

Friday 7 April

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 6



## Grease the Musical

*We got chills! It was electrifying!*

We got chills! It was electrifying! It was Greased Lightning! That's right, this term we showcased SJP's performance of Grease the Musical! For two evenings, members of the cast and band worked their socks off to sold out audiences and had them tapping their feet and singing along to well known numbers from the show as well as some new songs to get stuck in their heads! Students rehearsed and developed the show for months and their hard work and dedication were on stage for all to see. We were blown away by the talent on show and by just how well every member of the cast worked together. From the technical teams, to the band, to the dance troupe and to the acting cast, every pupil had their part to play and did so

with excellence and humility. It was fantastic to see so many students come together with a shared goal of performing the best play possible. Any one who saw Grease will definitely testify to the superb quality of the show and the community feel of all involved. This of course extends to the staff who also performed - a once in a lifetime viewing experience which had the audience on their feet! If you missed it, be sure to catch up on the show via our Youtube channel when it is posted. A big well done to everyone involved - you are all superstars and have done yourselves proud!



# Lion King Workshop

*Performance of a lifetime*



Over the last few weeks we have headed to Manchester's Palace Theatre to see the touring performance of The Lion King. Pupils were stunned by the performance and sat transfixed at the spectacle unfolding on stage. It was an outstanding performance and inspired all pupils on the trip, many of whom have already signed up for the next one! It was fascinating to see pupils discussing the show and their favourite scenes and being so excited by live theatre! Long may it continue!

Following on from this, 30 of our pupils got to experience a once in a lifetime opportunity working with members of Disney's The Lion King. For two hours pupils developed choreography to the infamous song 'He lives in you' whilst singing live. Pupils were focussed on developing the scene taken from the live show and worked hard to make sure their singing and movement were on form for the final performance. The question and answer session at the end also made sure that pupils could ask their burning questions about life in the performing arts industry and how they can be preparing now for their future careers.

Our next trip is already advertised via parentmail and is open to pupils from year 8 upwards, due to age guidance on the show. The show is called 'Ocean at the end of the lane' and tickets for the pre-show discussion, performance itself and coach travel is just £25. It is first come, first served and is open to any pupil at SJP so please do sign up for a place!



## LIPA

*Discovering the magic of performing*

On Monday 27th March, it was 'National Theatre Day' and to celebrate the Drama Department have invited LIPA Liverpool into SJP to share their Theatre in Education pieces with our year 8 pupils.

All pupils in year 8 will watch a performance and participate in discussions and activities centred round various PHSCE topics aimed at raising their awareness and understanding of issues which directly affect them and their peers.

Pupils have been fantastic so far in engaging in tasks and sharing their opinions with the team from LIPA. It is always a fantastic day when students from LIPA perform for our pupils!



## 'What He's Done'

*HFCMAT come together for Easter*

The SJP School Choir recorded and filmed their performance of 'What He's Done' for the HFCMAT Easter celebration. The students are excited for everyone to hear it and the performance will be available on Good Friday on the school's social media channels - Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, all under the handle 'SJPHedTeacher'.

Watch the special performance here - <https://youtu.be/tzz6W1cFiyc>



## 200 pupils Rewarded

*Rock 'n' Roll with Grease the Musical*

Congratulations to over 200 pupils who were rewarded for always being ready, respectful and safe during this term! Pupils were treated to a special performance of Grease the Musical with a talented cast and band. Well done to all involved, keep up the great work!



## Chester Uni Taster Day

*Hazards*

Year 12 had an amazing morning at the Hazards Taster Day at Chester University! Hearing from geography experts and students has been so insightful. Thank you for having us and inspiring our future studies!



# Chris Lubbe Talks

*SJP Students inspired by visit from Mandela's former body guard*

Recently, students at St John Plessington Catholic College, Bebington, Wirral, were enthralled with a visit from Chris Lubbe, the former bodyguard of South African activist and politician, Nelson Mandela.

The school invited Chris to speak to all year groups following their work in personal development sessions regarding the theme 'Show Racism the Red Card'.

He discussed his personal life, including what it was like growing up in South Africa during the apartheid, his time working as Nelson Mandela's bodyguard and everything following.

Having witnessed such brutality and discrimination first-hand through these experiences, Chris used storytelling to take students on a journey and demonstrate the importance of speaking up.

