

# INSPIRE • ACHIEVE • SERVE

## John F Kennedy Catholic School

13th June 2025



### Not to be served, but to serve

*Matthew  
20:28*



A year ago I was in Australia, attending an international conference on Catholic education and representing the UK in the development of work on Catholic Schools Youth Ministry International (CSYMI). Learning from other practitioners and developing a network of Catholic school leaders has enhanced our work at JFK - led in particular by Callum, our Leader of Youth Ministry, and Mr Fenrych-Fahy, senior leader responsible for Catholic life of the school. So successful has this been that the next international formation programme is going to be hosted here in Hemel Hempstead in September - at JFK and in the Hemel West Parish. This is an exciting opportunity and is currently involving much 'behind the scenes' work in preparation for the event.

The name of the event is 'Spiritus' and this title highlights our belief, as Catholics, that the Holy Spirit is present as a powerful force to guide us in our everyday lives. This was the focus of our celebration last Sunday on the feast of Pentecost, when we commemorated the event when Jesus appeared to his disciples and commissioned them to continue his work, spreading the Gospel to all nations - the so-called birthday of the Church. That task is central to our work in CSYMI, engaging our students with the Catholic faith and mobilising them to put that faith into action - in school and in the parish.

The youth ministry model resonates clearly with the idea of service, which is core to our Mission Statement, and our students are constantly demonstrating examples of this. This past week our Year 10 students have been serving various organisations and communities during their Work Experience Week. I have received some fabulous feedback from 'employers', complimenting our students' efforts during the week; further information will be available in the newsletter. On the subject of service, I have been asked to provide some support for two of our hub primary schools: St Albert the Great and St Thomas More. This will be for a temporary time until a new Executive Headteacher is recruited to oversee these two schools. I have known the schools for many years and I am very happy to provide some help as required.

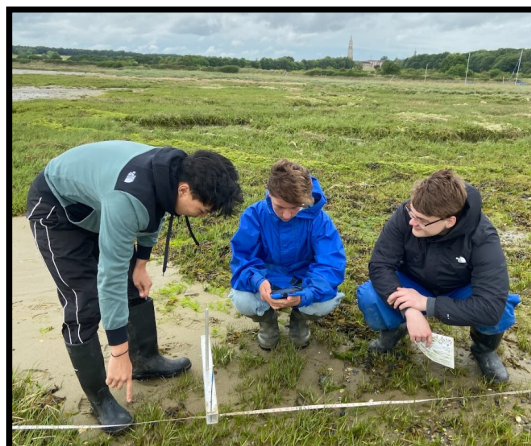


## A LEVEL BIOLOGY TRIP

### Flatford Mill



Our A Level Biology students took part in a three day residential trip to Flatford Mill, near Colchester last week. Following brief background teaching by field centre staff, they undertook a variety of fieldwork studies. The highlights included freshwater sampling and succession on a salt marsh. We had glorious weather the first day, but it sadly deteriorated on the second, however the students were wonderfully enthusiastic and had great fun getting stuck in the mud! Congratulations and thank you to all for an enjoyable, successful trip.



**Mrs Davison – Science Department**



## FOOD SCIENCE

### Year 10 Work Experience Week



We are very proud of our Year 10 Food students using their knowledge and skills in their Work Experience placements this week.

- Ollie Clissold is learning practical skills working in a restaurant kitchen at Gatsby in Berkhamsted.
- Zach Nunes is having a fabulous time at Paris House in Woburn learning loads of new practical skills as well as how the kitchens function smoothly for the fine dining experience at this restaurant.
- Bobby Giandoni is putting his Food Science skills to good use and cooking with the students at George Street Primary School.





## PE



### County League Athletics

We have had a successful athletics season so far with both our girls teams reaching finals on the 30th June and 1st July!

