can manipulate structures and express himself very well in spoken and written language. **A GCSE French candidate!**

Lydia B (8S) has worked consistently hard this year and has made excellent progress as a result. She is becoming a very good linguist as she applies her syntactical, phonological and lexical understanding. **A GCSE French candidate!**

Ieva J (9S) has shown great attitude to learning throughout the academic year in both French and German and has achieved excellent results in her end of term assessment. Fantastic progress! **GCSE French/German candidate?**

Tyler J (9S) demonstrates a very mature approach to his French studies by completing homework to a high standard and maximising lesson time to apply previously learnt knowledge. **GCSE French/German candidate?**

Ishwin E (10F) has worked extremely hard this term and is making great progress thanks to his understanding of verbs and learning of vocabulary. **A-Level German candidate?**

Joseph H (10A) demonstrates an impressive calm engagement in lessons and resilience in homework showing grit and determination in vocabulary retrieval. Excellent EoY10 results. **A-Level German candidate?**

Gwynfor P (10F) has become a talented linguist. His thirst for knowledge is incredible. He approaches his French studies with a great deal of enthusiasm and maturity. The sky is not the limit. Keep going! **A-Level French/German candidate?**

Sofia M (11S) has demonstrated fabulous engagement and work ethic over the past two years. Amongst the highest grades in the class due to her committed approach to GCSE French vocabulary learning and grammar application in his writing and speaking. **A-Level French candidate!**

Charlie A-M (11S) Amongst the highest grades in the class due to his committed approach to GCSE French vocabulary learning and grammar application in his writing and speaking. 100% effort in lessons/homework. **A-Level French candidate!**

Freddie G (11S) Amongst the highest grades in the class due to his committed approach to GCSE German vocabulary learning and grammar application in his writing and speaking. 100% effort in lessons/homework. **A-Level German candidate!**

Faye C (12F) Blossoming resilience in grappling with Present/Imperfect/Perfect tenses and good application to translation and listening tasks. **A degree in French?**



Gold School Games Mark 2025/2026

We are delighted to announce that our school has been awarded the Gold School Games Mark for this academic year!

This achievement reflects the dedication, effort, and enthusiasm shown by our pupils, staff, and wider school community towards school sport and physical activity. With a fantastic number of young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of the commitment our pupils have shown, not only as athletes, but also as volunteers, leaders, and officials, all of whom played a crucial role in making these events possible.



As part of our application, we were assessed on four key areas: participation, competition, workforce, and clubs. Thanks to the hard work and passion of everyone involved, we met the criteria across the board, and this recognition is a testament to the collective effort of our whole school community. A big thank you to I Lovelock, S Sanal, L Machin, T Acton, D Ryan, D Keylock, E Daniel, C O'Leary, B Gardiner, M Nowlan, S Baker and S Watkins for assisting the extra curricular programme this year.

Thank you all for your continued support in promoting and delivering high-quality school sport.

Mrs Watson
Head of PE

WE DID IT!



Rounders

SJP have competed in the CESSA rounders rally for each year group this term, we hosted all the events at SJP. We have had the hot weather to contend with but students persevered and did brilliantly. The students have played with determination and skill. We had some great rounders scored.

The results were as follows;

- Year 7- 2nd place
- Year 8- 3rd place
- Year 9- 3rd place
- Year 10- 1st place

Well done to everyone that took part in the rounders rallies and those students that attended rounders club each week.



Cricket Panathlon

On Monday 6th July, we were delighted to host the Secondary School Panathlon Cricket Competition.

The event brought together four SJP teams and two teams from Chelmer Valley High School for an enjoyable and competitive afternoon of cricket.

A special mention must go to our Girls' Cricket Team, who took on the role of event leaders throughout the competition. They were outstanding ambassadors for the school, confidently demonstrating the activities to participants, supporting teams, and accurately keeping score throughout the event.

Their enthusiasm, maturity and leadership helped ensure the competition ran smoothly and was a positive experience for everyone involved.





OLI & Columbus Sports Day

Our students were proud to support local schools at their annual Sports Days this term.

At Our Lady Immaculate (OLI), our Year 7 Sports Captains volunteered alongside Mrs Watson to help lead the day's activities. It was a fantastic event packed with relay races, throwing and jumping competitions, and plenty of enthusiasm from all participants. The day finished with an incredible flash mob, bringing everyone together in a celebration of sport and teamwork. A special thank you goes to Olivia and Rebecca in Year 12, who choreographed and led the dance for the entire primary school. Their energy and confidence helped make the day truly memorable.

