

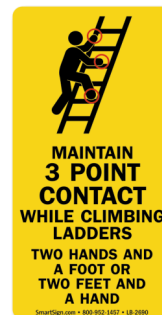
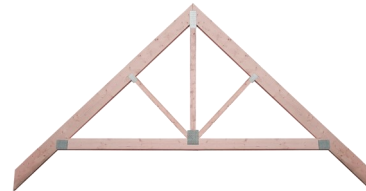
# INSPIRE • ACHIEVE • SERVE

## John F Kennedy Catholic School

20th June 2025



### The Power of 3



In life there are some well known sets of three:

- the classic oration technique that uses three components to emphasise an overarching idea, e.g. visible signage during the Prime Minister's daily covid briefings
- the fundamentals of engineering: bridges and roofs of buildings are often constructed using triangular trusses. Unlike, say, a rectangular arrangement of components, which can be squashed, a 3-sided shape is totally rigid and stable
- a three-legged stool is a great example of a piece of furniture that you know will always find its stability, whatever the surface it's on
- when climbing a mountain or climbing a ladder there is a general rule of thumb to maintain 3 points of contact - 2 feet and 1 hand or 2 hands and 1 foot. This brings about stability by distributing the body's weight evenly
- our school mission statement, summarised by three words: inspire, achieve and serve.

Last Sunday we celebrated the feast of the Most Holy Trinity - a thanksgiving for the three persons of our God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In terms of our Catholic faith, the Trinity provides us with a special power of 3: God the Father, our source of life and constant love for us, God the Son - God in human form, Jesus who is our great teacher, and God the Holy Spirit, the invisible, personal presence of the creator God that animates and sustains all creation, embodying God's active presence in the world. In my view, together, these provide us with our own stability in life - a complete, solid package of support for a life of fulfilment.



## YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE



This week we welcomed Year 10 back after a week out of school on Work Experience. There was a large variety of placements, in all different sectors. We had students revisit their Primary Schools as well as new roles in Retail, Hairdressing and Barbering, Engineering, Carpentry, Charity work, Animal care, Healthcare, Customer Service and IT amongst many more.

This year the vast majority of students sourced their own placement, with support from their families for which we are very grateful for your support. It can be a daunting task to approach a business and ask for a placement but gives them vital experience when it comes to applying for jobs after school. I was impressed with how seriously the students took this part of the process, proactively asking for support, if needed.

We were in contact with students throughout the week and there was a feeling of pride to see them thriving in the work environment. We had the opportunity to witness budding chefs in professional kitchens, presentations being made in front of whole office teams and TikTok and Instagram posts being made for the businesses by our students.

The feedback from employers has been fantastic too. Quite understandably many of the students were nervous at the beginning of the week but really grew across their time with the business hosting them. I have shared a few highlights to show we certainly can be proud of our Year 10 cohort. There are many who have been invited back for further placements, apprenticeships or weekend/summer jobs, this is amazing news.

*She was absolutely amazing! She showed a genuine enthusiasm, maturity, patience and excellent communication skills.*

- St Albert the Great

*Her confidence grew over the week, nothing fazed her and by the end of the week she was inputting her thoughts into HR topics and practices.*

- Renewal Enterprises

*Best work experience students we have ever had.*

- St Rose Primary School

*Very confident in communicating with staff and clients. Considering his age, this was most impressive. He was also complimented many times on his coffee and tea making.*

- Heads you win



## FOOD SCIENCE

### Year 10 Cooking Masterclass



We were lucky enough to invite Chef Andrew Wakeford to the school this week along with JFK alumni student Harry as his Sous Chef. They delivered a series of masterclasses to our Year 10 GCSE Food Science students, who watched demonstrations on portioning a whole chicken as well as using the sous vide method to cook the stuffed breast. They all created their own dish of chicken supreme stuffed with cream cheese and spinach served with a pea risotto.

We ran 3 sessions over the course of the day and the Food Science team were very proud to watch Harry successfully delivering the demonstration in the afternoon. All the students certainly enjoyed eating their dishes at the end of their class. This was made possible thanks to West Herts College.





## PE

### Year 8 Pupil Premium Sports Festival – A Day of Confidence, Challenge and Fun



On Friday 13th June, fifteen of our Year 8 students had the fantastic opportunity to take part in the annual Dacorum Pupil Premium Sports Festival, held at Longdean School. Organised by the Dacorum School Sports Network, the event brought together pupils from several local secondary schools for a full day of inclusive and engaging physical activity.

The festival was specifically designed to support students on the Pupil Premium register or those identified as benefiting from a confidence-building experience outside of the classroom. With a strong focus on self-esteem, teamwork and trying something new, it was a chance for our students to grow in confidence and enjoy a different kind of learning environment.

