

Dear Families,

Today's Celebration Community Meetings were a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the achievements of our students this term. It was a privilege to witness such a genuine celebration of success across all year groups. Students received **Achievement Through Caring** awards for both academic excellence and contributions to our school community - an inspiring reminder of what can be accomplished when we work together.

This term has been one of real progress. We have strengthened our culture of belonging within Crews and significantly enhanced **The Shore** for Year 7 students. Around the school, new signage and vibrant displays have brightened our environment, and we've improved facilities by refurbishing and increasing capacity in the boys' toilets.

While this has been a strong term, we are committed to raising standards even further in the spring, guided by **The SJT Way**. Students have been reminded of our expectations around punctuality, attendance, behaviour, and uniform. Many of our students consistently meet these expectations and were rightly recognised today. For the small number who do not, please be assured that we will continue to uphold our high standards so that every child can thrive in a positive and respectful environment.

🌟 Celebrating Success! 🌟

On Monday, we welcomed back our incredible Year 11 and Year 13 students from the Class of 2025 for our annual Awards Evening. It was a wonderful celebration of their GCSE and A Level achievements, joined by proud families, SJT Governors, Foundation Trustees, and retired staff.

A special thank you to Gregory Ebbs and Sho Abdul for their inspiring words and for presenting our prestigious awards. A special mention and huge thanks to our talented musicians Isabelle and Maddie who provided the musical interludes throughout the evening. Congratulations to all our students, you make us proud!

🎄 Christmas Card Winner and runners up

We are delighted to announce the winners of this year's Christmas Card competition. First place went to **Lydia Cooper (Year 9)**, with **Emily Noble (Year 10)** taking second place and **Leilah Clewer (Year 9)** in third. All three produced beautiful, creative designs that really captured the festive spirit.

The winning entry from each school in the Trust has also been entered into the overall Trust competition, giving our students the chance to showcase their talent even further. You can view their amazing entries by clicking the link here: [Christmas Card Winner](#).

🎵 Christmas Concert Celebration

On Tuesday, we welcomed families into the Talbot Theatre for our annual Christmas Concert, and it truly was a wonderful evening. The programme was packed with festive favourites performed by our Choir, Senior Choir, the Ultraviolet school band and a number of talented soloists. Every student involved shone on stage and did themselves, their families and the school incredibly proud. They've certainly set the bar high for future productions.

It was also lovely to see how much our families enjoyed the evening - there was a real sense of festive fun throughout, with the audience joining in and adding to the atmosphere.

A huge thank you to Mr Calderbank, Head of Performance, for his hard work and dedication in bringing the concert together so successfully. And a special thank you to everyone who came along and got involved. Your support made the evening even more memorable.

📧 Autumn Newsletter: Rooted in purpose

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter! This issue brings you a roundup of the key moments and news from the term, with a special focus on 'Driving excellence through relational practice'.

Additionally, this issue features an update from our CEO providing insights into our strategic direction and achievements. You'll also find interesting news and updates from staff and all schools across the Trust.

We invite you to read the full newsletter at the following link: <https://bit.ly/MATAutumn25>

🚗 Drop off and pick up

Whitchurch Rugby Club have kindly allowed us to formally share the following plan on a **trial basis** to help our families with an alternative for drop off and pick up.

This trial will be in place commencing on our return to school on Monday 5th January 2026 until the end of Spring 1 (Feb Half Term) to be reviewed:

- SJT families are welcome to **drop off or collect their children from the Rugby Club car park**
- Please note families are advised not to use the entrance as a turning circle
- Families are asked to drive up to the club house to turn and drop off
- Children can then walk to and from school along the foot path
- Families are asked **not to access the site before 8am for morning or before 3pm for afternoon**
- Families are advised that they drop off at their own risk
- Families are advised to be mindful of children crossing, reducing speed and road safety
- We will review this as part of a trial for Spring 1 and update families on future plans
- Families are asked to be respectful of the grounds at the Rugby Club and understand the generosity of their agreement to undertake a trial

We hope this proposal helps us reduce congestion in the car park by working together as a community.

❤️ Safeguarding Team

Our safeguarding team will be available and monitor emails intermittently over the festive period. If you need to get in touch, please email designatedsafeguardinglead@sjt.mmat.co.uk and someone will get back to you as soon as they can. If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child, please contact Compass on 0345 678 9021 or West Mercia Police on 101 for non-emergency's or 999 if you think it is an emergency.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school such a fantastic place to learn and grow. I wish all families a joyful Christmas, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2026!

Mr Tim Stonall
Headteacher



🌟 Awards Evening



**Timetable
w/c
Monday 5th
January
2026
Week A**

📅 Reverse Advent Calendar Success

Following on from our Reverse Advent Calendar initiative, our Year 10 and 11 students delivering all the generous donations to the Whitchurch Trussell Trust Foodbank.

The volunteers were absolutely blown away by the amount of food and festive treats collected - it was a truly heart-warming effort.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed. Your kindness has made a real difference to families in our community this Christmas.

If you know someone who would benefit from a food parcel, please contact Whitchurch Foodbank directly.



❄️ Christmas Concert



🎵 Community Carol Singing and Performance

On Wednesday, our choir took their festive spirit out into the community, performing Christmas carols at Bradbury Day Care Centre and Greenfields Care Home. It was a truly lovely event, with students singing beautifully and bringing plenty of cheer to residents and staff alike.

