

INSPIRE • ACHIEVE • SERVE

John F Kennedy Catholic School

10th January 2025



Feast of the Epiphany



'And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.'

Matthew 2: 9-11

Happy New Year to you and your family! And welcome back to the new term at JFK. The term for the teaching staff began on Monday with our Trust Development Day, which was hosted this year by St Joan of Arc Catholic School, in Rickmansworth. Staff from each of the 11 Trust schools came together for a day of learning, sharing, reflection, praise and worship, all aimed at developing this family of schools in terms of providing the best possible opportunities for the children and young people they serve. A liturgy at the start of the day and a Mass at the end of the day emphasised the priority we have as a Catholic community - the promotion of our Catholic faith. Of course, not all of the staff in our schools are Catholic; however, all are very welcome and valued members of our schools. One of the messages from the story of the Magi in Matthew's Gospel is about the universality of the Church. The three wise men had travelled from distant lands, with different cultures and different faith traditions. However, they recognised that this baby in Bethlehem was indeed the messiah that had been promised. The example of Christ's life and teachings are an inspiration for all. Whilst the majority of our students are Catholic, many are not. Nevertheless, the experience of life at JFK aims to share that inspiration with all - and all are welcome to be part of our community.

In my welcome assemblies this week I reflected on the wealth of opportunities that are on offer each year at JFK. I referred to our wonderful celebration in December - Presentation Evening - in which my annual speech reflected on the previous school year, with its multitude of activities and achievements, all of which build our community. As we begin a new half term we focus on a new Catholic Social Teaching theme: 'Solidarity and Peace'. This theme resonates with the sense of community that has always been a hallmark of JFK, and will be the focus of daily worship and whole-school activity this half term.

More activities and opportunities are to come this term, between now and Easter, and I want to encourage everyone to get involved in the full life of the school. This is a key time for learning, especially for our students in Year 11 and Year 13, who are heading for public exams in the summer. I wish everyone a successful term ahead.

The ASCAT Development Day on Monday provided an opportunity to launch the Jubilee Year, 'Pilgrims of Hope'. More about that and how JFK will participate will appear in next week's newsletter.

ELEVATE EDUCATION

Year 11

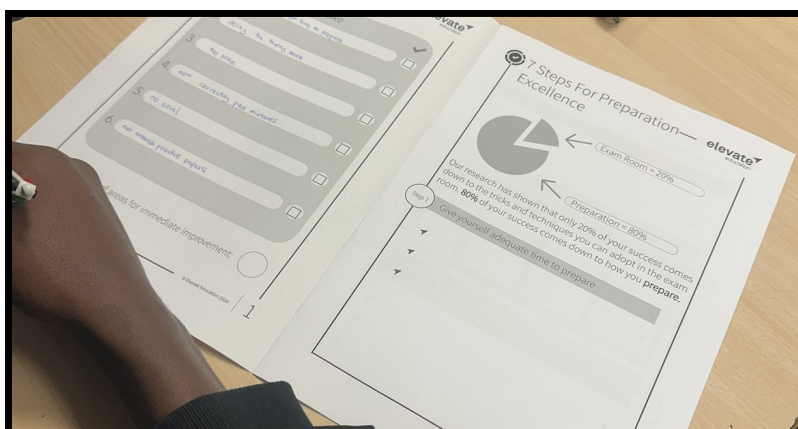


This week saw the return of Elevate Education to John F Kennedy Catholic School. The year group were split into six groups with six presenters.

The seminars are to help guide students regarding their exams preparations with the focus this time being 'Ace Your Exams'.

Now the students have received their mock exams results, it is a good time to reflect on those results and think about how they can help themselves for their next review point - the mock exams in February.

Monday 24th February - Year 11 Mock Exams (2) . This will be one week with selected subjects chosen.



elevate
education

Mr Hawkins - Subject Leader of PE



SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT



This week, as part of the Sixth Form Enrichment Programme, students had the privilege of hearing from Scott Davies, an ex-professional footballer and current manager of Slough Town. Scott enjoyed a long career in professional football, playing for teams such as Reading, Crawley Town, and Aldershot Town. During his talk, Scott provided valuable insights into his career, as well as about the challenges he faced off the pitch. He spoke about his battle with gambling addiction, which began during his football career and led to significant personal and professional struggles. Through the support of others and a determination to rebuild his life, Scott overcame this difficult period. Scott is now dedicated to educating others about the dangers of gambling. He regularly visits football clubs and organisations to raise awareness, sharing his experiences and offering practical advice on how to seek help.

We are incredibly grateful to Scott for his honesty and for sparking such meaningful and thought-provoking discussions among our students.



Mr Wainman - Assistant Director of Sixth Form



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 16th January - Year 11 Consultation Evening , 4.00pm

Monday 20th January - Year 11 Food Science Trip

Thursday 23rd January - Year 9 Mrs Doubtfire Theatre Trip

Friday 31st January - Year 11 and 13 Photographs

WE ARE HIRING!