After listening to his incredible story and messages of hope and forgiveness, students had the opportunity to speak to Chris

on a more personal basis and ask further questions about his life and career as well as take photos together.

All year groups left the talks feeling both very inspired and encouraged to make a positive impact in society. They were also able to apply what they heard in their learning.

Throughout the curriculum at SJP, students are participating in ongoing work which explores what racism, prejudice and discrimination are, what forms exist and why it is wrong. It is the school's mission to be a Catholic College where every individual is highly valued and where care and concern for others is central to its work.

Matthew Jones, the Personal Development Coordinator at St John Plessington Catholic College, said:

*"We feel really lucky to have had Chris speak to our pupils. As a school, we are passionate about anti-discrimination education and know that our pupils felt that this experience was greatly beneficial."*

Head of School, Mr Peadar McLoughlin, commented:

*"It was a delight to welcome Chris to our school. Everything we do at SJP is guided by Gospel values of love, justice, faith, service and integrity, and he embodied just that. It's important for our students to have discussions about these issues and for them to learn about it first-hand from guest speakers brings a whole new level of understanding."*



## Library News

### World Book Day

Recently, we celebrated World Book Day at SJP Library. Pupils and staff were asked to bring in a book to swap, making good use of the 'Book Swap Trunk'. Pupils were also asked to bring in their favourite book and in keeping with this year's theme which was 'Everyone is a Reader', the wide range of titles chosen was impressive.

Jack (Yr 7) recently read 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' by JK Rowling and loved it. Having tried a number of genres, he was excited to tell me that he had finally found one he enjoyed and can't wait to start the second in the series, 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets'. Here is his review:

*"I think this is a good book because it is very intriguing. It includes a lot of detail and information that you won't find in the film. Once you've read one book, you want to start reading the whole series as it is full of mysteries and surprises. You don't expect the book to end the way it does".*



## From Merseyside to Magdalene

### Cambridge University Taster

On the March 20th some of our Year 10 and 11 students, from St John Plessington and St Mary's, were lucky enough to experience some 'taster' lectures presented by lecturers from Cambridge University.

Hosted at the Liverpool Maritime Museum, our students had a History lecture, explaining why 1066 was such an extraordinary year in British history. Most of us know about Harold and the arrow, but did you know that England had four different kings in that one year alone?

An anatomy lecture followed (not for the faint hearted), before six students currently studying at Magdalene College, all from the Merseyside area originally, gave us a fascinating insight into what life is like in one of the most prestigious universities in the world.

The message conveyed was that the journey from 'Merseyside to Magdalene' is possible for those students with the aptitude and attitude to get there. Watch this space!



## International Women's Day Workshop

### Women's empowerment

On Wednesday 8th March 2023 a group of 15 Year 7 and 8s attended an International Women's Day Festival which was run by the Liverpool Football Club Foundation. The 15 pupils took part in workshops that covered topics such as living a healthy and active lifestyle, physical and mental wellbeing work and positive affirmations.

The festival was a exciting day of celebrating all the brilliant contributions women have made to sport and teaching young people to be comfortable with who

they are! The pupils also took part in various sports activities such as dodgeball, football and learning some self-defence skills. The pupils reported that they had a fantastic time with the foundation and "loved learning about positive affirmations and being kind to yourself". We are looking forward to working with the Liverpool Foundation over this academic year at SJP.



## Paris Trip 2023

*Students embark on an unforgettable adventure in the City of Light*

Just before the half term break, 123 of our pupils travelled by coach and ferry to Lésigny near Paris. Everyone was very excited to arrive in France. We arrived at our accommodation 'Chateau de Grande Romaine' where we enjoyed settling in and having an evening meal.

On the next day some 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 archery tag, axe-throwing, buggy building and bush craft as well as visiting the idyllic French town of Brie-Comte Robert where pupils took part in a town trail, explored and visited local shops and cafés. They also had the opportunity to visit a French hypermarket.

Other pupils visited the breathtaking Chateau de Versailles this day which included time within the extensive grounds.

Sunday was also extremely busy, all pupils did a cruise of the River Seine and visited the Eiffel Tower. Many of our pupils dared to venture all of the way to the top this year, which was very impressive!

Some followed this by a visit to the Stade de France, France's national stadium where they enjoyed a full tour of the grounds including the changing rooms, presidential suite and even the prison! Other pupils opted to visit Cité des Sciences et de L'Industrie, a fully immersive and hands on science museum.

