

ST JOHN PAYNE



AVITA PRO FIDE



# NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026

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

# HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS



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

# HEADTEACHER REPORT MARCH 2026

Throughout Lent we have prayed for all homeless, refugee & displaced peoples in anticipation of Christ's ultimate sacrifice and Passion, the salvation of his Resurrection and Ascension, and the work of the Holy Spirit as Christ's earliest followers established his church.

We were delighted to welcome Mr Steven Webb to present Catenian cheques to sixth form students volunteering in Lourdes at Easter. These funds afford our wonderful students the faith affirming journey of service and witness that always has a profound impact on all involved.

Adoration each Thursday continues to draw students and staff in witness before The Blessed Sacrament, and we are blessed with our Deanery Priests who visit to celebrate Mass each Friday. More than three hundred children received the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and our Lent service last week was a moving testament to our faith.

We wish our whole community a Holy, happy & restful Easter break, and will look forward to welcoming the students back to school on our return on 13th April.

Yours in Faith

**Mr T. Coen**  
**Headteacher**



# CHAPLAINCY & FAITH LIFE



# CATHOLIC LAY CHAPLAIN

As a community, we have been blessed with many moments of faith, fellowship, and joyful celebration this term. Each Friday, many of our students have attended Form Mass, and we have also offered the Sacrament of Reconciliation for those seeking God's healing and peace. As always, we are deeply grateful to our wonderful deanery priests—without their generosity and ministry, the source and summit of our faith would not be possible.

As usual, we also enjoyed our monthly Youth Mass at Brentwood Cathedral. These evenings are always a highlight, offering music, prayer, and a beautiful sense of belonging within the wider diocesan family. Minibus places fill up within 24 hours each month, so if your child would like to join us in future, please do let me know as soon as possible.

This term, Year 9 had the opportunity to take part in their Form Retreats at Walsingham House. The Brentwood Youth Team continues to be an invaluable blessing to our school, helping our young people deepen their faith while also sharing plenty of laughter and fun along the way.

We are also incredibly proud of the 18 Year 12 students who will be journeying on pilgrimage to Lourdes this Easter. They will be dedicating a week of their holiday to support children with complex needs, offering companionship, kindness, and practical care. They will create lifelong memories—not only for the young people they serve, but for themselves. We hold each one of them in our prayers and wish them every blessing on their pilgrimage.

On Wednesday evening, our Faith Ambassadors led a truly beautiful Lenten service. Entirely student-created and student-led, it was both reflective and uplifting. This year's theme, "Hope and Love Born from Sacrifice," reminded us that the deepest acts of love are often quiet and unseen found in moments of patience, forgiveness, service, and compassion. These everyday sacrifices mirror Christ's ultimate act of love, bringing light into the darkest places.

The singing was outstanding—our special thanks go to Mrs Williams—and the readings were proclaimed with clarity, emotion, and reverence. We are so proud of all the students involved.

As we approach the holiest days of our Christian calendar, I wish our entire community a Happy and Holy Easter. May your homes be filled with the hope, peace, and joy of our Risen Saviour.

God bless,

**Katy Adams**  
**Catholic Lay Chaplain**

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP





## Student Leadership Team Announcement

Following a thorough and highly competitive selection process, we are delighted to announce our new **Student Leadership Team**.

The process has been a long one for all those who applied to become our next student leaders. Throughout, students demonstrated dedication, maturity, and a genuine commitment to the school community. Each applicant performed exceptionally well and should be extremely proud of their efforts and achievements.

As part of the selection process, we are only able to appoint one Head Student and one Deputy Head Student for both the boys and girls, which made the final decision particularly challenging given the strength of the cohort.

With that in mind, we are pleased to announce that the following students will take on their roles after Easter:

- Head Girl: **Grace T**
- Deputy Head Girl: **Rebecca D**
- Head Boy: **Joe T**
- Deputy Head Boy: **Jonathan S**

That said, the other candidates – Luc L, Megan K, Ryan T, and Olivia M – will still play an important role within the wider leadership team in other capacities.

We are confident that our new Leadership Team will build on the strong foundations already in place, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make within our school community.





## Student Leaders Inspire Staff with Training on Anti Bullying

Our Year 13 student leaders and Year 7 form captains—who also serve as trained Anti-Bullying Ambassadors—took centre stage as they led a whole-staff training session focused on strengthening the school's culture of kindness. Their involvement highlighted not only their leadership skills but also the powerful impact of listening to the student voice.

The session centred on how everyday interactions shape the school environment, and why students who demonstrate acts of kindness through their school life must be celebrated and encouraged. Drawing on their ambassador training and personal experiences, the students shared thoughtful insights into what pupils observe, feel, and need from the adults around them.



They spoke about the importance of unkind behaviours being challenged and expressed a clear message: students want these incidents to be recognised and addressed consistently. From a student's perspective, early intervention and visible action by staff make a profound difference in ensuring every young person feels safe, valued, and supported.

Staff praised the ambassadors for their maturity, clarity, and commitment. Their leadership not only informed the training but also reminded everyone that building a compassionate school community is a shared responsibility—one that thrives when students and staff work together.

