

SJP NEWS



St John Plessington Pupils Shine at Awards Evening

Celebrating excellence, the Awards Evening at St John Plessington marked a triumphant return this year. It was a momentous occasion for 400 pupils from Y7-13 and ex-pupils as they came up on stage and were awarded their prizes by Sean Highdale, the former Liverpool midfielder, GB and Paralympian.

The occasion was also made special by the choir who provided us with a truly professional quality of singing. This Awards Evening brought home to us just how well our pupils are doing and reminded us that we have so much to celebrate at St John Plessington.



Year 7 Soars into STEM Adventures

Year 7 pupils were taken off timetable for part of the day today and took part in a STEM careers workshop hosted by the Engineering Development Trust (EDT). They explored their own personality make-ups before being asked to consider 'soft' skills (such as listening, communication, teamwork) and how these might be improved. Then came the STEM design challenge, where our pupils came up with some really innovative and creative ideas on how to improve health services. Fully sponsored by the global company Avantor, this type of experience is designed to get our young people thinking about what skills they will need and what they might be capable of in the future, as part of our on-going careers programme.



Food Club

Food Club have been very enthusiastic and in festive spirit making chocolate puff pastry Christmas trees. They are all developing their preparation and cooking skills brilliantly and have produced some fantastic results this term.



Empowering Historians



The History A level pupils SJP have been developing their presentation skills. Pupils have spent time researching and then working collaboratively to create resources for presentations. Students have now delivered their presentations, taking questions from other members of the class and receiving feedback from both the teacher and their peers. Well done Year 12....great to see you all growing in confidence !

Triumph in Mandarin



This term our Mandarin in Excellence pupils received the results of their 'Hurdle Tests' from last year and have been awarded with their certificates! A massive congratulations to all of these pupils who continue to exceed expectations with their effort and success.

English National Ballet Collaborates with St John Plessington Pupils

St John Plessington welcomed the English National Ballet to work with pupils who attended a theatre production of 'Giselle' in Manchester. Engaging in a creative workshop with live music, pupils worked on a showpiece set to be performed at the Empire in March the following year.



Pupils Stand Against Racism at 'Show Racism the Red Card' Workshop

St John Plessington pupils attended a 'Show Racism the Red Card' workshop at Tranmere Rovers. Led by Sixth Form sport representatives, pupils worked towards becoming 'change makers' and presented their ideas to a panel, contributing to the ongoing fight against racism.



Huw Secures Impressive Place in Schools Regional Biathlon



Huw, our talented athlete, showcased his prowess in the Schools Regional Biathlon in Redditch, completing the running leg with a phenomenal 2nd place finish. Congratulations to Huw on this outstanding achievement.

SJP's Sixth Formers Serve Generosity at Wirral Food Bank

A group of our incredible Sixth Formers took charge, delivering the food items collected across the College to the Wirral Food Bank. This charitable collection was a response to International Eradication of Poverty Day.

The volunteers and staff at the Food Bank expressed immense gratitude for the substantial contribution. They emphasized that, particularly during these challenging times for families, the generous donation would undoubtedly make an incredible difference.



St John Plessington Supports CAFOD Family Fast Day



In a charitable gesture, St John Plessington rallied support for CAFOD Family Fast Day. Staff and pupils participated in a soup lunch, contributing donations to CAFOD's crucial fundraising efforts. With the assistance of Sixth Formers, the school successfully raised £130 for this noble cause.

DofE Group 2 Displays Resilience in Wet Conditions

Despite a wet start, Group 2 of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award showcased unwavering resilience during their expedition. The pupils, undeterred by the weather, persevered and are on the verge of reaching their campsite. A true demonstration of determination and the spirit of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.



Year 7s Revel in Experience Afternoon



St John Plessington celebrated the transition of Year 7 pupils with a well-deserved experience afternoon. The event served as a testament to the seamless integration of these pupils into the school community, creating memorable moments for all.

Year 8 pupils Engage in Mini-Dash Leadership Event



Nine Year 8 pupils from St John Plessington participated in the Mini-Dash event, organised by the Diocesan Association of Secondary Headteachers. Focused on leadership qualities, pupils engaged in discussions with Headteachers, exploring the importance of leadership in Catholic Schools. The day culminated in preparations for a presentation on promoting Catholic Social Teaching at the school.