On Monday we spent the entire day at Disneyland in Paris visiting both the main Disneyland Park and also Walt Disney Studios.

Evenings were spent learning how to make crêpes, playing football and basketball on the outdoor courts and enjoying a fantastic last night disco.

The trip was a great success where all students were immersed in French culture and took every opportunity to practise their language skills.



## Ski Trip

*Les Deux Alpes skiing adventure*

SJP re-launched their annual Ski Trip for the first time since the lockdown. The last trip ran in 2020 and post lockdown we had also had another trip cancelled due to travel restrictions. Finally, 2023 was the year and we embarked on a trip to Les Deux Alpes in France. Due to the three year gap since our last trip, all pupils were beginners and for most, the first time they had been on the slopes. The week started as expected, falls, slips and slides apart, the sun was shining and all of the pupils were having fun. Our word for the week was "perseverance" and this is something that all the pupils showed in abundance. This led to everyone developing some brilliant skiing skills and pupils advanced quickly, meaning they were skiing at the highest point of the Alps on the Glacier to the trickiest parts of the snow park by showing their jumping skills.

Pupils also demonstrated superb maturity by eating dinner together every evening whilst sharing their funny stories of skiing that day and then participating in the evening activity. They included ice skating, quiz nights, movie nights, walking around the town, snow ball fights, pizza party and time in the games room.

All in all it was a fantastic trip and the pupils of SJP represented themselves and our school superbly. Here's to many more trips to come.



## Year 7 Disco

We recently held a Year 7 disco at our school, and it was an absolute blast! The disco was a great way for our Year 7 students to let loose and socialise with their peers in a safe and supervised environment.

The evening was filled with fun activities, great music, and refreshments. Students had the opportunity to show off their dance moves and mingle with new friends.

We are proud of our students for their positive attitudes and excellent behaviour during the disco. They represented our school with enthusiasm and respect. Our dedicated staff members ensured that the evening was a huge success, providing a fun and enjoyable experience for all involved.

The Year 7 disco was a great way for our students to build new friendships and enjoy a night of fun and laughter. We look forward to planning more events like this in the future, giving our students the chance to come together and make lasting memories.

## Creativity

Shaping development of creative habits



Last week our Creativity Ambassadors attended a conference at Our Lady of Pity Primary to shape development of Creative Habits for all, collaborating with other ambassadors from all school across the Trust.

## Year 9 Options Evening

*Choosing the right path!*

Our Year 9 Options was a huge success. We are grateful to all parents and students who attended and took the opportunity to learn more about the options available for their GCSEs. The evening included detailed presentations from our subject leaders, providing valuable insights into the various subjects and career paths.

For those who missed the evening, all the information presented is now available on our website. This includes the Year 9 guide, department videos, and the options form which needed to be completed by 27th March. We urge parents and students who have not completed the options form to do so as soon as possible to ensure that their preferred subjects are included in their GCSE curriculum.



## Positive Behaviour

*Liverpool legends put on a show*



We are thrilled to announce that several of our pupils were rewarded with free tickets to the LFC Legends, thanks to Liverpool Foundation to the game on Saturday, because of the students' consistent efforts.

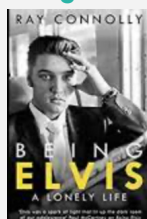
We are incredibly proud of our students for embodying these values and demonstrating exemplary behaviour both in and out of the classroom.

This opportunity not only rewards our students for their hard work, but also provides a unique and exciting experience for them to enjoy.



## Reading Focus

### Staff Recommendation: Mr Wellens Careers Lead Being Elvis: A Lonely Life by Ray Connolly



Even though 'The King' died tragically forty six years ago at the age of only forty two, the legend lives on. Elvis has sold more records since he died than when he was alive. 1950s America, and in fact the world, wasn't ready for him, but Presley didn't care. This book follows his humble beginnings. How he was brought up engulfed by poverty in Tupelo, Mississippi; how he became rich yet exploited, as the most famous face and voice on the planet. It explores how he combined rhythm and blues, country and gospel to create a new kind of music. The rest, as they say, is rock 'n' roll.