# STUDENT AWARDS



# STUDENT AWARDS



	Total Year Group Achievement Points	Highest Form Achievement points	Highest Achievement Points In the Year
<b>Year 7</b>	<b>51,940</b>	<b>7S</b> 11,062 Achievement points	<b>Noah F 7C</b> <b>430 Achievement Points</b>
<b>Year 8</b>	<b>50,329</b>	<b>8B</b> 10,627 Achievement points	<b>Ahana B 8B</b> <b>497 Achievement Points</b>
<b>Year 9</b>	<b>50,590</b>	<b>9C</b> 10,304 Achievement points	<b>Annaise W-W 9D</b> <b>541 Achievement Points</b>
<b>Year 10</b>	<b>26,550</b>	<b>10D</b> 5547 Achievement points	<b>William B 10D</b> <b>357 Achievement Points</b>
<b>Year 11</b>	<b>16,354</b>	<b>11S</b> 3933 Achievement points	<b>Freddie G 11S</b> <b>288 Achievement Points</b>



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



# THE ARTS SHOWCASE



## GCSE & A LEVEL Performance Exams Showcase Evenings

### GCSE Drama Performance Exams

Well done to our GCSE Drama students, who delivered outstanding performances to a visiting OCR examiner on Friday 20th March for their Presenting and Performing Texts component, worth 30% of their final grade. Students presented two extracts, a group piece and a solo, from contemporary plays chosen for their powerful relevance to young people today: *Girls Like That* by Evan Placey, exploring friendship, social media pressures and the impact of digital culture; *Blackout* by Davey Anderson, a gripping piece about identity, consequence and finding control; and *Who Cares* by Matt Woodhead, which highlights the experiences of young carers and the challenges they face.

After sharing their work at a showcase evening for friends and family, students performed with maturity, professionalism and focus throughout the exam day on Tuesday 17th March. Congratulations to all! Now it's time to begin preparing for the final written exam in May!



### A Level Drama Performance Exams

After Easter, it's the turn of our A Level Drama students, with Year 12s and 13s presenting both their original devised piece and their scripted extracts in a showcase performance on Wednesday 22nd April at 6.30pm. This preview evening will support students in preparing for their practical examination with a visiting OCR examiner on Friday 24th April.

If you would like to attend the A Level Drama performance showcase, please email Mrs Nowlan ([m.nowlan@sjp.essex.sch.uk](mailto:m.nowlan@sjp.essex.sch.uk)) to reserve a seat. Places in the school's black box studio are limited and must be booked in advance. It promises to be a fantastic evening of inspiring and creative work.

# THE ARTS SHOWCASE



## Vibrant Voices

Thirty-eight talented students from this year's Mary Poppins Jr. cast were invited to perform an uplifting eight-minute medley from our amazing school musical at Chelmsford Theatre's Vibrant Voices event on Monday 9th March.



This wonderful celebration gives schools and community groups the opportunity to perform on a professional stage, experience live theatre, and learn about the wider world of theatrical production from industry experts. It offers students invaluable insight into the many career pathways within the theatre arts and helps broaden their understanding of the industry beyond performing alone.

Our students had the honour of opening the second act, delivering their medley of Perfect Nanny, Feed the Birds and Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious

with professionalism, confidence and boundless energy. They took to the larger stage and auditorium without hesitation, captivating the crowd and earning what was easily the loudest applause of the evening.

When not performing, students were able to enjoy the rest of the show, watching musical and performance pieces from other schools across the area. They loved seeing the range of talent on display and being part of such an inspiring celebration of young performers.

A huge well done to all of our students involved and congratulations to every school who took part in this vibrant community event. Finally, a big thank you to Chelmsford Theatre for giving young people this wonderful opportunity.



# THE ARTS SHOWCASE



## Life Drawing at SJP

This half term, the Art department held a life drawing evening, providing 6th form students with a valuable opportunity to develop their observational skills, building on the life drawing sessions we put on before Christmas. Working directly from a life model, students were able to study the human form in detail, focusing on proportion, movement, and tone. The session was highly successful and helped students build their confidence in drawing from real life rather than photographs. Overall, the experience has given students a deeper understanding of figure drawing and an important insight into traditional artistic practice. Thank you to David, the professional model who made this session possible.



