

Issue No. 13

Week Ending 14 December 2007
Learning Programme Unit 2/7

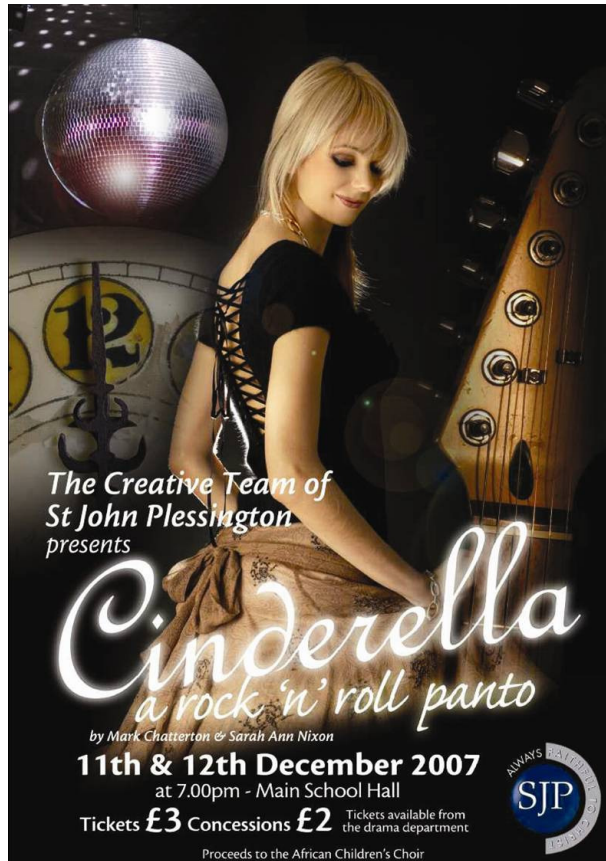
CINDERELLA

Theme for the Week:

Advent

We are in the season of Advent – the time when we wait to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ. It is probably the time when most of us are doing our Christmas shopping, writing Christmas cards and deciding how we are going to spend our time during the Christmas holidays. All of this is good! It is a time to enjoy and to look forward to the Christmas celebrations. Yet, Advent is probably the time when we are most busy forgetting the reason for buying presents, for writing cards, for decorating our houses.... We sometimes forget about Jesus.

Perhaps over the next few weeks we can find ways of remembering the celebration of his birth – perhaps by buying a nativity set to display in our homes or by trying to send religious Christmas cards to our friends and families, or by saying a prayer each morning: *Lord Jesus, help me to remember you this day. Amen*



This week sees the production of our annual Christmas Panto. This year we have gone for Cinderella, a timeless tale of the triumph of hope over adversity! A cast and crew of thousands have been working together tirelessly over the last few months to bring to the stage this traditional British Panto, only this time with a special SJP twist! The production has involved superb collaboration between our Music and Drama departments and

has brought together a huge group of pupils working on stage and behind the scenes to great effect. Rehearsals have been very intense and now the whole team is looking forward to bringing the production to life. We have three showings this week, with the curtain rising for the first time on Monday morning for a matinee performance for pupils from our main Partner Primaries. On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, we present two Evening performances which will play to packed houses and special guests.

We look forward to seeing those of you who have been lucky enough to get tickets. If you haven't managed to, get in touch with Ms Morris who is holding a handful of places for Tuesday. There may just be an odd one left for a lucky theatre-goer!

Mass & Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer will take place every Tuesday and Thursday in the Chapel during Advent from 8.20 – 8.35.

It might be a good opportunity to focus on Advent and the spiritual aspect of Christmas.

HERE COMES CHRISTMAS



Some pictures from our fabulous Here Comes Christmas spectacular last week. Members of the College and wider community were out in full force to help us raise more than £10,000 for a range of charitable causes.

Thanks to everybody involved for a great team effort!



JANUARY: RECYCLING MOBILE PHONES TO RAISE FUNDS

If every student at SJP donated one old phone, we could raise £3,250



After all the excitement of receiving a brand new phone for Christmas, remember to donate your old phone to our campaign. SJP are taking part in the 'Foneclub' mobile phone recycling initiative by collecting old and unwanted mobile phones in order to raise funds for more environmentally friendly initiatives. SJP will receive £2.50 for every handset received through the scheme, and not only will we be raising money, we will be helping to protect the environment and potentially provide vital means of communication in developing countries. This is not limited to Pupils. Parents, friends, relatives and anyone else who has some dusty old phones tucked away in the drawer can deposit them with us.