Throughout the day, students took part in a wide variety of activities, including football, judo, drumba, circus skills, freestyle football, blaze pods, and even giant inflatables. The sessions were delivered in a fun and supportive atmosphere, encouraging everyone to get involved and step out of their comfort zone.

Our students rotated around the activities as a school group, building stronger bonds with one another and developing key skills such as communication, collaboration, and resilience. Staff noted just how engaged and enthusiastic they were throughout the day, showing maturity, determination, and a willingness to give every activity a go.

The event not only offered a break from the usual school routine but also reinforced the importance of physical activity for mental wellbeing, teamwork, and personal growth. Several students commented on how much they enjoyed trying something new, and how the day helped boost their confidence in social situations.

We are incredibly proud of the way our students conducted themselves. They represented the school with respect, energy, and a fantastic attitude – a true credit to our community.

A big thank you to the Dacorum School Sports Network for organising such a well-run and inspiring event.

**Mr Chignall - 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**



## MATHS



The end of year mathematics exams for Years 7, 8 and 9 take place in the forthcoming weeks. There will be two exam papers, non-calculator and calculator, each of which takes 45 minutes. These will take place at the following times:

**Year 9 - Monday 23/06/25 period 3  
Tuesday 24/06/25 period 4**

**Year 7 - Monday 30/06/25 periods 2 and 4**

**Year 8 – Tuesday 01/07/25 periods 1 and 2**

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



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

GCSE Geography F/T, July 2025

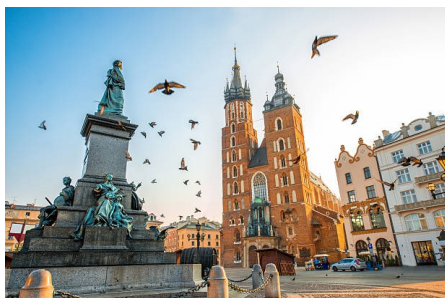
Berlin, October 2025

Ski Trip, February 2026

Valencia 2026

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**Taste of Italy February 2026 - Open to all Year 9 and 10 students**





## 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

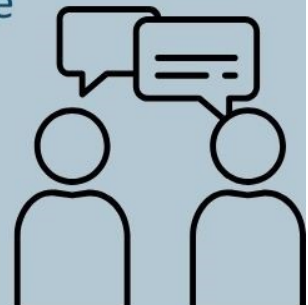
**SAVE THE DATE**

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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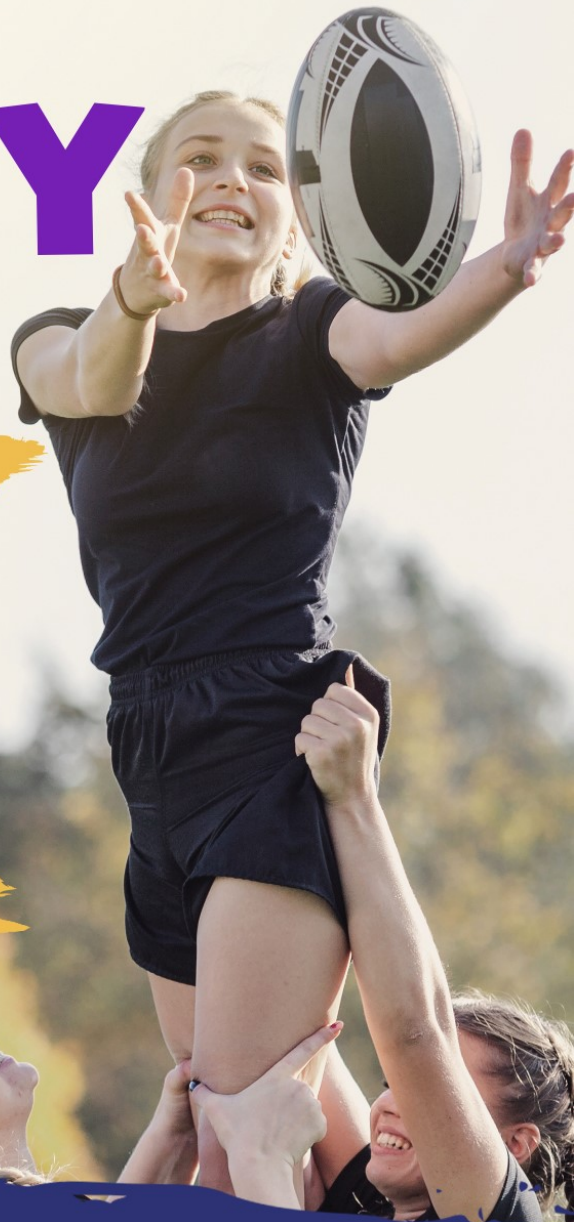


**BRAND NEW** AT CAMELOT R.U.F.C.

# 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