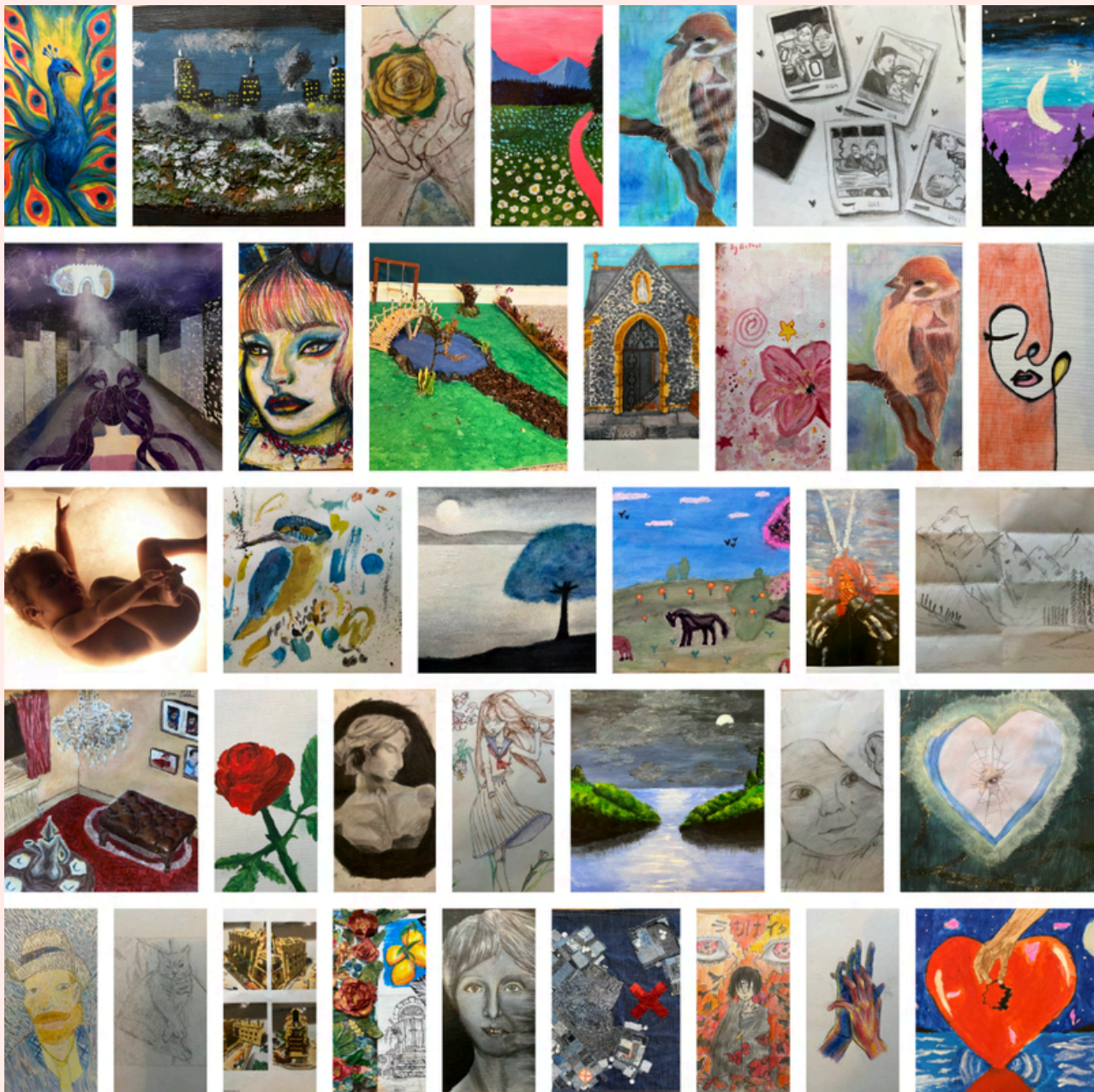
# THE ARTS SHOWCASE



## Entries for the Royal Academy summer show

The artworks featured in this collage represent the school's entries for the Royal Academy Summer Show, which will be adjudicated in May. Students from Year 7 to Year 13 submitted work, resulting in an impressive and diverse collection that showcases the breadth of artistic talent within our school community.

All entries are currently on display in A015 for those who wish to view them in person. This competition was coordinated by Mrs Roberts.

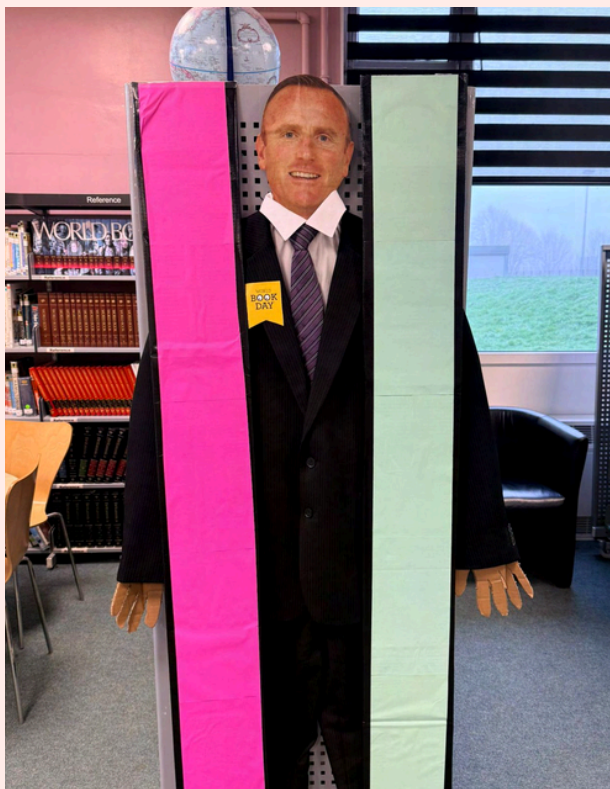




## St John Payne Catholic School celebrates World Book Day

Reading is a fundamental part of our lives from early childhood, from the questionable greed of *The Hungry Caterpillar* to the repetitive echoes of Julia Donaldson's *The Gruffalo* recitable many years later. There is no doubt that reading is a core pillar to accessing a wide and enriching curriculum but that is not its only importance... reading is also a pleasure that should be encouraged and protected in this modern digital age.

A world of escapism to far-away lands and adventures beyond wildest dreams are perhaps exactly what the minds of our young people need. School is a crucial place to foster, encourage and develop a love of literature as young minds are shaped into fluent readers - at St John Payne Catholic School we are proud to hold that mantle.



This year's World Book Day celebrations began with a 'book hunt' led by our enthusiastic reading champions and all students reading a World Book Day poem crafted by our wonderful poet Laureate, Freddie, in Y11. In lessons, all students began by reading a passage from a Roald Dahl short story that was slowly revealed over the six periods of the school day.

The library was overrun with literature lovers at break and lunch time with a range of activities taking place from crafting bookmarks to 'guess the book - emoji edition'. A particular highlight is the staff vs. students reading competition, 'Read the Height of the Headteacher', which saw students excitedly measure their finished book spines to reach Mr Coen's height.

The library, normally a peaceful sanctuary, became abuzz with eager students from all year groups, proving that a love for reading is still very much alive at St John Payne Catholic School.



## Science Week

Science Week was a fantastic opportunity for students to experience the fun and curiosity of science beyond the classroom. Throughout the week, a series of lunchtime demonstrations and activities gave students the chance to see science in action.

Highlights included “**Explosive Chemistry**”, where students enjoyed exciting chemical reactions, “**Shocking Stuff**”, exploring the surprising effects of static electricity, and “**Biology’s Curiosity Cabinet**”, where students could view and learn about a fascinating collection of biological specimens. The events sparked lots of interest, questions and enthusiasm, showing just how engaging and exciting science can be.

### Explosive Chemistry



### Shocking Stuff



### Biology’s Curiosity Cupboard



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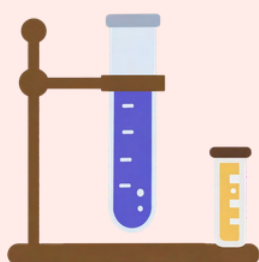
## STEM talk

As part of British Science Week, a group of 32 Year 9 students had the exciting opportunity to attend a STEM talk on carbon capture delivered by a STEM Ambassador working in the industry. The session gave students a fascinating insight into how carbon capture is used to help tackle climate change, as well as an overview of the speaker’s career and the different opportunities available within the field.