St John Plessington Welcomes Mental Health First Aiders

On World Mental Health Day, St John Plessington proudly announced the addition of two Mental Health First Aiders to provide additional support for pupils and staff. Trained to identify, understand, and assist individuals facing mental health challenges, the First Aiders bring a valuable resource to the school community.



SEND Coffee Morning

Thank you to all our parents/carers who attended our SEND coffee mornings, focusing on Speech Language and Communication. A special thanks to Louise Gilmartin from Liverpool Speech Therapy for being there to offer her advice and support. We hoped to see you all again for the next one!



Industry Level Media Suites Makeover

The Media Suites were updated at the start of the academic year with 30 brand new M2 chip, Apple iMacs. The software packages include Adobe editing suites for still and moving image productions which has enabled pupils to create industry standard music videos and magazine front covers in the first term. Apple has recognised the inspirational investment and as such will feature the college in an upcoming Apple Educational supplement. The range of colours has also been the cause of much excitement! The SJP Media Department are currently forging links with the Media & Film Dept. at Liverpool John Moores University, who use the same software, to enable pupils to develop their production skills in preparation for an Undergraduate course or an industry apprenticeship. Media pupils that started there this year have shared a behind the scenes shot from their up-coming documentary on 'Snips' which is due to play at selected film festivals in 2024!



Sumbuddies

It is a delight to see Sumbuddies up and running again for another academic year! During Enrichment, the Year 7 students have the chance to work with their newly trained member of the 6th Form as their 'Maths Buddy'. For the first few sessions we have been focusing on multiple representations of addition and subtraction calculations and the Sixth Form students have been putting their misconception spotting skills to the test! Together, the Year 7 pupils have been practising their



fluency with the calculations to gain more confidence with their maths work. We look forward to watching these pupils continue their excellent work into the New Year!

Year 7s Excel in Mrs Kennedy's Coding Club

In Mrs. Kennedy's coding club, Year 7 students have achieved a remarkable milestone, completing an impressive 1635 lines of code this week. Numerous certificates have been proudly awarded to our talented pupils for their outstanding efforts.



Music Mastery

Year 7 students have left Mr. Hughes and Mr. Jamieson in awe this term during their music lessons. They've mastered excellent vocal technique and grasped the significance of communal singing, recognizing the importance of hymns and religious songs. Their performance at the Welcome Mass was nothing short of phenomenal, leaving several staff members agreeing that it was the most uplifting singing ever heard from a Year 7 cohort!



Year 7 in 'Fly High' Retreat

As part of the Welcome programme for our New Year 7s, the RE department organised and supported an in-school retreat, delivered by the Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team. The theme for the two weeks was 'Fly High', focusing on all the God given gifts and talents the pupils have, reflecting on the words of Pope Francis; "Dear young people, do not bury your

talents, the gifts that God has given you. Do not be afraid to dream of great things." As part of these two weeks the Year 7 also celebrated their Year 7 Welcome Mass at St John's church, where the pupils shared these talents in prayer and song.



Year 12s Unleashed Creativity at 'Create Your Future' UCAS Event

Year 12 Design & Technology pupils embarked on an enlightening journey as they visited Manchester for the annual 'Create Your Future' UCAS event. Exploring a myriad of University courses in design, media, and the Arts, the pupils also delved into the Museum of Science and Industry. The day proved to be both informative and inspiring, igniting the spark of creativity among these budding designers.



St John Plessington Explores Gentrification in Geography Field Trip



Year 13 pupils immersed themselves in a Human Geography field trip to Liverpool, exploring the impacts of gentrification around the city. Despite a brief rain shower, the pupils engaged in meaningful discussions, highlighting the importance of leadership centred on prayer and Christ.

Sixth Form Taster Day

Year 11 pupils dedicated two days to immersive Six Form taster afternoons, eagerly preparing for the upcoming academic year. Engaging in various activities, pupils fully absorbed themselves in the vibrant atmosphere of Sixth Form life.



Year 12 STEM pupils Triumph in UK Space Design Competition



St John Plessington's Year 12 STEM pupils excelled in the regional UK Space Design Competition at the University of Liverpool. Their innovative moon base design on the dark side of the moon secured victory, earning them a spot in the national finals. A commendable achievement for these budding scientists and engineers.