[Click here for the latest JFK
vacancy information](#)

[Click here for the latest ASCAT
vacancy information](#)



FUTURE DATES

2025

17th - 21st February - HALF TERM

Friday 4th April - school closes at 1.30pm

Tuesday 22nd April - whole school returns

26th - 30th May - HALF TERM

Friday 27th June - school closed INSET Day

Friday 18th July - school closes at 1.30pm



PE

@jfkpedept

For all of the latest news about everything to do with PE, please check out our JFK PE Department Instagram account.

It shows what's been happening in our small but very busy department.

SCAN ME



Week One	Fixtures
Monday 13th January	Year 8 Rugby vs Adeyfield (a) - Mr Chignall
Tuesday 14th January	U13 Girls Football vs Tring (a) Miss Casserly Year 9 Football vs Kings Langley School (a) - Mr Chignall
Wednesday 15th January	Year 7 Rugby vs Hemel (a) Mr Chignall
Thursday 16th January	Year 11 Consultation Evening - Miss Perry and Mr Hawkins
Friday 17th January	Year 8 Netball vs Abbots Hill (h) Miss O'Neill U15 Girls Football vs Kings Langley School (a) Miss Casserly

Mr Hawkins - Subject Leader of PE



SAFEGUARDING IN FOCUS

We're delighted to let you know that John F Kennedy Catholic School has become a member of The National College – a multi-award-winning online training provider for staff and parents.

What does this mean for you?

As part of our membership, The National College provides dedicated training and resources for parents and carers – particularly, around online safety and keeping children safe online.

Online safety advice on any topic

Of course, staff will continue to teach children about the risks online. But with the internet so readily accessible, the most effective approach to online safety needs everyone involved, including parents and carers.

That's why you've now got access to **hundreds of courses, explainer videos and online safety guides** to support your awareness of the online world. Topics range from understanding apps like TikTok and Instagram to recognising the signs of online harm and what you can do to help.

Signing up is easy

Signing up to the platform is simple. Just follow <https://v2.nationalcollege.com/enrol/john-f-kennedy-catholic-school> and complete your details. You will be asked to enrol and enter some key details. As you enter your details it is important that you sign up as a parent/carers. Once you're set up, you'll get instant access to all training and resources.

A screenshot of the National College sign-up form. The form is dark-themed with white text. It includes fields for 'Email Address *', 'First name *', 'Last name *', 'Parent / Carer' (a dropdown menu), 'Password *', and 'Re-enter Password *'. There is a checkbox for 'Terms & Conditions' and a blue 'Create Account' button at the bottom.

Download the app for free

Another fantastic benefit of The National College is its National Online Safety app, which you can download for free. It gives you access to all their parent and carer resources on the go, whenever you want.

You can download the National Online Safety app using the links: [App store](#) and [Google Play](#)

They're always here to help

The National College has a brilliant support team if you have any questions. Their [help centre](#) provides a comprehensive bank of answers to most FAQs, but if you still can't find the answer you're looking for, you can always get in [contact](#) with them.

Mrs McKenzie - Assistant Headteacher

TRIPS 2025 – 2026



**"A Gentle
Reminder"**

Monthly Instalments are due on the *1st of each month for the following:*

New York, February 2025

Norway, April 2025.

Krakow, April 2025.

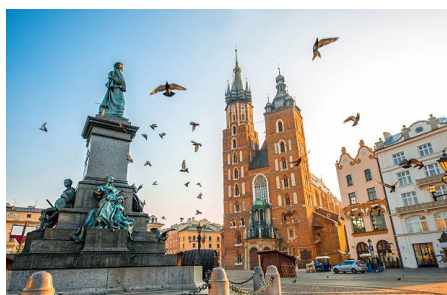
Sports Tour 2025, April 2025

A Level Biology F/T, June 2025

GCSE Geography F/T, July 2025

Duke of Edinburgh 2025, Bronze and Silver

Ski Trip, February 2026



TRIPS 2025 - 2026

Year 7 Residential Trip to Croft Farm - Limited spaces, book now!



This is an amazing opportunity to take part in a 2 night residential adventure trip . The trip is all inclusive of accommodation and meals as well as a wide variety of land and water based activities.

<https://www.jca-adventure.co.uk/activity-centres/croft-farm/>

Please make payments through WisePay or speak to Miss Adams if Pupil Premium.





JFKSA

Thank you!



Thank you to everyone for your continued support . The money raised through easyfundraising and Your School Lottery helps to purchase the 'nice to haves'.

Please remember to click through easyfundraising when you shop online or perhaps sign up to Your School Lottery.

