



Special Open Evening Edition - Sept 2019

NEWSLETTER

All the news from St John Plessington Catholic College

"Jewels in the crown" GCSE & A Level Results

SJP Pupils Celebrate another set of Outstanding Results!

Congratulations goes to both our recent 2019 GCSE and A level cohorts, who finish their courses with much to celebrate. Our Progress 8 score of **+0.41** for Year 11 puts us as the highest performing comprehensive school on the Wirral, including some of the grammar schools. This measure reflects the stretch and challenge our pupils are subject to at SJP, which has resulted in them, on average, achieving almost half a grade higher at GCSE than their peers with similar starting points nationally. We welcome a large majority of them in to our vibrant Sixth Form as they embark on Level 3 subjects. Our outgoing Year 13 celebrate another year of achieving the grades required for all of their first choice universities or apprenticeships, with exciting prospects awaiting them. We wish them all the very best for the future; they will be sorely missed!



Conway

In January our Year 7 pupils took part in a brilliant three day trip to the Conway Centre in Anglesey for a First Steps Experience.

We arrived after a coach journey round the picturesque coastline of North Wales to our base, set in beautiful countryside. After lunch it was straight out to our activities. Throughout our stay, pupils enjoyed taking part in canoeing, kayaking, raft building, zipline, climbing wall, mountain biking, bush craft, high ropes, and abseil.

In our evening free time we enjoyed a movie night and a disco. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their stay, having overcome their fears, developed their teamwork and leadership skills and created memories that will last a lifetime.

We look forward to doing it all over again in January 2020



This year, the Year 13 Prom was held at the 'Hilton Hotel in Liverpool One.

The evening roared into action as the girls, as glamorous as ever, in their fabulous gowns and the boys dressed to impress in their sharp suits started to arrive. After a sumptuous three course meal, pupils enjoyed an evening of celebrating, reminiscing and farewells. The pupils were a credit to the school on the evening, and it has been a pleasure to see them grow into the young adults they are today. Finally, the disco was cranked up a level and with the dancing lasting long into the night, the evening proved a fitting end to a fantastic 7 years.



Sporting Success

It has been an exciting year for our football teams with our Years 7 & 8 making it to the Wirral Cup finals and our girls making it to the EFL Girls Cup.

Year 7 played their final against Mosslands High School. It was a tough game as they found themselves one-nil down after 2 minutes and went into the break losing. As the second half kicked off it got worse as Mosslands made it two-nil. After a change in formation the Year 7s put in an excellent second-half performance as they went on to win the game four-two. A magnificent comeback!



The Year 8 team put in an impressive performance to win their Wirral Cup final versus Bebington High School. After a nervy opening five minutes the game started to open up and they went on to win the game seven-three, with Leo Hamlet scoring five in an impressive display.

A mixture of year 7 & 8 girls were crowned EFL Girl's Club Final winners, following a narrow two-one, victory over Weatherhead, which meant they would represent Tranmere Rovers in the EFL Girls' Cup in Stoke. The girls just missed out on a place in the final after winning three and losing to the runners up Port Vale. The girls represented the school impeccably and were unlucky on the day not to have progressed to the final.

Congratulations to all our sporting heroes!

SJP fundraising provides vital support in the community.

Once again Students and Staff at SJP have risen to the challenge and have raised **£10,000** to support the work of the Wirral Foodbank. The SJP fundraising helps support the Wirral Foodbank Plus Project to tackle food poverty in Wirral.

The Foodbank Plus project helps individuals with the issues they have, that lead them to need an emergency food parcel. It helps them resolve their practical issues and maximise their income, reduce their debts, solve housing and other issues.

Richard Roberts, Wirral Foodbank Manager says, "More and more people are in need of support to resolve their issues. This project means we can do more to stop people suffering as a result of food poverty. It is thanks to wonderful Fundraising of SJP that we can help fund a Caseworker." Over the past two years Students and Staff at SJP have raised the amazing total of **£20,000**. Well done SJP!