Students were highly engaged throughout the talk. Samson Munday said, “It was really interesting to learn about her experiences and who the speaker had met in the carbon capture industry.”

Annmiya Daniel said, “I learnt that the job is heavily based in STEM and what a typical day in the profession would be like including the risks involved and how they prevent accidents. This helped me to think about my future plans. I also enjoyed experimenting with electricity as it helped me understand the topic more thoroughly.”

Both students said they really enjoyed the experience, and it was fantastic to see such enthusiasm for STEM careers.



# JACK PETCHEY - SPEAK OUT

## Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!



On Thursday 19th March, Abigail in Year 10 represented St John Payne Catholic School at the regional final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out challenge with her fabulous inspirational speech entitled 'Alien or Autism?' Here are some words from Abigail about her experience:

*"I found that the Jack Petchey Speak Out challenge was an amazing opportunity to not only improve my public speaking skills but also to speak out about a topic that is important to me. The experience taught me that I was braver than I thought and allowed me to spread awareness through speech. I appreciate everyone who came to the final and I would highly recommend this opportunity to anyone thinking of trying it next year. I also found that I felt inspired by others who took part in the challenge; we all shared our own stories, experiences and passions. I left with a new mindset and ideas.*

*Overall, the experience has been incredible, and I wish next year's participants good luck!"*

**Abigail Y10**



## Hockey Success

Well done to James C Y7. He plays on the u12 boys academy team at Chelmsford Hockey Club. They just played in the In2Hockey Essex County tournament at Old Loughtonians Hockey Club and won all their matches. They are Essex champions now. And James was top goal scorer.



## Essex Swimming Age Group Championship 2026

Well done Apollo and Filip taking part in Essex Swimming Age Group Championship 2026.

Apollo Y8 came home with few medals.  
2nd for 800 free an excellent time of 9:55:04  
2nd for 200 free - 2:18:74  
3rd for 1500 free -19:00:98

Apollo came home with lots of PBs from all the races he swam including some finals. Apollo's hard work, consistency, determination, dedication and love for the sport made him and his family incredibly proud of his results.



## British Schools Judo Championships

We are incredibly proud to share some fantastic news from the British Schools Judo Championships. Artem has been crowned British Schools Judo Champion in the +66kg category, an outstanding achievement that reflects his dedication, discipline, and determination.

This is a remarkable accomplishment, and we hope everyone in our school community will join us in congratulating Artem on becoming a national champion. We look forward to seeing what he goes on to achieve next—well done, Artem!





## European Netball Championships

We are thrilled to share that Sienna was selected to represent Northern Ireland at the European Netball Championships for the U17 squad, which took place in Aberdeen from 5th–8th March.

This is an incredible accomplishment and a well-deserved recognition of Sienna's hard work. This is a fantastic achievement to reach this level of netball. Well done Sienna!



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## Essex County Hockey Finals Day

Charlotte took part in the Essex County Hockey Finals Day. This marks her third consecutive year being selected to play Essex County Hockey - an impressive accomplishment.

Representing the U15 Girls Squad in defence, she played a key role in helping her team secure the overall County Tournament victory.

Congratulations of your success Charlotte!



# KEY SCHOOL EVENTS





## Girls' Winter Sports Update

This winter season has been embraced with enthusiasm by girls across all year groups, involved in netball, basketball, football, sports hall athletics and crosscountry.

Our U16 netballers competed with determination in the Essex Cup, performing brilliantly despite being a year younger than most of the competition. The Year 12/13 squad completed all their netball fixtures and made Mrs Watson incredibly proud, rising to every challenge with maturity and teamwork. In basketball, our U15 team reached the semifinals against Fitzwimarc. It was a nailbiting match, with Fitz edging ahead in the final quarter after an impressive contest from both sides. We have also seen great commitment from our Year 7 and 8 footballers, who have taken part in numerous MESSSA league fixtures. The girls have worn their new football kits with pride, representing the school brilliantly. With a successful winter behind us, we now look ahead to the summer season, shifting our focus to athletics, rounders and cricket.





## Outstanding Leadership from Our Year 7 Sports Captains

On Friday 13th March, our Year 7 Sports Captains demonstrated exceptional leadership by supporting the running and officiating of the Xtend Panathlon event held in our sports hall. The students took on their responsibilities with confidence, maturity and enthusiasm, helping to ensure the event ran smoothly for all involved. Their conduct did not go unnoticed; staff from other local schools and the event organisers praised them highly, commenting on how outstanding they were throughout the day. The organisers were so impressed that they have expressed a strong interest in working with this group of students again in future leadership roles. We are incredibly proud of the way our Year 7 students represented the school.



## Chelmsford Schools Bowling Panathlon Success

In February, a group of our students took part in the Chelmsford Schools Secondary Bowling Panathlon competition at City Bowl. The students approached the event with great enthusiasm and thoroughly enjoyed the experience, even fuelling themselves like true athletes with some well-earned fries and fizzy pop. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to represent the school, show teamwork and enjoy friendly competition in a new setting. A special congratulations goes to Liam P, who achieved individual recognition for recording the highest number of strikes during the competition. Well done to all students involved for their excellent attitude and participation.

## Xtend Panathlon Competition

On Friday 13th March, we entered two teams into the local Chelmsford Secondary Schools Xtend Panathlon competition. As this was the first competitive event for our Year 7 students, they were well supported by our more experienced Year 8 team, who truly showed them the way. Both teams performed brilliantly, with the Year 8 team finishing in an impressive 4th place and the Year 7 team close behind in 5th place. It was fantastic to see students supporting one another and representing the school so positively. Well done to all involved.



