

Dear Families,

## Key Dates for Your Calendar – February 2026

We have a number of important dates coming up in February, so please do take a moment to add these to your calendar.

- Year 9 Options and KIT Evening – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026**  
 Our Year 9 Keeping in Touch and Options Evening will take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Further details will be shared nearer the time, but for now, please save the date.
- Collaboration and Professional Development Days – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026**  
 As outlined in our term dates, Spring Half Term runs from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026. This will be followed by a Professional Development Day on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February and a Collaboration Day on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February. Students will study from home on the Collaboration Day while staff from across our Trust come together to develop shared strategy and strengthen our work for all children and young people. Information about home study tasks will be shared closer to the time. Students are expected to return to school on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

## Opportunities to Join Our School Team

We wanted to let you know that we currently have a couple of exciting vacancies within the school community:

- Access Leader (Teaching Assistant)**
- Crew Inclusions Leader**

If you're interested in finding out more or would like to apply, please click [here](#).

We'd be grateful if you could also share these opportunities with anyone who may be a great fit for our school.

## Drop off and pick up

A reminder that the 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 is currently in place 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.

## Opportunity to Become a School Governor

The Trust is currently looking to recruit new Governors for the Woodlands School in Wem. This is a great chance for parents, carers, and community members to play an active role in supporting the school's direction and helping shape its future.

If you're interested in finding out more or would like to apply, please get in touch with Bee Lopez on [Belen.LopezBloor@mmat.co.uk](mailto:Belen.LopezBloor@mmat.co.uk), who will be happy to share further details.



Mr Tim Stonall  
Headteacher

## Timetable w/c Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Week B

### The Shore – Mrs Lewis

 This week in Crew, our focus has been on helping Year 7 start each day feeling prepared and confident. We've been talking about the importance of organisation - from packing bags the night before to checking planners so that everyone arrives ready for learning.

 In lessons with Mrs Lewis, students have also been exploring careers that spark their interest. They've been researching different roles, the qualifications or training required, and what pathways might lead them there. This work will build towards each student giving a short presentation to their class. It's been wonderful to see such a wide range of ambitions emerging, and we hope that one day they'll return to school to share their real-life experiences with future Year 7s.

 A big well done to Hugo in 7.Redbrook.32 and Kyle in 7.Ossmere.32 for achieving the highest number of Lesson Grade 1s since returning after Christmas.

 And finally, congratulations to **Ossmere**, our current leading Crew for positive points.

### The Harbour – Mr Hawke

 This week in The Harbour, our students took part in a powerful and thought-provoking session led by our Director of Humanities, Mr Richards, in recognition of Holocaust Memorial Day.

With the number of living Holocaust survivors sadly diminishing, Mr Richards spoke passionately about the vital role future generations play in keeping these stories alive. He encouraged students to reflect on the importance of remembrance, ensuring that the atrocities of World War II are neither forgotten nor repeated.

It was an impactful presentation that prompted meaningful discussion and reminded our young people of the responsibility we all share in honouring history and standing up against prejudice in all its forms.

 A reminder that the School Immunisation Team will be visiting the school on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026 to administer the 3-in-1 Teenage Booster Vaccination (DTP) and Meningococcal (MenACWY) vaccination to all Year 9 pupils. A consent form has been emailed and the deadline to complete this is 9am tomorrow, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

### The Quay and Sixth Form – Mrs Elms

Year 10 have been encouraged to add their work experience placement information onto the online platform, Unifrog. All year 10 students will be expected to take part in a 5-day work experience from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June until Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. We thank all students and families who have arranged placements already. If your child is in need of any support or guidance, please speak to Crew Leaders or Mr Timmis.

This week in the Year 11 community meeting, Mrs Errington spoke about the importance of establishing strong routines to help students make the most of every learning minute in the lead-up to their GCSE exams. Students have also been encouraged to bring independent revision so they can make use of the KS4 study room, which is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes.

A reminder to all Year 11 students that after-school revision sessions are available and are a great way to ensure every minute counts. The second set of mock exams for Year 11, as well as Year 10 English Literature, will begin on 25<sup>th</sup> February. We are now just 12 school weeks away from the start of the external exams.

Year 13 students have now completed their mock exams and showed resilience, focus and determination throughout. We are confident that their hard work will pay off. They will receive their results on Mock Results Day on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February.

### Student Spotlight

Well done to Year 12 Ava who has signed semi-professional terms with The New Saints FC Women. Ava has enjoyed a strong progression through the club's pathway and is now in her third season at Park Hall, having joined the Saints at Under 15s level. We are incredibly proud of Ava and her continued hard work.



	Monday 3.15	Tuesday 3.15	Wednesday 3.15	Friday 3.15
<b>Week A</b>	<b>Option block B</b> Photography, Business, DT	Religious Studies	Geography/History	Independent Revision Library (AE,CE)
<b>Week B</b>	<b>Option block C</b> Business, Computer Science, Drama, Food, PE, Sport Studies, French	English Language (selected students)	Science	Independent Revision Library (AE,CE)
		Maths		
Wednesday AM - Music				

## Sporting Success

It's been a brilliant week of sport for our students! On Tuesday, our Year 9 boys - joined by Charlie in 8.Blakemere.31 - travelled to St Martins for the North Shropshire Rugby 10-a-side tournament. Although only four schools had entered, Marches and Oswestry didn't attend, which meant a single match against St Martins. Our team rose to the challenge and delivered an emphatic 15 - 4 win on tries, even spending part of the game a player down.