What happens to the phones:

The recycled handsets are re-used around the world. In developing countries, getting a fixed landline can be expensive: Second hand mobiles are an affordable and sustainable means of communication that help businesses to run more efficiently and families to stay in touch more easily.

For more information, please contact Paula Phillips, Head of Science, or any of the College council and Eco team

WORD OF THE WEEK

Eponymous

/ɪˈpɒnɪm ss/

• **adjective 1** (of a person) giving their name to something. **2** (of a thing) named after a particular person.

E.g. *David Copperfield*, the eponymous hero of Charles Dickens's novel.



Numeracy Brainteaser

Last Week's Solution : 9 hours 40 mins

Last Week's Winner : Sam O'Toole

This Week's Brainteaser:

You may have some rabbits and pigeons. In total there are 7 heads and 18 legs. How many rabbits do you have?

Answers to Miss Hodges in Room MA2 by Friday 14 December. All correct answers will be put into a draw to win a £5 gift voucher for WH Smiths.

Literacy quiz:

Doublets

Doublets is a game which was invented by Lewis Carroll, who described it in these words: 'Two words are proposed, of the same length; and the puzzle consists in linking these together by interposing other words, each of which shall differ from the next word in *one letter only*. . . . As an example, the word 'head' may be changed into 'tail' by interposing the words 'heal, teal, tell, tall.' Thus Carroll changed 'head' into 'tail' in five moves:

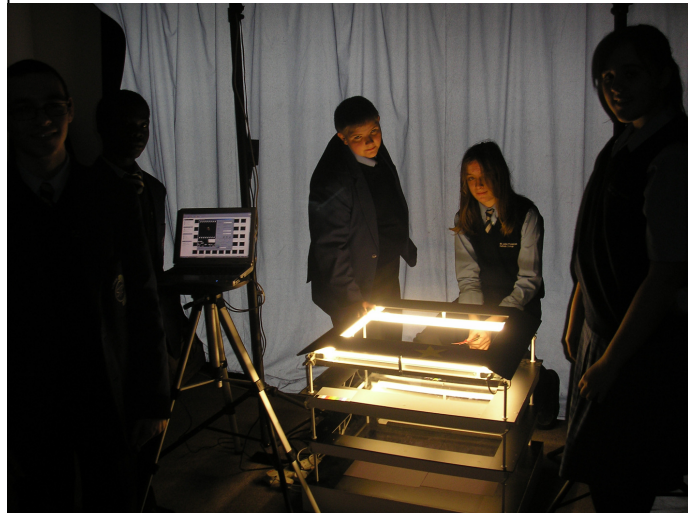
HEAD → HEAL → TEAL → TELL → TALL → TAIL

Try to make the following transformations in the specified number of moves.

1. Change CAT into DOG in three moves.
2. Change BOY into MAN in three moves.
3. Change HARD into EASY in five moves.
4. Change EAST into WEST in three moves.
5. Change ONE into TWO in eight moves.
6. Change BREAD into TOAST in seven moves.
7. Change SICK into WELL in four moves.
8. Change RICH into POOR in six moves.
9. Change GRASS into GREEN in seven moves.
10. Change TREE into WOOD in eight moves.

Y10 STUDENTS WORK ON ANIMATION!

Year 10 GCSE Pupils have been working this term with animation film maker Mark Fleming and his 'Studioscope' company on an animation project to support this years SJP Christmas Pantomime production of 'Cinderella'. The work will form part of student's coursework and will be entered in the Wirral Schools Film Festival in 2008, where Lord Puttnam the Labour Peer and BAFTA and Academy Award winning film producer will be the Guest of Honour. Our students are pictured working on the Stop-Frame filming process.



Answers:

1. Cat-cot-dot-dog or cat-cot-cog-dog
2. Boy-bay-may-man or boy-bay-ban-man
3. Hard-card-cart-cast-east-easy
4. East-past-pest-west or east-last-lest-west
5. One-owe-eye-dye-doe-toe-too-two
6. Bread-break-bleak-bleat-blest—blast-boast-toast
7. Sick-silk-sill-will-well
8. Rich-rick-rock-rook-book-boor-poor
9. Grass-crass-cress-tress-trees-treed-greed-green
10. Tree-free-fee-fled-fee-d-wood or tree-free-fee-fled-feed-fend-fond-food-wood

COLLEGE CAROL SERVICE

Jesus Amongst Us

The College Carol Service will take place at 7:00pm on Wednesday 19th December in College Hall. The service will be an opportunity to reflect and pray, as well as to join in singing traditional Christmas Carols and hearing the Christmas story.