Later in the afternoon, Bradbury Day Care Centre enjoyed an extra treat when Year 13 student Harriet performed for the residents on the violin. Her performance was warmly received and added a special touch to the day.


Well done to everyone involved for their hard work, talent and enthusiasm.



Christmas tubs

The Rotary Club are hosting a recycling campaign to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Please could you save any plastic sweet, chocolate, or biscuit tubs you may have over Christmas period and bring them into school by the 23rd 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.


The Shore – Mrs Lewis

 Year 7 have certainly ended the term on a high. Last Friday, they enjoyed a fabulous trip to The Regent Theatre in Stoke to watch Cinderella. The production was full of energy, jokes, slapstick and plenty of surprises. Our students were brilliant ambassadors for the school - booing the Ugly Sisters with enthusiasm, dodging water pistols from the cast, and joining the whole theatre in a big dance at the end. It was a wonderful afternoon and a lovely way to start the festive season.



■ On Wednesday, Year 7 Crews got creative as they decorated their doors for the Christmas Crew Door Competition, judged by Mrs Lewis and Miss Brinkworth. The standard was incredibly high, and the winning Crew was 7.Whixall Moss.32. Well done to everyone who took part.

● A special mention goes to 7.Alderford.32, who celebrated being the top-point Crew for the half term with hot chocolate and marshmallows during Crew time. They were rightly proud of their achievement.

 We rounded off the week on Friday by celebrating the fantastic achievements of all our Year 7 students. Their first term at SJT has been full of change, challenge and new experiences, and they have handled it all with maturity, positivity and resilience. We are incredibly proud of how they have settled in and flourished.



Now it's time for a well-earned rest and a chance to recharge before the new term begins.

The Harbour – Mr Hawke

It's been a lovely final week of term, with students enjoying a range of well-earned rewards both in and out of school. On Monday, Year 9 headed to Telford for some Christmas shopping followed by plenty of fun at Inflatation. Year 8 had their turn on Tuesday with a trip to Shrewsbury for an energetic trampolining session at Jump In.



Back in school, both year groups enjoyed a festive film and popcorn treat, and on Friday we rounded off the term with our rewards assemblies, Christmas appreciations and a lively Crew quiz. A special mention also goes to 8Y, who had a fantastic Art lesson with Mrs Lloyd on Wednesday – every student produced a beautiful winter-themed painting, and it was



As we wrap up a busy and successful term, I'd like to thank all our families for your continued support. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy the break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in January.

The Quay and Sixth Form – Mrs Elms

On Thursday, 200 of our Year 10 and Year 11 students enjoyed a well-deserved recognition trip to the Trafford Centre. It was a fantastic day, with plenty of shopping, bowling and cinema time to choose from.

The wide range of eateries in the food court proved very popular, and we suspect a few Christmas presents may have been picked up along the way too.

Adding to the excitement, students were thrilled to spot 2026 I'm A Celebrity winner Angry Ginge and Love Island star Molly Smith - some even managed to grab a photo with them! A brilliant day all round!



Year 10 and Year 11 Crews have been competing each week to earn points for attendance, punctuality, and engagement. This week, the winners were announced:

- **Year 10:** A tie between 10 Whixall Moss and 10 Redbrook
- **Year 11:** 11 Alderford took the lead

The winning crews celebrated with a get-together and hot chocolate. Well done to all for your hard work and commitment!

Great to see many of our Year 11 students get in the festive spirit on Wednesday wearing their Christmas jumpers.



Last week, our Year 10, 12 and 13 Art and Photography students enjoyed a cultural visit to Liverpool. Their day included stops at the RIBA, Open Eye and Walker Galleries, as well as the World Museum.

Our photography students made the most of the sunshine, capturing some fantastic shots for their City Life project. All 48 students were a real credit to the school, showing great respect and behaviour throughout the trip. We are very proud of the way they represented us.

Today, we concluded the term with celebration assemblies for our Year 10 and Year 11 students. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on all the successes achieved throughout the term. Many certificates were presented for our Achievement Through Caring awards, recognising the hard work and dedication of our students.



Well done to everyone for a busy and successful term! We wish you all a lovely, restful break and look forward to welcoming you back in 2026.

Our Curriculum

At Sir John Talbot's, our curriculum reflects the values we live by - excellence, integrity, empathy, creativity, and equality. We use learning journeys to help students understand how each subject develops, so they can follow their progress with confidence and support. For more information, please click on the link here: [Our Curriculum - Sir John Talbot's](#)

ABM Catering Menu – W/C Monday 5th January 2026 – Week 1

Our Spring Menu is located on our school website in the Family Information section under School Life. You can also click on the direct link here: [Family Information - School Meals](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- 19th December – End of Autumn term
- 5th January – Spring term commences
- 9th January – Year 11, 12 and 13 History trip to RAF Cosford
- w/c 12th January – Week 1 of 2 Mock Exams Y12 & 13
- w/c 19th January – Week 2 of 2 Mock Exams Y12 & 13

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

Stay in the Loop

Catch up on our latest news [here](#), or follow us on Facebook ([SirJohnTalbotsSchool](#)) for updates and celebrations.

For stories across our wider school community, visit [MarchesAcademyTrust](#).