On Wednesday, our students headed to Moreton Hall for the North Shropshire Cross Country event. Team results will be shared next week, but we're already celebrating some fantastic individual performances:

- **Lucas in 10.Redbrook.29** – 1st place in the Y10/11 boy's race
- **Mason in 9.Alderford.30** – 1st place in the Y9 boy's race
- **James in 8.Redbrook.31** – 1st place in the Y8 boy's race (with our runners also taking 3rd, 4th and 6th!)
- **Tilly in 8.Ossmere.31** – 2nd place in the Y8 girl's race
- **Alfie in 7.Ossmere.32** – 2nd place in the Y7 boy's race

A huge well done to all students who took part. Their effort, teamwork and determination have made us incredibly proud.



## Road Safety Reminder

As we move further into the darker months, we are asking for your support in reminding students about the importance of staying safe when travelling to and from school, as well as when they are out in the community. Whether walking or cycling, it is essential that students are aware of their surroundings and visible to other road users. Please encourage your child to wear bright or reflective clothing so they can be easily seen, especially during early mornings and late afternoons.

For those cycling, a properly fitted helmet is necessary, and bikes should be equipped with working lights to help keep them safe on the roads. Thank you for helping us keep our students safe as they travel.

## A Reminder About E-Bikes on School Site

We've recently noticed an increase in students arriving to school on e-bikes. While we appreciate that families are exploring different ways to get to and from school, e-bikes are **not permitted on school site**. This decision is based solely on safety. Our site layout, traffic flow, and the speed of e-bikes create risks that we want to avoid for all students, staff, and families. Staff have been speaking directly with students and parents who are currently using e-bikes, but we'd like to make sure the whole community is aware of the expectation. If your child uses an e-bike, please help us by making alternative travel arrangements. Thank you for your support in keeping our school environment safe and welcoming for everyone.

## Thank you from the Foodbank

Following on from our Reverse Advent Calendar in December, we have received the following correspondence from the Foodbank in Whitchurch expressing their gratitude:

*I am writing to THANK YOU, SO MUCH for the absolutely super donations you made just before Christmas from Sir John Talbot's School, and which weighed an incredible 96.9 kgs! We were absolutely delighted with your support - Do, please, thank everyone who contributed in any way to our Christmas Appeal!!*

*During December, we were endeavouring to build up enough Christmas stock to ensure we would be able to fulfil our pledge to deliver Christmas Food Parcels to over 77 families (consisting of 129 adults and 185 children) whom our Schools were concerned for, and requested help for the families, and that is exactly what we were able to do. For on the 23rd December a team of volunteers from Food Bank delivered the Christmas Food Parcels, including Christmas Dinner and food for Christmas Week, plus a new toy for each child - As a result, I am certain, the children and indeed their families enjoyed a happier Christmas than they ever could have dreamt of, or hoped for !*

*BUT THAT WAS ONLY MADE POSSIBLE, THANKS TO THE FANTASTIC SUPPORT FROM ALL YOU WONDERFUL PEOPLE OUT THERE IN OUR COMMUNITIES, WHO GAVE YOUR SUPPORT TO WHITCHURCH FOOD BANK THIS CHRISTMAS - Bless you all!!*

*Though the Food Bank is located in Whitchurch we were requested by our Schools to help some of their pupils and their families whom they were concerned for, living not only in Whitchurch, but also Market Drayton, Wem, Whixall, Prees, Higher Heath, Edge and Malpas - quite an area, - BUT WE DID IT -!*

*We have a motto at the Food Bank which is "Never forget that every item we receive makes a world of difference to someone in despair" and we cannot thank you enough for standing with us!!*

*Once again, MANY THANKS, YOU WONDERFUL YOUNG PEOPLE, AT SIR JOHN TALBOTS!*

## Another Successful Week in the Nest

What a wonderful week it has been in the Nest! Our students have been busy practicing important social skills, while also enjoying the sunshine in our beautiful new garden space.

It has been especially heartwarming to see so many students coming together for team building games at lunchtime. The laughter, teamwork, and encouragement on display showed just how strong our Nest community is becoming. Best of all, we've noticed lots of new friendships blossoming as students include and support one another.

Here's to another week of growth, kindness, and connection in the Nest! 



## 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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:

- 29<sup>th</sup> January – Year 11 Drama performance (evening)
- 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> January – Y9 Immunisation Clinics
- 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> January – DofE Gold Training, Cynwyd Mountain Centre
- 5<sup>th</sup> February – Year 9 Keeping in Touch (KiT) and Options Evening
- 6<sup>th</sup> February – RAF Cosford trip

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](#).