Meanwhile, students from Years 8 and 9 assisted with the Columbus Primary and Secondary Sports Day, supporting younger pupils throughout the event. Their maturity, encouragement and willingness to help did not go unnoticed, with staff and parents from Columbus praising their positive attitude and commitment. The students were excellent ambassadors for the school and truly embodied what it means to be an SJP student.



Mini Games Superstars

On Monday 29th June, 26 Year 7 students were selected to take part in leadership training before leading a Mini Games event in partnership with the Chelmsford School Sport Partnership at Melbourne Athletics Centre.

Throughout the day, our students demonstrated outstanding leadership, confidence and enthusiasm as they supported and engaged younger participants in a variety of sporting activities. They took on their roles with maturity and professionalism, helping to create a fun, inclusive and positive experience for everyone involved.

Their efforts did not go unnoticed, with both staff and parents praising the students for their excellent leadership skills, positive attitudes and ability to inspire others. The event provided a fantastic opportunity for our students to develop their communication, organisation and teamwork skills while representing the school with pride.





Sports Day 2026

I say this every year, but I genuinely believe that this year's Sports Day was our best yet!

Held once again at the fantastic Chelmsford Athletics Centre, Sports Day continues to be one of the highlights of the school calendar. I feel incredibly fortunate to work alongside such a dedicated PE department, whose commitment to participation, inclusion and providing opportunities for every student is at the heart of the event.

The day brought together our whole school community in a wonderful celebration of teamwork, determination, athletic achievement and school spirit. Students competed in a wide range of track and field events, including sprints, relays, long jump, high jump, shot put, javelin and many more. Meanwhile, students remaining on site during the morning enjoyed a variety of athletics-based activities and workshops before joining us at the track for the afternoon finals.

One of the most memorable moments of the day was seeing the entire stadium stand to applaud Eden in Year 7 as he completed his 800m race, demonstrating the encouragement and respect that make our Sports Day so special. Another standout performance came from Riley also in Year 7, whose exceptional shot put throw not only broke the school record on the day but, just two weeks later, went on to break the district record as well—an outstanding achievement and certainly one to watch for the future.

Sports day records made:

Year 7 Discus Boys			
20.80	Name	House	Dist
1st	Eneojo.A	A	23.55

Year 8 Discus Boys			
29.50	Name	House	Dist
1st	George.N	A	32.45

Year 9 Javelin Girls			
25.50	Name	House	Dist
1st	Florence.P	D	29.48

Year 9 300 Boys			
41.69	Name	House	Time
1st	Ed.D	A	40.12

Year 9 Shot Girls			
8.80	Name	House	Dist
1st	Kamdi.E	D	8.88

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Watson and the PE Department for their exceptional organisation and leadership in delivering such a successful event. We are also incredibly grateful to all members of staff who supported throughout the day, whether officiating events, providing first aid, supervising students or cheering competitors on from the sidelines. Our Sixth Form student volunteers also played an invaluable role in ensuring the day ran smoothly, and their enthusiasm and support were greatly appreciated.

The weather was certainly on our side throughout the day. Earlier in the week, there had been discussions about the possibility of cancelling the event due to the forecast of wind, rain and thunderstorms. However, apart from one brief but dramatic downpour, the conditions were ideal and allowed the day to go ahead as planned. As a Catholic school, we'd like to think we had a little extra help from above! The fantastic weather helped create a wonderful atmosphere, enabling students and staff alike to enjoy a memorable and successful Sports Day.



St John Payne Catholic School Celebrates Outstanding District Athletics Triumph



Students from St John Payne Catholic School enjoyed a truly exceptional day at this year's District Athletics Championships, achieving remarkable success across both the boys' and girls' competitions.

Competing in four age groups – Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10&11 – our athletes represented the school with determination, resilience and outstanding team spirit, producing one of the school's strongest performances in recent years.

The girls' team delivered another superb performance, finishing 1st in the Year 7 and Year 9 competitions, while the Year 10&11 girls secured an impressive 3rd place. Their success extended to the relays, where they were crowned Girls' Relay Trophy champions. These performances enabled the girls to retain the title of Overall District Girls' Champions for the second consecutive year, underlining the strength and consistency of the athletics programme.

The boys' team were equally dominant, completing a remarkable clean sweep by winning Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10&11 competitions. Their outstanding efforts also saw them claim the Boys' Relay Trophy, securing the title of Overall District Boys' Champions for the third consecutive year. This achievement reflects the depth of talent and commitment across all age groups.

There was also individual success to celebrate. Riley in Year 7 produced a sensational performance in the shot put, setting a new district record of 10.97m. Riley's record-breaking throw was one of the highlights of the championships and a fantastic achievement that demonstrates both talent and dedication.