Easyfundraising - www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/jfkschoolassociation/?invite=385GOY&referral-campaign=c2s

Your School Lottery - <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/john-f-kennedy-catholic-school>





TRANSFER ADMISSIONS



St Rose's Catholic Infant School - Reception 2025 Admissions Process

If you have a child who is born between 1 September 2020 and 31st August 2021 now is the time to apply for Reception 2025.

Admissions Opens : 1st November 2024

Admissions Closes : 15th January 2025

To have a look at our virtual tour and for more information please visit [Reception | St Rose's Catholic Infant School \(stroses.herts.sch.uk\)](https://stroses.herts.sch.uk/reception)

Please email admin@stroses.herts.sch.uk to book onto one of our tours. We look forward to hearing from you.

St Rose's School is currently looking at extending nursery provision to include 2 year olds with a view to this starting in September 2025. If you feel that this is something that you would be able to make use of, would you please take a few minutes to answer the short questionnaire. If you know of any other parents that may be interested, please share the link with them.

<https://forms.office.com/e/NzqpqxUhcs>



ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS 2025

At the John F Kennedy Catholic school, we believe that student performance, behaviour and attendance are fundamentally linked. Our ethos is to maximise the full potential of each student and in order to achieve this, high attendance rates are essential.

Our expectation is that individual student attendance should not be below 95%.

Section 7 of The Education Act states that 'parents are responsible for making sure that their children, of compulsory school age, receive a suitable full time education'.

Section 444 of The Education Act clearly states that 'if a child is absent without authorisation, then the parent is guilty of an offence'. This is a strict liability offence - i.e. all that needs to be shown is a lack of regular attendance. Sanctions can include a fine of up to £1000.

Holidays during Term time

Authorisation of absence for Holidays during term time is at the discretion of the Headteacher and is granted only in exceptional circumstances.

Fines are enforceable for a child being absent from school without permission. This is currently £80 per child for each parent, rising to £160 if paid after 21 days.

Lateness

As stated in the school Attendance Policy:

- Students should attend school "full time" and they should remain in school attending all timetabled lessons. This means that students should arrive in time for registration. In practice school buses may be late and in this case students should sign in at Reception so they can receive their mark.
- Avoidable lateness beyond 10.00 am constitutes unauthorised absence and can legally be the basis of an offence by the parent/carer
- Those students who arrive very late (after 10.00 am) without a good excuse will not be credited with an attendance. Their absence will therefore be unauthorised and a different mark (U) will be used to distinguish them from those who are "unpunctual". Steps will be taken by the school with the support of parents/carers to correct those students who are persistently unpunctual

GENERAL NOTICES

Road Safety

Parents/Carers are reminded about the importance of road safety and we highlight a number of points you may wish to discuss with your child:

- The importance of crossing the road at a safe place. Using either a zebra or pelican crossing where possible
- Avoid crossing behind parked cars
- Never run out into the road
- Be aware of your surroundings –take out earphones and stop talking with friends or on the phone when crossing the road
- Have reflective items on jackets or bag.
- If cycling, follow the same instruction and make sure you have lights on your bike and wear a helmet at all times.



Disabled Parking Zones

Please can we ask that the disabled parking bays located along Hollybush Lane be kept clear . They are marked on the path and are needed to be accessed by local residents.



JFK enjoys good relationships with our neighbours and local community. Please be mindful of driveways and access in Hollybush Lane and neighbouring roads if dropping off/picking up your child from school.



GENERAL NOTICES

Appointments During School

Please try to avoid making medical appointments during the school day. If this is not possible, please alert the Year Team via email with a copy of the appointment letter/email/screenshot at least 24 hours in advance.

If your child does need to leave for a pre-arranged medical appointment please ensure that they are aware of the time and date of the appointment and are instructed to be ready in reception to be collected. There have been a number of occasions recently whereby the office staff have had to search for a student in order for them to be picked up.

Illness During the School Day

We have seen an increase in students calling parents prior to seeking medical attention at school. Any student feeling unwell during the school day should report to Student Services where they will be seen by a medically trained member of staff. Please do impress upon your children the importance of the school contacting home if it is required during the school day. It can cause parents unnecessary worry which we would like to avoid.

ABSENCE

If your son/daughter is going to be absent due to illness please telephone the school absence line by 9.00am on each day of absence.

Year 7 01442 229105 (year7@jfk.herts.sch.uk)
Year 8 01442 229124 (year8@jfk.herts.sch.uk)
Year 9 01442 229131 (year9@jfk.herts.sch.uk)
Year 10 01442 229132 (year10@jfk.herts.sch.uk)
Year 11 01442 229136 (year11@jfk.herts.sch.uk)
Sixth Form 01442 229137 (6thform@jfk.herts.sch.uk)

Students should bring a letter explaining their absence on their return to school.



Public Health
England

Guidance from Public Health England

Diarrhoea and vomiting: exclusion period: whilst symptomatic
and 48 hours after the last symptoms

[Is my child too ill for school?](#)

NHS advice about when to keep your child off school