## Sports readers Kinball

This week at Sports readers breakfast club, we included a sporting reward to our weekly gathering as well as reading on the Wednesday and Thursday before school. The year 12s and younger years took part in the activity Kinball. This included 3 teams of 4 and a massive ball. They formed a triangle and the fourth player pushed it away announcing a team they wanted to catch it. After there were many other activities including forming a circle and pushing as team the ball around while someone else chased after the ball trying to catch this. It was interactive, fun, and very enjoyable. Well done to all students on attending weekly on a Wednesday and Thursday morning, there is a lovely hub of energy in the library on these mornings.



## London Pulse Trip – Netball Super League Opener

On Friday 27th February, Miss Daniel and Mrs Watson were delighted to take 20 students to watch London Pulse face Manchester Thunder in the opening round of the Netball Super League.

It was a fantastic match to witness, showcasing netball at its highest level. The girls threw themselves into the spectator experience, joining in with the cheering, challenges and interactive competitions throughout the evening.

We hope the trip has inspired our students by showing them the standard of performance that can be achieved through commitment, hard work and determination. It was a brilliant opportunity for them to see the pathways available within elite netball, and who knows, we may one day watch some of our future players in action.




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## The 45th annual ski trip for SJP to Mondolé Italy.

This year we accompanied 35 year 10&11 students to a lovely resort, Prato Nevoso. With snowy conditions it was one of the best trips to date. All the beginners made it off the nursery slopes within a few days and the advanced group explored the different slopes off of Prato Nevoso. Students enjoyed a Mass in Italian where the community were incredibly welcoming and receiving of us. We also visited some local caves, the second largest in Europe! But the highlight was the night skiing. A big thank you to Mr Keylock, Miss Daniel, Miss Bacon and Mr Taylor, without you this trip would not be possible.



# BEREAVEMENT WORKSHOP



**Lennox**  
Children's  
Cancer Fund

Bereavement workshop for Year 11 – a report from Mrs Coleman

On 13th March 2026, we were pleased to welcome Molly and Lindsey from the Lennox Children's Cancer Fund, who delivered a thoughtful and compassionate grief and bereavement workshop to each Year 11 form. The session offered students a safe space to talk, reflect, and explore their feelings, while receiving supportive and practical guidance. Molly and Lindsey also shared a range of engaging videos and advice, which many students found both comforting and informative. We hope that the strategies and insights provided will prove helpful – not only now, but at any time in the future when students may need them.

The Lennox Children's Cancer Fund is a long-established UK charity that has been supporting families affected by childhood cancer for over 30 years. Their mission is to ensure that no family faces a childhood cancer journey alone, offering practical, emotional, and financial support from diagnosis through treatment and beyond. The charity's work is grounded in four key pillars of support, including financial assistance, emotional wellbeing support from their Family Support Team, help navigating medical information or paperwork, and opportunities for families to spend precious time together through respite breaks.



We are grateful to Molly and Lindsey for taking the time to lead such meaningful sessions with our Year 11 students. Their experience and sensitivity helped create a reassuring and reflective atmosphere for all who attended, and we appreciate the valuable support their organisation continues to offer to families and young people.



## Year 10 GCSE Geography Fieldtrips - Learning Beyond the Classroom

This term year 10 Geographers have been embarking on their two fieldwork enquiries, a Human Geography study about Chelmsford and a Physical Geography study about changes at Walton. They will be examined at the end of year 11 on the skills they acquired during these two fieldwork enquiry projects. Here is a short write up about the trips from the perspective of three of our GCSE Geography Year 10 students along with some accompanying photos. Well done to all the Year 10 Geographers for their efforts with the fieldwork, we hope you enjoyed investigating Geography beyond the classroom!

*On our Chelmsford fieldtrip we investigated human geography and urban environments. We were given booklets that included environmental quality surveys, pie charts, radar graphs, questionnaires, exam-style questions, hypotheses, and risk assessments from our exam board. These booklets helped guide our enquiry while we collected data around the city. One interesting part was asking members of the public questions for our questionnaire, which helped us learn more about social interactions and how people use different parts of the city.*

*For our Walton-on-the-Naze fieldtrip we investigated coastal management and how the coastline changes over time. Before the trip we had been learning about coastal processes and coastal management in lessons, so it was really helpful to see it in real life. We followed a clear enquiry process and collected primary and secondary data to make sure our results were accurate, reliable, and valid. We also presented our results using graphs and analyzed why certain coastal management methods work and what their limitations might be.*

*Both field trips were enjoyable and memorable. Travelling on the coach and working with friends made the experience fun while still learning. The geography teachers were very helpful and encouraging throughout the day, and we even collected shells and pebbles at Walton-on-the-Naze which made the trip special. Overall, it was very interesting seeing geography in real life and understanding how what we learn in the classroom connects to the world around us*

### **Snehitha S**



*The visit to Chelmsford was interesting and enjoyable. We explored different parts of the city and looked at how populated it is. It was helpful to see these things in real life because it made the topics we learn about in Geography lessons much easier to understand. Additionally, we asked questions to other people which made more easier to understand others' opinions on different things and help to interact with people.*

*Our trip to Walton was also a great experience. We spent time studying the coastline and learning about coastal processes and sea defences. It was fascinating to see the beach and coastal features up close, to do some practical works and to understand how they help protect the area from erosion. Overall, it was a fun and memorable way to learn Geography outside the classroom.*

### **Aksa J**

# GEOGRAPHY



On Thursday the 12th of March, around 30 students and I, went to Walton on the Naze, a beachside town packed with history and valuable GCSE material within geography. On the ride there, the energy was great. When we got there, and 2 things were clear; 1. The sea, when glistening in the sun, is gorgeous. 2. It is cold, very cold and windy.

That's right, when we got off the coach and into our groups for the day, we realised that the weather had decided to be particularly ambitious and almost blow half of us off our feet, literally. During our stay there we had a lovely tutor from Flatford Mill FSC, who taught us lots about the environment and everything around Walton on the Naze. The Crag Walk coastal management costed £1.2 million, funded by the local people who wanted to save the tower that was built in 1720.