These incredible results are a testament to the hard work of all our athletes, the encouragement of staff and families, and the positive sporting culture at St John Payne Catholic School. Every student represented the school with pride, determination and excellent sportsmanship throughout the competition.

Congratulations to all involved on a fantastic achievement. We look forward to seeing our athletes continue to build on this success in the years ahead.



Year 10 Students Showcase Swimming Skills in GCSE PE Assessment

Our Year 10 GCSE PE students recently undertook their practical swimming assessment, demonstrating their commitment and determination to develop their skills in GCSE PE.

Throughout the unit, students worked hard to refine key swimming techniques and develop their understanding of competitive swimming. Lessons focused on enhancing stroke efficiency, starts, turns, and overall race performance. It was fantastic to see students challenge themselves, display excellent sportsmanship, and put into practice the techniques they had been developing throughout the course.

The experience not only contributes towards their GCSE PE practical grade but also helps students develop important life skills such as resilience, perseverance, and goal setting.

We are proud of the effort and enthusiasm shown by the GCSE PE students and look forward to seeing their continued development as they work towards their final GCSE PE assessments. Well done to everyone involved.

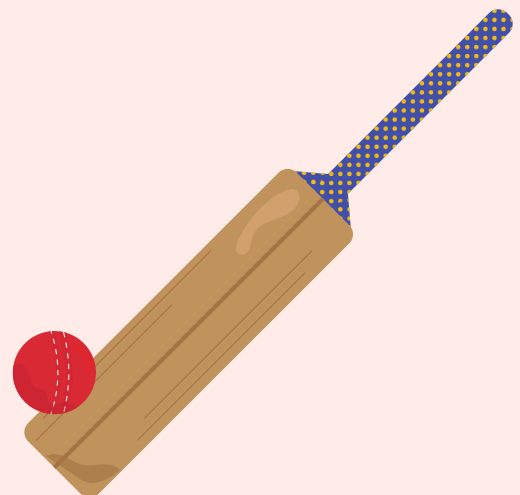


Cricket Season Filled with Promise and Perseverance

Cricket has been in full swing this half term with lots of enthusiastic attendance at practices showcasing some promising development of skills, particularly amongst those just learning the game.

Unfortunately, the weather in the unusual form of heat has severely limited the number of fixtures. The Y7 boys have lost narrowly in both their fixtures but several team members have put influential performances and the bowling in particular shows potential.

The Y8 boys also lost narrowly in their only fixture to survive and the girls proposed festival and attempts to play a Y7 fixture were also cancelled. However, despite these setbacks the participants have continued to train well and we are hopeful that next year will see cricket play a larger role in our school sport success.





SVP Students Support Year 6 Pupils with Their Transition to Secondary School

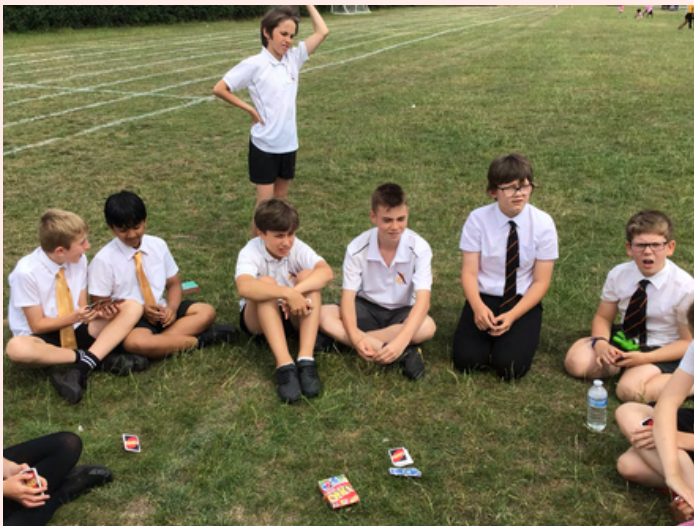
As part of our work to support the local community and our Year 6 transition programme, members of the SVP visited both Our Lady Immaculate Primary School and St Pius Primary School to help pupils prepare for the exciting move to secondary school.

During the visits, our students led activities, answered questions about life at secondary school, and shared their own experiences to help reassure the Year 6 pupils and build their confidence ahead of this important next step.



They spent time listening carefully to any worries or concerns, offering practical advice and encouragement, and helping pupils understand what to expect when they join St John Payne in September.

At Our Lady Immaculate, students also shared the transition video we created and spoke to pupils about the clubs, activities and opportunities available at St John Payne. At St Pius, the visit included an insightful talk about secondary school life and the work of the SVP, followed by a Q&A session and time spent playing board games together, helping to create a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.