THE OVAL, HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Can we remind you that the new one-way system and parking restrictions are fully enforceable by the Police and the Council's parking enforcement contractor respectively. The 'echelon' parking spaces on the access road operate on a reverse-in basis, as required by the appropriate road safety audit guidance.

A new overflow car park, providing an additional 52 spaces has been constructed close to the school, behind the Oval Gatehouse. This will be accessible once the refurbishment works to the sports centre are completed sometime in the Near Year.

'MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING' AUDITIONS!

This week Year 9 pupils auditioned for a part in the forthcoming Shakespeare production of Much Ado About Nothing. The play will be performed for Year 9 pupils in the spring, as part of their SAT's preparation. The casting process was very difficult due to the amazing talent of all those who auditioned. Well done to those pupils who have now been cast as the following:

Leonato:	Edd Kirke
Benedick:	Aaron McCready
Hero:	Beth Blackley
Messenger & Ursula:	Charlotte Baxter
Margaret:	Ellie Ruddy
Claudio:	Kate Murphy
Don Pedro:	Olivia Webster
Antonio:	Lauren Dean
Friar:	Eimer Tudor
Beatrice:	Rachel McAsey

I look forward to rehearsing with you after Christmas!

If you are in Year 9 and you would like to get involved either on stage or behind the scenes, please come and see Miss Rossiter.

WELL DONE!

Tom Wingfield, 9JA has been selected for Wirral Schools Under 14 Football Squad. He is a talented left sided attacking player who is dedicated and demonstrates a positive, determined sporting attitude. This is a fantastic achievement and we wish him every success.



WEEKEND RESIDENTIAL

A group of 25 Year 12 Students attended a weekend residential from 16th to 18th November in Barnstondale Centre, Barnston, with Weston Spirit. On the residential, students were able to explore the role and responsibilities of a peer mentor. The students enjoyed three days of team building activities, exploring qualities that make a good peer mentor, and most importantly had fun. This weekend gave the Year 12 students the self-confidence and assurance to go into College and mentor year 7 students. Peer mentoring has been popular in SJP for a number of years as it gives Year 12 and 13 students the opportunity to work with Year 7 pupils. Activities vary from helping students with homework, getting students involved in extra curricular activities and being, in short, a role model.

The SJP Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

www.itslearning.com

We are delighted to be launching our latest teaching and learning tool this week – our very own VLE. Once again this puts SJP at the cutting edge of educational initiatives, well ahead of the Government's intention of seeing a VLE in all schools by September 2008.

Our VLE will give all our Pupils the opportunity to benefit from 'anytime and anywhere learning' by using the internet to keep up to date with their work. Increasingly SJP teachers will be using our VLE to set work for Pupils, Pupils will submit completed work to their teachers on our VLE and teachers will be able to track the progress being made by each individual student. Pupils will always be able to go back to resources used in lessons, including any presentations, so making revision so much easier.



All Pupils will be given their own usernames, passwords and an initial guide to our VLE in their ICT lessons over the next two weeks.



The first task will be a simple one to get everybody going – a snapshot survey on proposed changes to the lunchtime menu. This will be another powerful benefit of our VLE, being able to gauge student opinion quickly on a range of issues so enhancing the impact of student voice in decision making at SJP.

The key benefits anticipated over time from our VLE are:

- Pupils will develop independent learning skills and have more control over how and when they work.

- Absent Pupils can continue their learning from home, with work set by the teacher on our VLE, and marked and returned within our VLE.
- Pupils won't be able to forget to bring their work in, or lose it!
- Pupils will be able to access learning materials created by their teachers, outside lesson time and from locations such as a library and home.
- Pupils will be able to store work and notes online for use in assignments, homework and revision, outside normal school hours.
- Pupils will be able to work at their own pace and with a wider choice of learning styles, through a more personalised curriculum.
- Pupils will be able to communicate by email and participate in live discussions and forums with other Pupils and teachers, in a secure environment.
- Parents can access their child's personal home page to keep track of their work, their progress and the curriculum.
- Parents can participate in their child's learning and have another way of keeping in touch with the College.