We also experienced a Wave cut platform. This means where the cliff has would be, has eroded, leaving the material underneath the cliff exposed, this material happened to be slippery; clay. As soon as we got on there, we realised that where it had rained from previous days and where the sea had got to it, the wave cut platform was quickly turned into a slip-and-slide. Setting up the tripods to measure the degrees in incline or decline was hard! We had 2 hours at school the following day processing the data we collected on the trip to help us draw conclusions to our enquiry about how coastal landforms change over time.

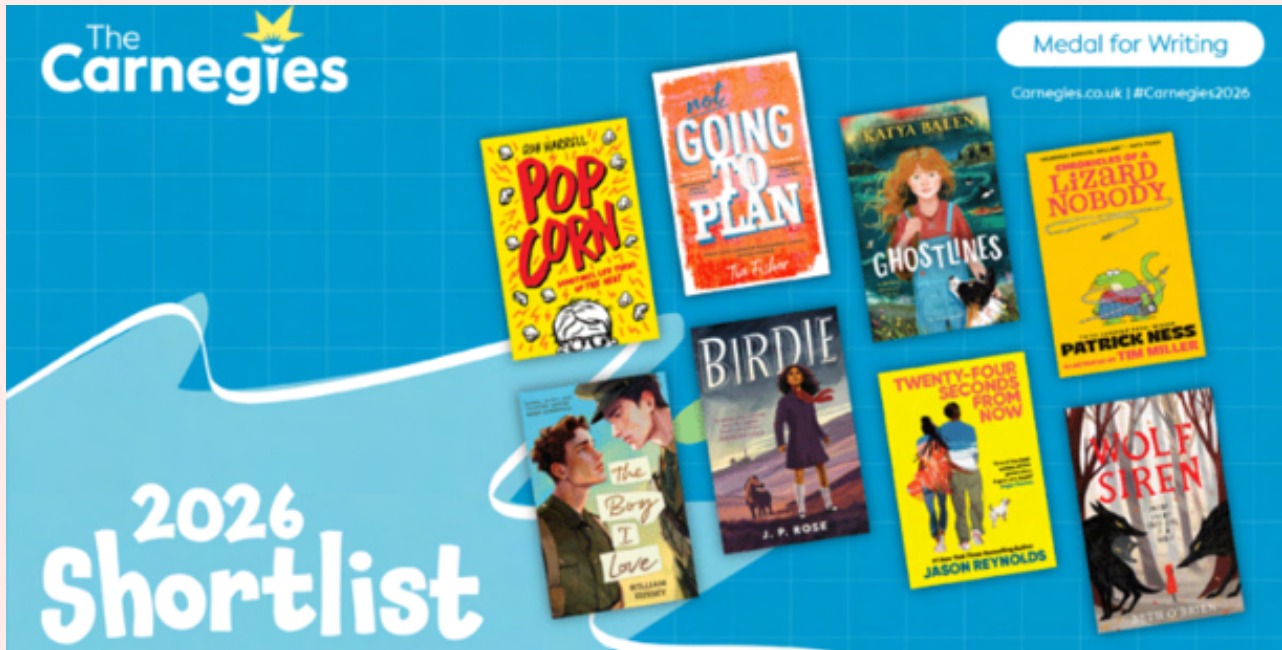
**Noah G**





## The Carnegies Reading Group Begins at SJP

The Carnegies, one of the UK's best-known children and YA book awards, announced their 2026 shortlisted books at the London Book Fair on Tuesday, 10th March.



On Wednesday, 19th March, 15 enthusiastic readers (Alyson, Aida, Ayla, Adedamola, Gershon, Steve, Lucas, Robert, Lydia, Jion, Janelle, Eva, Anna, Janelle and Maxwell) came to the library to pick up their chosen books and begin their Carnegie journey. Over the next 12 weeks, they will meet in the library every Wednesday lunchtime to read together, share their impressions and opinions, and engage in discussions.

I am very excited to joining them on this journey and hearing their thoughts as they explore these new titles.

**Mrs Zawadzka (Librarian)**

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### World Book Day 2026



# LIBRARY NEWS



## World Book Day Wordathon By Freddie Gardham 11S

Have you ever believed yourself, beacons in such a bright light, to be a Bibliophile?  
A person who loves to read, their colossal collection longer than the notorious Nile!  
Perhaps, praiseworthy, if you get the jubilant gist, you are a bright Bibliophagist?  
Passionate peruser, ravenous reader, devouring books galore, with blissful bibliomania!  
Yet a Bibliotaph I doubt none of you, so maliciously, so bitterly, so indeed cruelly are...

Who hoards, who holds hostage books, starving them of reading eyes: dire, "book burier"!

Oh, so very common is it to be like me, a Librocubicularist: this act makes me merrier...  
Reading in bed, so tranquil, where rested heads can be so still. By words, by stories: fed!

Like a Literarian, I decree it preposterous to say literature is not a valiant virtuosity!  
Drastically distinct from one masterpiece manuscript to another, where even to start?

Brightly friends with these quaint words, what could you prominently be: a Bibliognost?

Of noble knowledge of Art's bridegroom, bibliography. All wisdom found, nought lost!

Of course, it goes without a whisper, a logophile, lover of words, would be an affectionate acquaintance with these complete, all, too:

Keen, they are carrying colossal casts crammed with consonants in their mighty minds, knowledgeable through and through!

Do not, hence, disregard World Book Day: commemorate, celebrate, cry with charm and wonder; perchance, find yourself in the frolic of being bibliothetic, maybe even visit a bibliopole!

Adorned, is a Scripturient, with a strong urge to write, creating a free world from words, novel life from a keyboard, from a pen's simple, founding stroke: light for my soul...

Yes, indeed, this bizarre and marvellous utter: gift, a tiding, a blessing, like Birthday bunting for me; making my cogs promptly turn, making my wheels evermore fairer roll.

Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

John 21:25



## Character T-Shirt Design Challenge

Design a book-inspired T-shirt  
using your own template or the one provided.

The design should be based on your chosen character from a  
fiction or non-fiction book.

You may use illustrations, symbols, quotes, or colours that  
represent your chosen character.

Alongside your design, please include a short written  
explanation (150 words) explaining:

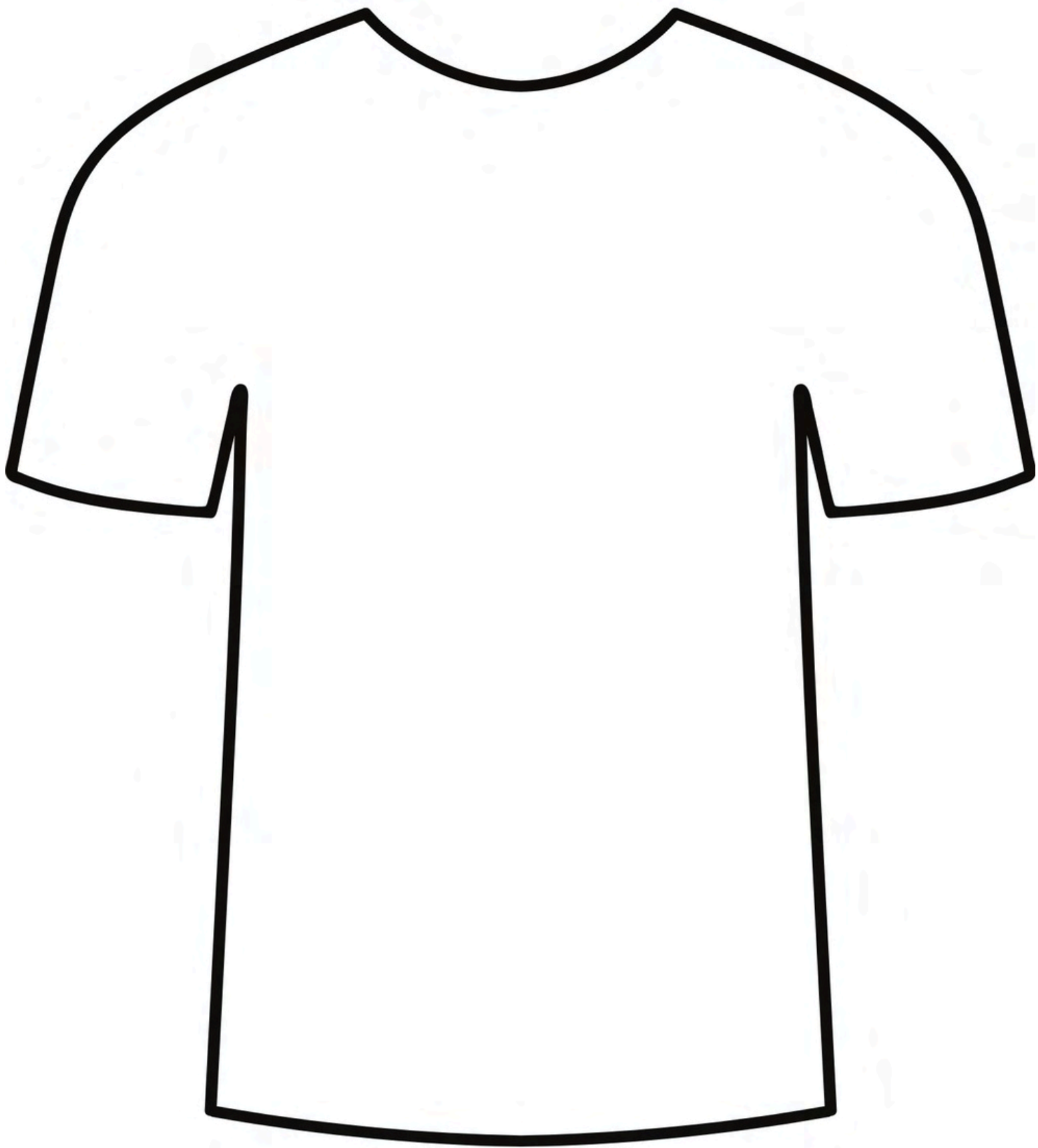
Why you chose this character?

What makes them interesting or important to you?

How your design reflects the character?

What emotions do you want your T-shirt to show?







## Risen By Freddie Gardham 11S

when the struggles of life circle like sharks enshrouding, in the darkest valley, lurking,  
when the serpent's sting is so piercing, so sharp, perpetual pain: seldom stops hurting,  
when restricted, swaddled, there is a flame, a tabernacle, a sanctifying sanctuary.  
Christ rose as a bandage, eternal, filling the God-shaped hole: Christ rose for that.

when you feel so bitterly alone, like the world is just a boulder crushing your dreams,  
when the media's doom, darkness, has destroyed the light of your love, or so it seems,  
when all is lost, there is an eternal spark found: a burning, radiant, glowing heart in Him.  
Christ rose, light for the shadows, the globe's growing seclusion: Christ rose for that.

when our consuming crosses feel so heavy, spine-breaking, when nothing else matters,  
when the world's woeful weight crushes your rounded, hunched, bleeding shoulders,  
there is no weight. no colossal length, just His mercy, a force of goodness, all strength.  
Christ rose, graceful, sacred, raising to the Father all our Crosses: Christ rose for that.

when the screeching sins chain my freedom to a foreign, fatigued, fruitless country,  
when my forever guilt consumes, all ambition is anguish, who is looking out for me?  
when my snow-white garment, Christ's new day, is turned sin-red... clean. will I ever be?  
Christ rose, His tomb the grave for all sin, all shame; the last repent: Christ rose for that.

when the phones forever buzz, the crowds chant, every wall closes in, the joy dies out,  
when your voice gives up, whilst, when against it all, you just want to scream, to shout,  
His voice, a forever whisp of wisdom, superior, the Bible, always gifting another choice.  
Christ rose, His Word sounding serenely through the crushing noise: Christ rose for that.