### Track and Field Regional B Finals

Inter Girls - 4th

Junior Boys - 5th

Junior Girls - 9th

### Next Week's Fixtures

Wednesday 18th June

3.30pm - Year 7 District Rounders @ Ashlyns

Thursday 19th June

3.30pm - Year 9/10 Rounders @ JFK



### Miss Perry - PE Department



## MUSIC



**Battle of the Bands at 6pm on Friday 4th July** in the School Hall. Admission for this is £2. Student Rock bands must play two contrasting numbers. The winning band will get a slot at the school summer concert on Monday 14th July. ( I am also looking into a recording session at a local studio - more info to follow soon) Student bands wishing to enter must register with Mr Ridout.

**Summer Concert 2025, 7pm, Monday 14th July** in the School Hall. Admission £5, Family ticket £15 (two adults, two children) Featuring our Orchestra, Jazz Band, Music Liturgy Choir, Hidden Voices, Rock Band and soloists. Not to be missed, this concert marks the end of an era for Mr Ridout.

### Cello Teacher

From September 2025 we will need a cello teacher to work as part of the independent team of instrumental teachers at JFK. This would suit a professional player looking for a little regular income from teaching. Payment is £40.50 per hour pro rata as per MU rate.

Timetabling and invoicing parents is the responsibility of the individual teacher. The school has an excellent provision of practice and teaching studios where lessons take place. Applicants should email [ewalsh@jfk.herts.sch.uk](mailto:ewalsh@jfk.herts.sch.uk) and should include a brief resume of any teaching experience and a CV.

**Mr Ridout - Music Department**



**ART**

**It's time to celebrate!**

Come and join us at this years Creative Exhibition 2025. Celebrating the achievements of our Year 11 and Year 13 Art students .