It was wonderful to see the Year 6 pupils growing in confidence throughout the visits as their questions were answered and their concerns were discussed with care. By introducing themselves and explaining who they are and what they do within the SVP, our students hope that the Year 6 pupils will feel comfortable approaching them with any worries they may have when they arrive in September.

These visits reflected the SVP's commitment to serving the local

community with compassion, encouragement and practical support. We hope the Year 6 pupils now feel more confident, excited and ready to begin their secondary school journey with us, and we look forward to welcoming them into the St John Payne community in September.

You can read more here: <https://stpiusxchelmsford.blogspot.com/2026/06/sjp-svp-join-year-6-for-transition-fun.html>



YEAR 10 CAREERS DAY



Year 10 Careers Day

Our Year 10 Careers Day was a fantastic success, providing students with a valuable opportunity to explore future career pathways and develop key employability skills. In preparation for the event, all students created their own professional CVs, allowing them to reflect on their skills, achievements and aspirations. This important exercise helped them understand how to present themselves effectively to future employers.

A unique feature of the day was that students were able to select and interview professionals whose careers matched their own interests and ambitions. This gave them the opportunity to ask insightful questions, gain first-hand knowledge of different industries, and learn more about the qualifications, skills and experiences needed to succeed in their chosen fields. The professionalism, confidence and enthusiasm demonstrated by our Year 10 students throughout the day were outstanding. Visiting professionals were highly complimentary about the quality of the students' questions, their preparation, and the mature manner in which they engaged in discussions.

We would like to thank all the professionals who generously gave their time to support the event. Their contributions helped make the day both informative and inspiring, leaving students better informed and motivated as they begin to consider their future career journeys.

Overall, the Careers Day was an extremely positive experience and an excellent opportunity for students to connect their learning in school with the world of work.





YEAR 11 PROM



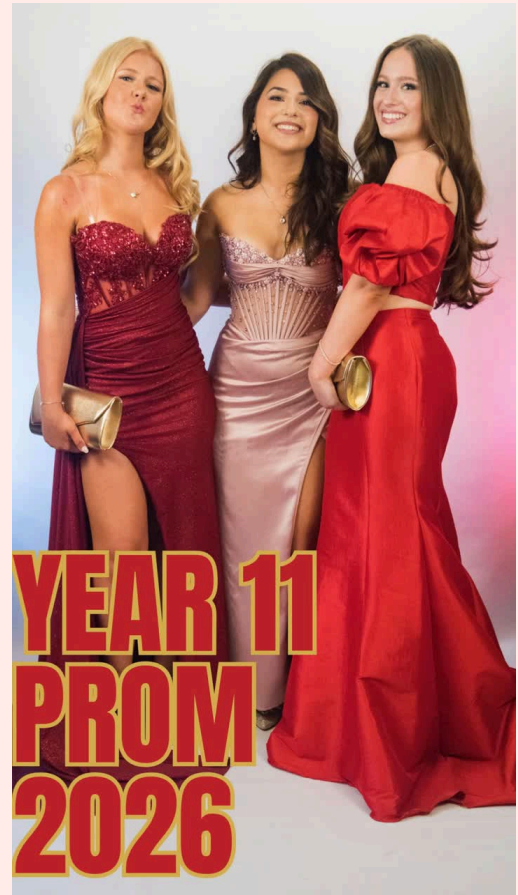
Year 11 Prom

The Year 11 Prom was a wonderful way to celebrate the end of an important chapter in our students' school journey. Held at Hylands House, the evening gave students the opportunity to come together one final time to mark the end of their GCSE examinations and their years at SJP.

Students arrived dressed to impress and enjoyed an evening of music, dancing, photographs and celebrations with their friends and teachers. The students had an absolutely amazing night and created memories that will stay with them for years to come. It was wonderful to see them enjoying themselves and celebrating their time with us.

As the evening progressed, the dance floor quickly became the place to be. Students showed off their moves, enthusiastically singing along to favourite songs and encouraging their friends to join in. Not to be outdone, several members of staff also demonstrated that they still had a few dance moves left in them!

The event was a fitting send-off for a year group who have shown resilience, determination and maturity throughout their examinations and school careers. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and wish them every success as they move on to the next stage of their education and future careers. Thank you to all the staff who helped organise and support the event, ensuring that it was such a memorable occasion for our students. We wish the Class of 2026 the very best of luck for the future. **Mrs Green – Prom Coordinator**



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>



A group of five young basketball players standing on a gym floor. They are wearing black Joma SJP jerseys with yellow accents. The player in the center holds a basketball. The jerseys have the Joma logo and SJP text, with numbers 10, 6, and 9 visible. The background shows a basketball court with a wooden floor and blue walls.



SJP SOCIAL MEDIA



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.