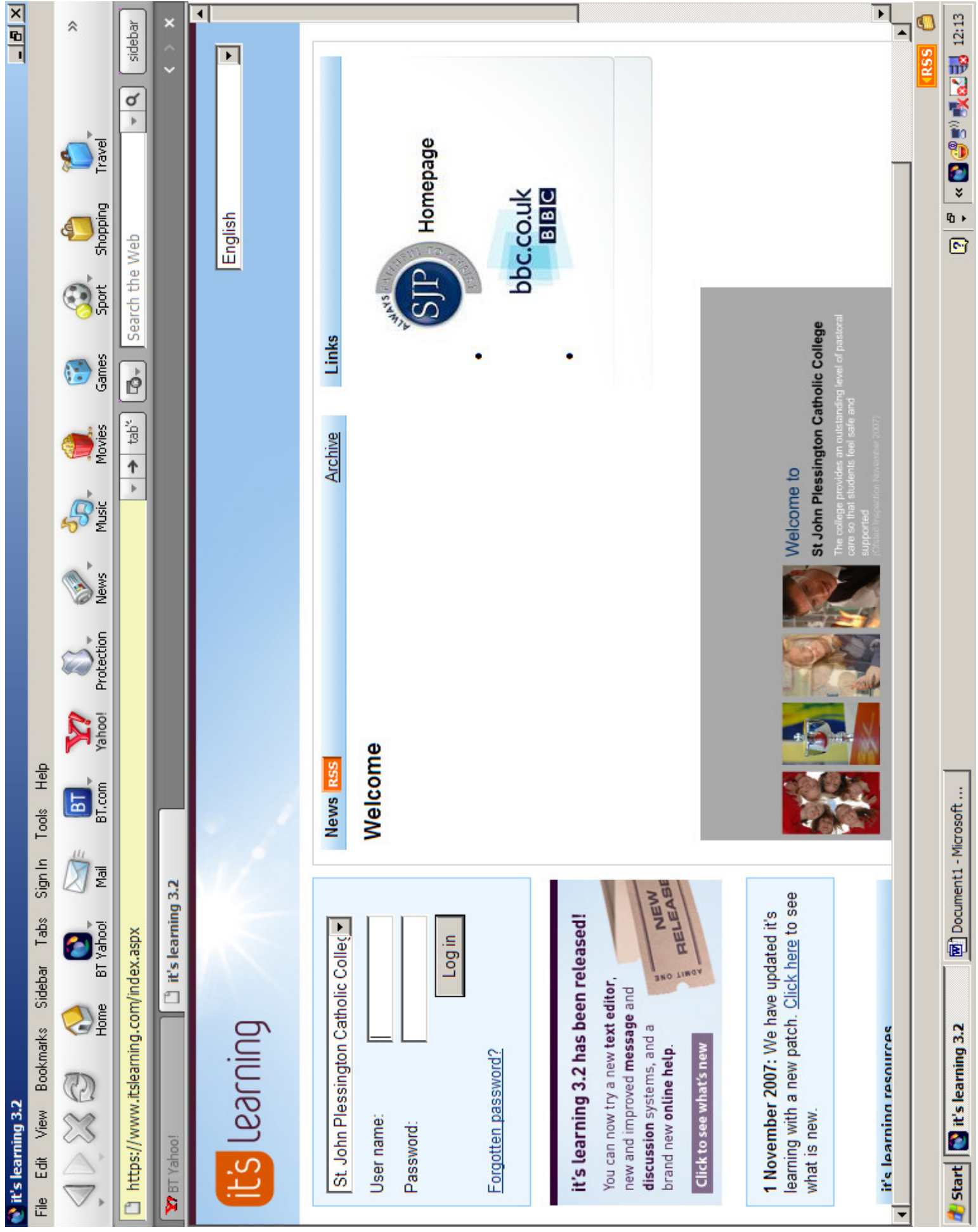
‘Anywhere, anytime learning’.

SJP is an ‘outstanding College where exceptional things happen’. Our VLE will underpin our Specialist School status as a Technology and Humanities College and keep us at the forefront of educational innovation, to the benefit of all of our Pupils and Parents.

Our VLE can be accessed easily enough by:

- clicking on the VLE link on our website www.stjohnplessington.com or by putting the VLE address www.itslearning.com into the address bar as shown overleaf.

The next page shows the opening page of our VLE before a student has put in either user name or password.



St John Plessington Catholic College

User name: [input]
Password: [input]
Log in

[Forgotten password?](#)

it's learning 3.2 has been released!

You can now try a new text editor, new and improved message and discussion systems, and a brand new online help.

[Click to see what's new](#)

1 November 2007: We have updated it's learning with a new patch. [Click here](#) to see what is new.

[it's learning resources](#)

News **RSS**

Archive

Links

Welcome



Welcome to

St John Plessington Catholic College

The college provides an outstanding level of pastoral care so that students feel safe and supported.
(Ofsted inspection November 2007)