**JOHN F KENNEDY CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**CREATIVE EXHIBITION**

**14TH JULY**  
**@ 5PM - 7PM**  
D BLOCK GALLERY

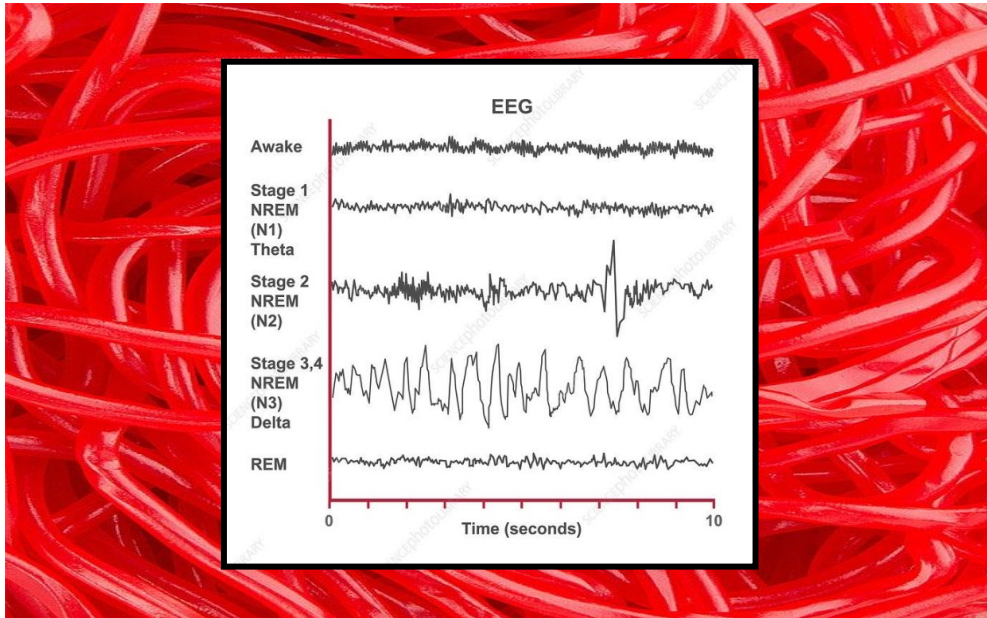
**2025**

**Miss Freed – Art Department**



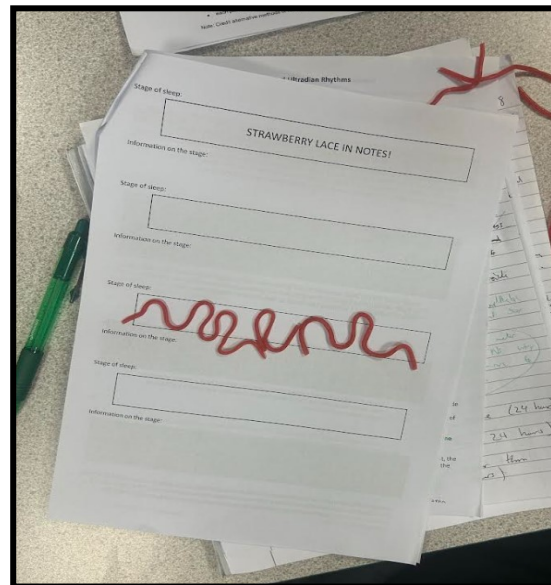
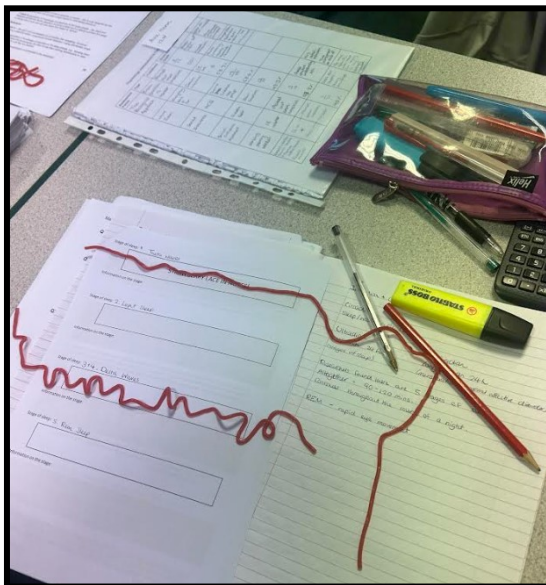
## PSYCHOLOGY

### Stages of Sleep



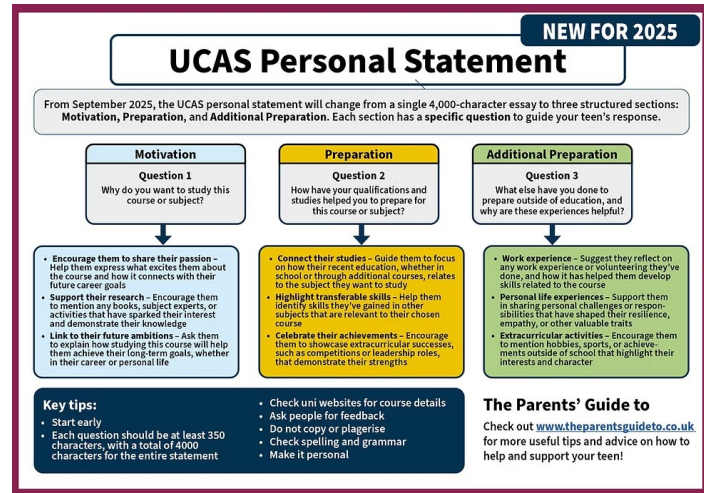
This week the Year 12 lessons focused on ultradian rhythms and the stages of sleep.

Students explored how brain activity changes across the sleep cycle by using strawberry laces to model EEG wave patterns - a simple, hands-on way to visualise REM and NREM stages. We discussed the structure of a typical 90-minute sleep cycle, the role of different brain waves and the influence on dreaming.





## SIXTH FORM



### UCAS Personal Statement

Year 12 students were this week introduced to the new changes of the personal statement section of their UCAS application. The simplified image attached states the new '3 sub-questions' that form the overall structure. Our early entry students (Oxbridge/Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary) have been provided with key dates for their first draft. The Sixth Form team, form tutors and subject specialist will all be on hand to support all of the students through this important stage.

### Year 12 Mock Exam Preparation - Enrichment

As part of our Enrichment programme, Year 12 students recently took part in a focused session on mock exam preparation. The workshop explored effective revision strategies, time management techniques, and how to approach different types of exam questions with confidence.

Students also had the chance to reflect on their current study habits and take away practical tips to support their success in the upcoming Year 12 mock exams. It was fantastic to see such positive engagement as they continue building the skills they'll need going into Year 13.



## MATHS

### Year 9 Exams



The end of year mathematics exams for Year 9 take place soon. There will be two exam papers; non-calculator and calculator, each of which takes 45 minutes. These will take place at the following times:

**Monday 23/06/25 period 3**

**Tuesday 24/06/25 period 4**

Students have been given revision materials to prepare. They will need to bring the correct mathematical equipment (pen, pencil, ruler, calculator, protractor and compasses).

**Mr Wesley – Maths Department**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 25th June - Year 11 into 12 Transition Day  
Thursday 26th June - Sports Day  
Friday 27th June – INSET Day, school closed to students  
Tuesday 8th July - Sports Presentation Evening  
Thursday 10th July - New Year 7 Day

## WE ARE HIRING!

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



## FUTURE DATES

**2025**

Friday 27th June - INSET Day , school closed to students  
Friday 18th July - Summer Term Ends , 1.30pm  
Monday 1st September - INSET Day, school closed to students  
Tuesday 2nd September – Year 7 Only  
Tuesday 2nd September - Thursday 4th September, Year 12 Clearing  
Wednesday 3rd September - All other students return  
Friday 5th September - Year 12 return



## GOVERNOR RECRUITMENT

# All Saints Catholic Academy Trust

The All Saints Catholic Academy Trust (ASCAT) is currently seeking to recruit Governors for a number of our Schools local Governing Boards, across the Trust, to ensure high standards of achievement for all children and young people in the school by setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction; holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The Trust has vacancies for Foundation Governors; Co-opted Governors and Community Governors. This is an exciting opportunity to play a role in a vibrant and collaborative Trust that is in the process of expansion and development.

The role of Governor is incredibly rewarding and the benefits include:

- **Professional development**
- **Supporting the local and wider Catholic community**
- **Gaining insight into the Education Sector**
- **Management & Leadership experience**
- **Being able to have a significant impact on the Schools in the Trust**
- **Build your professional and personal network**

If you are interested in supporting our schools and Trust please contact Christina Reffold, Director of Governance and Compliance at [governance@ascat.co.uk](mailto:governance@ascat.co.uk) or complete the below form.

<https://forms.gle/9XHc98pgQCjgNfG7A>



## TRIPS 2025 – 2026

**"A Gentle  
Reminder"**

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

GCSE Geography F/T, July 2025

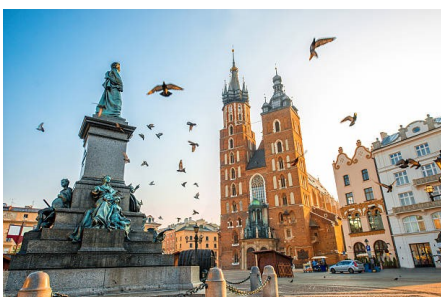
Berlin, October 2025

Ski Trip, February 2026

Valencia 2026

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**Taste of Italy February 2026 - Open to current Year 10 Food Science students and Year 9 students who are studying Food Science next year.**





## ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS 2025

At 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. **Please also try and avoid leaving your car engines running outside of 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 48hours after the last symptoms



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

NHS advice about when to keep your child off school

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Sponsored by:



# WOODLAND TRAIL

WALK OR RUN

## SATURDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE BERKHAMSTED CASTLE

All proceeds help local people facing crisis



# DENS.ORG.UK/TRAIL

Registered charity number: 1097185

Supported by:





**DSPL8**

Delivering Special  
Provision Locally

## DSPL8 SEND information Fayre

**SAVE THE DATE**

Thursday 26th June 2025

*For Parent and Carers of Children  
with SEN or Disabilities*

At the Warners End Community Centre  
Northridge Way, Hemel Hempstead  
HP1 3QG

Any questions email: [dspl@kls.herts.sch.uk](mailto:dspl@kls.herts.sch.uk)



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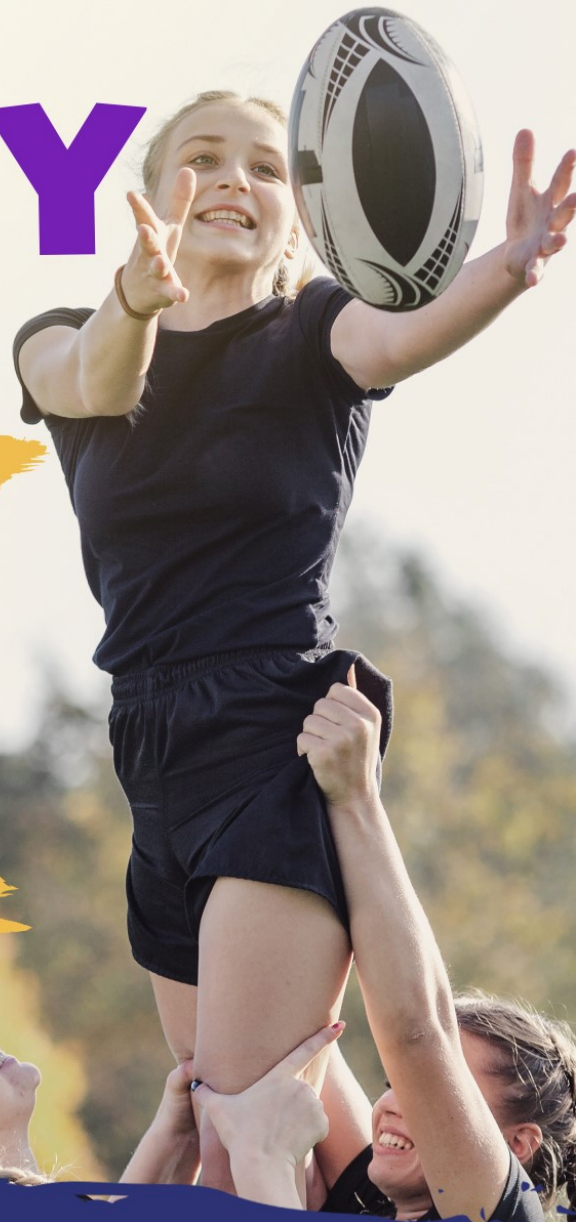


**BRAND NEW** AT CAMELOT RUFC

# GIRLS RUGBY

SCHOOL YEARS 5-11

ALL  
SKILL LEVELS  
WELCOME



**FREE TASTER SESSIONS**  
SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
SATURDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE  
3:00-5:00PM



**SCAN ME  
TO REGISTER**

For more information text or call on

**07827 908024**

or email [girlsrugby@camelotrffc.co.uk](mailto:girlsrugby@camelotrffc.co.uk)

Chaulden Lane, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2BS





## Parent & Carer Support Summer Term 2025



**FREE** to parents and carers living in Hertfordshire

All courses are 6 weeks with a break for half term 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> May

### TALKING TEENS

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged **12-19**, covering:

- The Teen Brain: physical and emotional changes taking place and why behaviour changes.
- The link between behaviour and communicating difficult feelings.
- How to maintain your relationship with good communication.
- Understand risk taking behaviour around drugs, alcohol and gang culture.
- How to negotiate and reduce conflict.



#### Wednesdays

**7.45 - 9.15pm**

**7<sup>th</sup> May to 18<sup>th</sup> Jun**

**Online Course: ID 759**

#### Tuesdays

**7.45 - 9.15pm**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Jun to 8<sup>th</sup> Jul**

**Online Course: ID 760**

### TALKING ADDITIONAL NEEDS

A 6-week group for parents and carers of children with any additional need aged **2-19**  
Your child does not need a diagnosis.

- Understand your child's behaviour.
- Develop strategies that really work.
- Reduce conflict and increase co-operation.
- Improve emotional regulation.
- Explore sensory needs.
- Increase your child's resilience.
- Manage different needs in your family.



#### Tuesdays

**9.30 - 11.30am**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Jun to 8<sup>th</sup> Jul**

**Face to Face: ID 755**

**Gade Community Room  
Oakleaf Primary School,  
Hemel Hempstead**

#### Tuesdays

**8.00 - 9.30pm**

**6<sup>th</sup> May to 17<sup>th</sup> Jun**

**Online Course ID 756**