Getting into Science

St John Plessington collaborated with Liverpool University and the Education Endowment Foundation in a research venture exploring the influence of mentoring on Science GCSE results. In the past, some Year 11 pupils received personalised one-to-one mentoring and weekly tuition to bolster their scientific



progress. The experience proved not only beneficial but also enjoyable for both pupils and mentors.

Well done to Year 11 for their commendable efforts!

Year 7 Pupils Gear Up for Spanish Spelling Bee

Year 7 pupils at St John Plessington demonstrated dedication as they prepared for the upcoming Spanish Spelling Bee competition. Under the guidance of Señor Tagg, pupils eagerly learned new words, showcasing their linguistic skills in the competition.



St John Plessington Celebrates European Day of Languages



The celebration of the European Day of Languages continued at St John Plessington with diverse activities. Pupils enjoyed a French breakfast, Year 8 pupils tackled a Spanish phrase challenge, and Year 9 joined a broadcast by Routes into Languages, emphasising the importance of languages in their futures.

Spanish Language Comes to Life in Authentic Settings



Pupils at St John Plessington embraced Spanish conversational skills in authentic settings. Year ten and eleven pupils visited Lunya in Liverpool, engaging in Spanish conversations with staff while enjoying a range of delicious tapas. Year eight and nine pupils ventured to Twin Flavours Colombian restaurant, impressing with their spoken Spanish and sampling traditional Colombian dishes, drinks, and desserts.

International pupils Introduced to British Traditions

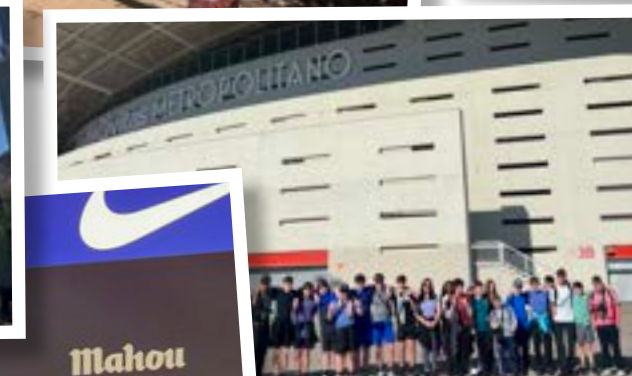
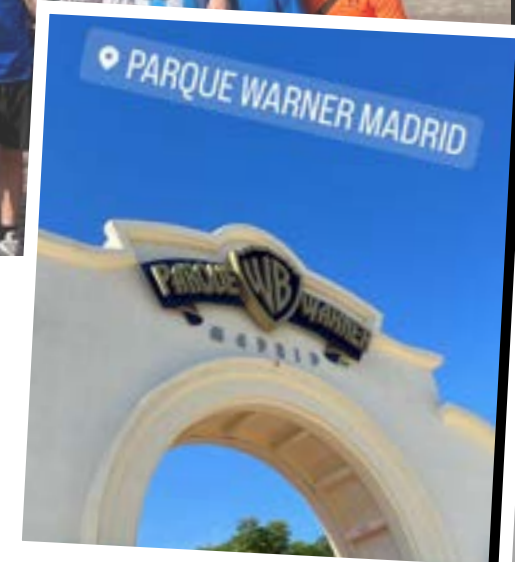


St John Plessington welcomed its new cohort of international pupils with a taste of traditional Great Britain food. Crumpets and scones with jam and cream were introduced, providing the pupils with a delightful experience of British culture.

Madrid Trip



A tour of Madrid, the first stop was the iconic Metropolitano stadium, offering a captivating tour and numerous photo opportunities. Day 2 brought the excitement of Warner Bros theme park, concluding the initial day with exploration of Plaza Mayor, shopping, and leisure. Madrid's diverse offerings made every moment an adventure to remember.



Exploring History and Heritage – Krakow 2023



October 31st Religious Studies and Social Science pupils departed from London to Krakow in the South of Poland to experience culture and Polish life whilst thinking about some of the themes they study as part of their A Levels. The trip was a huge success for the Year 13s and included a guided tour of Auschwitz, a Q&A with a Concentration Camp Survivor called Monica Goldwasser and time spent exploring the beautiful old town and more modern parts of the city. The pupils said that they really enjoyed the trip and loved the food, culture and architecture. The Year 13s were really reflective walking around the camp as well as the old Ghetto walls.



St John Plessington Dazzles at Liverpool One Christmas Lights Switch On

The talented dancers and singers of St John Plessington lit up the stage at the Liverpool One Christmas Lights Switch On. A remarkable showcase of their talents left the audience in awe. The performers were later celebrated with a brunch, reflecting on their incredible achievement.



Act of Remembrance on Remembrance Day



St John Plessington gathered in a solemn Act of Remembrance to honour those who sacrificed their lives for their country. The Last Post echoed as pupils and staff observed a moment of silence, culminating in the laying of a poppy wreath by members of the Junior Leadership Team.

Year 7 Welcome Mass

Our Year 7s embarked on a short journey to St Anne's, Rock Ferry, for their memorable Mass of Welcome. A heartfelt thank you extends to Fr Mario, who gracefully guided our pupils and staff in moments of prayer and reflection. A resounding applause to our Year 7 choir – your voices were nothing short of incredible!



Festive Fun at St John Plessington

On Wednesday, the staff and pupils of St. John Plessington had a fantastic day! They wore Christmas jumpers, enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner, and had a fun karaoke session during lunch. It was a great way to end the term!



SJP Parent Fundraisers



Our newly formed parent fundraising group have been fundamental in supporting some of our most vulnerable families, raising the equivalent of almost £4000 in cash and gifts etc. All that is all in less than a month. More to come from them I am sure! To get involved, contact, schooloffice@stjohnplessington.com



College Carol Services

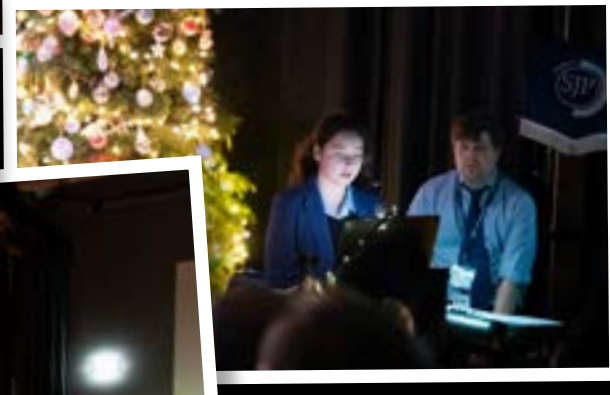
Years 12 and 13 had the opportunity to reflect on the message of the readings and listen to the incredible SJP choir, including the beautiful version of Silent Night sung by our Senior Choir.



Carol Service



On Thursday 21st December we held our school Carol Service. Deacon Gerard Boyle came to lead our service, which was a lovely opportunity for us to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. The school choir performed several songs including 'Maranatha', 'Yellow' and 'Gloria Festiva' and as always blew us away with their incredible talent and energy. Many of our fabulous students also read poignant readings throughout the service and the congregation joined the choir to sing the carols.



Advent Service

On Monday 4th December, 8 schools within our Trust community came together in 'From Darkness to Light' our Advent service held at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool.

For this event we invited our fabulous Year 7 to join the College choir, and a staggering 80 of them signed up. This meant that over 140 students represented our wonderful school at the event. In total over 450 children from all schools performed in front of a packed audience of over 1300 people.

To showcase the incredible singers we have at SJP and to challenge our students we chose two incredibly difficult choral works for our choir to sing: 'Gloria Festiva' sung in Latin and 'Hope for Resolution' which is sung in both English and Zulu. Preparations for the event started weeks prior to the performance and Miss Smith was continually blown away by the students' effort and perseverance whilst learning this challenging music.

The students' performance on the night was outstanding, the choir were true ambassadors for our College values of pride, respect and determination. It was incredible to watch our young people collaborate with other schools and perform a number of songs as a Trust wide combined choir. The incredible team of Sixth Form volunteers who helped at the Cathedral and supported our primary schools on the night also deserve a special mention.

A huge thank you to all staff from SJP who supported our students on the night, in rehearsals and in making our wonderful star lanterns. It was an unforgettable experience and we are already wondering how we can possibly top that next year!