when laughter and smiles and friendship stop, the bliss fades, the sky turns dull, dark,  
when the monsters, the melancholy, the mourning returns, no children play in the park,  
when sadness is a tsunami, devastation, a dust storm, He is a shelter, for you, for me.  
Christ rose raising from the scarred face of the earth all sadness: Christ rose for that.

when the dogs' jaws are shattering each night: my distant demons. closer. closer.  
when the darkness of the night tries to stain my restless heart, I feel Him, I do not stir,  
when His stone was rolled, it crushed all such suffering: no terror... peaceful, hushed.  
Christ rose to hush my hurting heart, to heal the wounds of mankind: Christ rose for me.

when the exams silently creep up on you, when the turmoil, the conflict echoes around,  
when you are drowned, when the chilling chimes of death seem to ceaselessly sound,  
when your ears are feeble fountains of fear, there is a beacon, a beacon of hope, of ours.  
Christ rose, a phantom from nonsense, every tongue, joy, confess: Christ rose for you.

when He has Risen. now. when the passion is over, when the demons are banished,  
when the original blemish, juggernaut, valley of death. mar. has been wiped: vanished,  
when all peace is won, and the Lamb's song is in every nation, even silently, sung. Now.

CHRIST IS RISEN. Alleluia!

He is not here, he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay

Matthew 28:6



## Screens and Footsteps by Jaylen P

A child learns the world through a  
glowing screen,  
thumbs fluent before words find shape.  
News hums in the background like  
weather,  
always there, never waiting

Shoelaces come undone, retied.  
A scraped knee fades to a story.  
Homework stacks like bricks,  
each one reaching weight and  
balance.

Friends arrive as usernames,  
leave as echoes in a chat.  
The clock keeps honest time,  
even when days feel bent.

Growing happens between updates-  
in breaths, in choices, in standing back  
up.  
No pause button, no rewind,  
just the next step forward

Somehow, through storms and  
silence,  
life keeps walking.  
Not cruel, not kind.  
Simply going on.

### Commentary:

Jaylen's poem feels very 'current'. It shows real depth and honesty. It's impressive how he is balancing revision with his love of poetry; it says so much about his work ethic, focus, and genuine passion for poetry.



## Student - led lunchtime clubs in the library

12:50 - 13:25

EVERY DAY



**PUZZLE  
CLUB**

MONDAY



**Dungeons &  
Dragons RPG**  
by Michael and Kaitlyn

WEDNESDAY



**CRAFT CLUB**

THURSDAY



**MANGA CLUB**  
by Sureya and Gabriel

FRIDAY



**Dungeons &  
Dragons RPG**  
by Michael and Kaitlyn

# PASTORAL CARE, MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING



# FREE WEBINAR

## FOR PARENTS/ CARERS

of secondary aged children to support  
with mental health and wellbeing.

Provided by your Mental Health Support Team

@EssexMHST\_and\_SETcamhs

[bit.ly/4ozRciL](https://bit.ly/4ozRciL)



### Coming up in April

Understanding Anxiety & Emotional  
Based School Avoidance (EBSA)

22<sup>nd</sup> April 6:30 pm

How to Support your Child  
Around Exam Anxiety

27<sup>th</sup> April 10 am





## 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>



# SOCIAL MEDIA



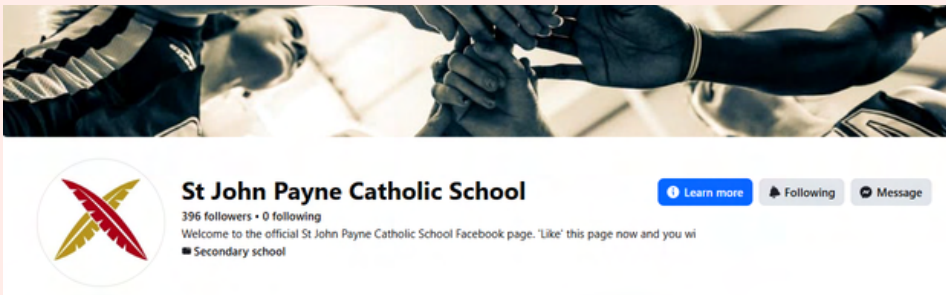
# SJP SOCIAL MEDIA



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.





## Student Media Team

### **Celebrating Our Student Media Team: Leading the Way in Safe and Responsible Social Media**

At St John Payne Catholic School, we are proud to shine a spotlight on our growing Student Media Team. An enthusiastic group of young creators who are helping to shape the way we share the life of our school with our wider community. This initiative places students at the heart of our storytelling, giving them a real voice while teaching them the importance of responsible and safe engagement online.

Our team is led by a committed group of Year 12 supervisors, who provide guidance, support and creative direction to our newest Student Ambassadors in Year 7. Together, they can be found across the school capturing the daily moments that reflect our vibrant community: learning in action, acts of kindness, extracurricular achievements, and the faith-filled ethos that underpins everything we do.

But this project is about more than just content creation. In a digital age where social media plays an increasingly significant role in young people's lives, we are committed to ensuring our students learn how to navigate online spaces safely and confidently. By involving them directly in the production process, we are equipping them with essential skills such as:

- Understanding online safety and digital footprint awareness
- Recognising the importance of consent and respectful representation
- Developing teamwork, communication and leadership
- Using creativity and technology in a positive, constructive way

Through hands-on experience, our students learn not just what good content looks like, but why responsible digital behaviour matters.

We are incredibly proud of both our Year 12 supervisors for their maturity and leadership, and our Year 7 Ambassadors for their enthusiasm and fresh perspective. Their collaboration embodies the SJP spirit of community, stewardship and growth.

As our Student Media Team continues to develop, we look forward to sharing more student-led content that celebrates the daily life of our school—created safely, thoughtfully, and with pride.

Click the icons to follow along:

