

Dear Families,

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

This week we returned to school for a busy start to the Spring Term and we look forward to 2025 being the start of a successful year. In preparation for their exams, students in Year 11 started the week with an alternative day 'Countdown to Success' and more detail can be found in the Quay Zone below.

Our Curriculum

At SJT, we have built a truly inclusive curriculum where our vision of 'achievement through caring' is fundamental in ensuring students are educated in a culture of high aspirations with a 'no ceiling' approach. We have designed our curriculum so that our students are taught to care for themselves and their achievement, care for others and care for their environment. The curriculum is at the heart of our school vision and built upon the foundations of our values: excellence, integrity, empathy, creativity, and equality. We encourage our students to have awareness of their journey of learning in each subject with learning journeys so they can navigate through the curriculum alongside their teachers. For more information, please click on the link here: [Our Curriculum - Sir John Talbot's](#)

Uniform Survey update

Last term we asked our families what you thought about our current uniform guidance, focusing on hairstyles, jewellery, and shoes. Your views are important to us and nearly 2400 of you got involved from across our Trust secondary schools, thank you. As a Trust we are now exploring your views, and we will share more information later in the year.

Key Dates for your calendar – February 2025:

- **Year 9 Options and KiT evening – Thursday 6th February 2025**
Our Year 9 Keeping in Touch and Options Evening takes place on Thursday 6th February 2025. Details will be sent out closer to the time, but for now, please save the date.
- **Collaboration and Professional Development Days (inc Half Term) - Friday 14th to Monday 24th February 2025**
As advertised on our term dates, students are calendared to study from home on Friday 14th February 2025 as part of our Trust Collaboration Day. This day enables us to bring together key thinkers and leaders from across our schools to develop Trust strategy together. This work benefits all children and young people and moves our Trust toward our shared goals. Information on student study will be shared closer to the date.
This date is immediately followed by our Spring Half Term and Professional Development (PD) Day with students expected to return to school on Tuesday 25th February 2025.

Thank you from the Foodbank

Before the half term, we ran our Reverse Advent Calendar, where we donated items to the Whitchurch Trussell Trust Food Bank. This week, we have received the following message from Alan Scutt, the Manager at the Food Bank and I am incredibly proud of the 'Caring about Others' achievement that our students presented, whilst donating to this event.

"I am writing to you to acknowledge the fantastic support we received from Sir John Talbot's School at Christmas, it truly was fantastic. Please could you pass on our sincere thanks to all your students, staff and parents who supported your collection, your donations weighed an incredible 159kgs! On Monday 23rd December, our volunteers delivered Christmas food parcels and toys to 64 families, comprising of 107 adults and 76 children. Thanks to your wonderful support, you made these families Christmas a little bit brighter and happier, it certainly restores one's faith in human nature, as they say!"



Mr Tim Stonall
Headteacher

Timetable w/c Monday 13th January 2025 – Week B

Christmas tubs

Greene King pub chain are running a 'Tub2Pub'. This is a recycling campaign to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support: <https://www.tub2pub.co.uk/tub2pub/>. Please could you save any plastic sweet, chocolate, or biscuit tubs you may have over Christmas period and bring them into school by the 24th January, for the Eco Council to collect them and raise money for this amazing charity while cutting down on plastic waste at the same time.

Rotary Club Christmas Day

The Rotary Club have been preparing meals at SJT for over 25 years and this year, over the Christmas period, we were proud to continue our annual support to the local community, by making our school kitchen available to the Rotary Club volunteers on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. 40 Rotarians prepared and delivered Christmas Dinners to over 130 residents in our local community and those who may not otherwise have access to a meal on Christmas Day.



The Shore and Sixth Form – Mr Davies

Year 7 have had a fantastic return to school this week, coping admirably with the winter conditions and settling straight back into the routines of learning and school life. Following the success of 7JJ's assembly on Equality, today 7NL delivered an exceptional assembly on Creativity and what it looks like to the form. The confidence and passion with which they spoke was inspirational and was a wonderful way to round out the week.

Sixth Form have made a running start to the year with a busy week of preparation for mock exams and Year 12s continuing to work on their summer work experience. All students in Sixth Form should now have received their Mock Exam Timetable, as exams will start from Monday 13th January. Miss Lyons and I have seen how diligently they have been preparing for these exams, treating them as much like the 'real thing' as possible.

The Harbour – Mr Hawke

It has been a pleasure to welcome students back into school this week, hear about their Christmas break and get stuck into the new term's learning in spite of the freezing weather! Parents and carers will shortly be receiving their child's progress report containing information about how they are progressing through the curriculum. For Year 9 students, this marks the start of the GCSE options process, which will continue next week and the following week as they sit exams in non-core subjects. For History and Geography, students will have their first experience of sitting an exam in formal conditions in the sports hall. We have been practising the routine for this in school this week, and this will help to ensure all students know what to expect. The remaining subject exams will take place in classrooms during normal timetabled lessons. All students were given physical copies of their timetables shortly before the Christmas break.

A reminder that the school immunisation team will be visiting the school to administer the 3-in-1 Teenage Booster and Meningitis vaccinations to students in Year 9 on Thursday 30th and Friday 31st January 2025. The deadline to complete the consent form is 9am on Thursday 16th January 2025, the school cannot accept consent via email, the online form must be completed, which goes directly to the immunisation team.

The Quay – Mrs Elms

We welcomed our Year 10 students back with a Luke Littler inspired dart assembly on Monday titled 'What are you aiming for in 2025?'. Students were given the timescale up until their GCSE English Literature exam and were informed that their after-school revision clinic is on Wednesday of Week A.

Year 11 students participated in our annual countdown to success day on Tuesday. The aim of the day was to provide our students with the tools to become resilient, confident and creative lifelong learners. They received sessions on self-care, mindset, goal setting, planning and retrieval for success to allow them to unlock their full potential to improve their exam performance. We were joined by guest speakers throughout the day, including Karim Al-Abbas, from Enlighten Education, who worked on revision and learning strategies with the students. Students respected and engaged brilliantly with the speakers throughout the day and they now have the knowledge and skills to put into place for effective revision in the lead up to exams. Our after-school revision sessions have started, and it has been pleasing to see the commitment from so many students.



Student Support Week 15 Focus: Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people who are or have been in a relationship. It can also happen between adults related to one another. It can seriously harm children and young people, and experiencing domestic abuse is child abuse. The NSPCC have provided some information to support families that may be experiencing forms of [domestic abuse](#).

Our Pastoral and Safeguarding team are situated in Student Services. If a child has any concerns, they MUST report it to a member of staff who will ensure that it is directed to the correct person to deal with it.

Taylor Shaw Catering Menu w/c 13th January 2025

Our Autumn Menu and Tariff can be found on our school website in the Family Information section which is located under School Life. Or you can click on the direct link here: [Menu-Autumn-Winter-2024.pdf](#)

NEWS

Click [here](#) to view our latest news articles.

Why not also follow us on Facebook [@SirJohnTalbotsSchool](#) for a wealth of content, from student, staff, and school celebrations to competitions. We encourage you to get interactive with our posts!

To hear about news from across the Trust, why not also follow [@MarchesAcademyTrust](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Click [here](#) to view our upcoming events. Events at a glance:

- w/c 13th January – Sixth Form Mock Exams Week 1 of 2
- w/c 13th January – Year 9 Options Subject Exams
- w/c 20th January – Sixth Form Mock Exams Week 2 of 2
- 30th January – Year 10 Geography Fieldwork Trip
- 30th and 31st January – Year 9 Vaccination Clinic

Click [here](#) to view our Term Dates.