Elftastic Show

In December, the St John Plessington production of 'Buddy the Elf' premiered to capacity audiences. The cast members of this show worked hard for weeks to prepare for the pantomime, and they certainly lived up to the high standards set by previous shows. SJP's pantomimes really are the best on the Wirral!

OH YES THEY ARE! Of course, a show of this quality needs more than excellent performers, so a massive congratulations goes out to all the members of staff involved in this "ELFTASTIC" performance!



Youth Member of Parliament

Olivia in Year 11 was elected as a Youth Member of Parliament in March.

Olivia said she wanted to take this role to ensure that all pupils voices are heard and can begin to speak about issues which affect them.

She began her experience leading up to becoming an YMP by joining a Youth Voice group. Now that Olivia is a YMP she will be attending regular meetings with the council officials and will also visiting the House of Commons where she will debate on issues that affect the Wirral.



Primary Dance

In March, our Year 10 girls worked with primary schools as part of their leadership module in PE and taught them the dances they had been choreographing in lessons. The primary schools came to SJP to showcase their dances. It was a fantastic show and a reflection of the leadership potential of our young students.

Operation Christmas Child

Each year as Christmas approaches, SJP begin collecting and packing shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. This year we packed and sent an amazing **275** shoe boxes.

Well done, everyone.



The Great 'Wow' of China

This year saw not just one, but two groups of SJP students jetting off to the far east on expeditions to China!

In October, a group of 18 students headed to Shanghai and immediately set out to see the sights, including the Bund with its amazing skyline and architecture before heading to Taicang where we spent three days in our sister school, Taicang No2 Middle School. We were treated to music and art lessons and took part in their Sports' Day, winning at Tug of War and the relay race!

In March, 30 students headed to Beijing. The first stop was the Capital Museum to educate ourselves a little more about the history of China.

Beijing Zoo was our afternoon destination and a highlight was witnessing the pandas there. Day three took us to the Great Wall – probably a highlight for all. The afternoon was our flight to Kunming to visit our sister school for the next 3 days. During our 3 day stay, the classroom activities laid on for us were fantastic! Over the next couple of days, we experienced robot making, Mandarin lessons, traditional paper cutting, traditional music playing, calligraphy Chinese writing and some sorry attempts at traditional lotus flower painting!



The trip to our sister school ended with a ceremony, which is very important in China as is the sharing of gifts (a token of respect shown between the visitors and hosts).

Our students gained so much from this experience and learnt an awful lot about themselves as well as a whole new culture.



Barcelona

In March, 20 of our Year 9 & 10 Spanish pupils arrived for a study tour of Barcelona.

On the next morning we were out bright and early to visit the breath taking Parc Guell. The afternoon was spent exploring La Sagrada Familia cathedral where pupils were given an audio tour. That evening we visited Las Ramblas, browsed the stalls and shops and ate dinner in a local restaurant.

Thursday was also extremely busy, pupils started the day with a visit to the Nou Camp stadium where we toured the ground and museum.

The afternoon was spent in 'Poble Espanyol', a Spanish village created with the desire to concentrate on the soul of Spain.

Friday morning pupils visited Barcelona Zoo and viewed many different animals as well as spending some time in the park. Lunch was at Hard Rock Café and was followed by a visit to Sephora.



Fun and Frolics in France!

In February, 113 of our pupils arrived at Lésigny near Paris and stayed in the 'Chateau de Grande Romaine'.

On day one the pupils spent the morning at the chateau taking part in a variety of outdoor activities. Pupils had the chance to try a range of activities including abseiling, climbing and archery and then that afternoon some pupils visited 'Stade de France' where pupils had a guided tour of the entire stadium.

Thursday entailed climbing the Arc de Triomphe and climbed the 284 steps to the top while other pupils chose to tour the magnificent Notre Dame cathedral.

In the evening they cruised down the Rive Seine and visited the Eiffel Tower before spending Saturday at Disneyland. The jam-packed trip was a great success all round!