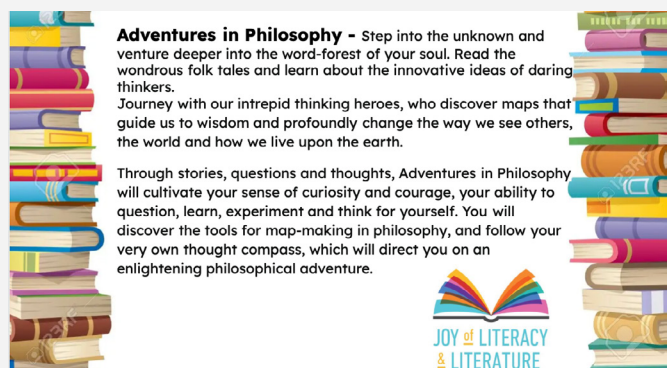
All titles are available in the library.

- See inside world religions by Alice Frith
- Religion around the world by Sonja Hagander
- Who let the Gods out? by Maz Evans
- 101 Ethical dilemma by Martin Cohen
- Buddhist stories for kids by Laura Burgess
- The proudest blue by Ibtihaj Muhammad
- A little history of philosophy by Nigel Warburton
- Philosophy made easy by Gerald Jones
- Notes from the end of everything by Roberts Pantano
- Who believe what? by Anna Wills



### Register & Read

After the Easter break we will be starting 'Register & Read' during morning form time with Years 7 to 10. Twice a week the day will begin with a 20 minute teacher-led reading session. Over the course of each academic year pupils will read three different books.



**Adventures in Philosophy** - Step into the unknown and venture deeper into the word-forest of your soul. Read the wondrous folk tales and learn about the innovative ideas of daring thinkers.

Journey with our intrepid thinking heroes, who discover maps that guide us to wisdom and profoundly change the way we see others, the world and how we live upon the earth.

Through stories, questions and thoughts, Adventures in Philosophy will cultivate your sense of curiosity and courage, your ability to question, learn, experiment and think for yourself. You will discover the tools for map-making in philosophy, and follow your very own thought compass, which will direct you on an enlightening philosophical adventure.



## Attendance Matters

### Attendance

95% 90% 85% 80%

### Number of lessons lost learning

9.5 19 28.5 38

### Number of lessons lost learning (for a five period day)

47.5 95 142.5 190

*Is 95% attendance good? This means that your child has still missed nearly 10 school days in one year. Over five years that would be nearly 50 days, this is almost a school term. Research suggests that '17 missed school days a year equals a drop in a grade in GCSE achievement' - DfE*

## Upcoming Events

*Dates for your diary!*

Mon 17 Apr	College Opens
Tue 18 Apr	British Music Experience - Liverpool (Y10)
Wed 19 Apr	Barcelona Trip Liverpool Central Library Trip (Y7-10)
Thu 20 Apr	Immunisation catch up (Y9,10,11)
Fri 21 Apr	Barcelona Trip returns
Mon 24 Apr	Y7 Conway 'First Steps' Residential
Tue 25 Apr	LJMU - Making Space Stem Event (Y10-13) Y7 Conway 'First Steps' Residential
Wed 26 Apr	Y7 Conway 'First Steps' Residential
Mon 1 May	School closed (Bank Holiday)

# CAREERS BULLETIN #16



## JOB OF THE WEEK - PARAMEDIC

The NHS have hundreds of different roles within their organisation and are undertaking a major recruitment drive at the moment. Paramedics respond to emergency calls and play a crucial role as part of the health service provided in this country.

Find out more by watching Nicola's story below:

<https://icould.com/stories/nicola-p/>

### Apprenticeships – Year 11

Arnold Clark (car/van hire) – Customer Service Apprenticeship – Liverpool

<https://apprenticeships.arnoldclark.com/job/apprentice-customer-service-advisor-30662.aspx>

Various engineering apprenticeships (mainly Level 3):

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/1000123827>

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/1000123827>

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/1000131396>

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/1000143725>

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/1000133182>

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/1000142325>

### Year 12-13 Apprenticeships

#### Royal Air Force Logistics Webinar

RAF 'Logistics' involves working in areas that keep RAF personnel moving. If this is of interest to you, please find the link below to a webinar taking place on March 29th from 3pm to 4pm. You will hear about the different roles and what it's like to be an apprentice with the RAF.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_HezEopdSRdS1br0PUhIN9w](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HezEopdSRdS1br0PUhIN9w)

