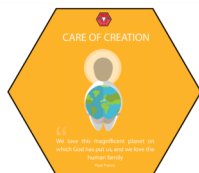


# INSPIRE • ACHIEVE • SERVE

## John F Kennedy Catholic School

19th September 2025



### Spiritus UK



Last Sunday was the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, which dates back to the seventh century and followed centuries of invasions and changes of possession of the relics of the cross on which Jesus was crucified. Those relics had been found as a result of St Helena's visit to the site of the crucifixion in 326 AD. They are now kept in the Basilica Church of Santa Croce in Rome. The cross is the universal symbol of the Christian church. In the Catholic tradition it is significant at the beginning and end of the Christian life: the cross is traced on the forehead of a person being baptised and a cross is placed on the coffin at a funeral. Every liturgical ceremony begins and ends with making the sign of the cross. For our Catholic students, the cross is a sign of their identity, that they should be proud to bear witness to. And that leads to our theme of the week: Ambassadors for Christ. In his second letter to the Corinthians, on the subject of reconciliation, Paul wrote:

'And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.'

Essentially, as ambassadors this means spreading the Good News of the Gospel through words, or more importantly through actions. There are so many great examples of this demonstrated by students at JFK each day - I have instantly got a dozen students who have volunteered to help out at this weekend's Spiritus event and each day I witness students getting involved in the wider life of the school and acting with kindness and respect. However, if one of our community acts unkindly or lacking respect, they can expect to be instantly challenged: in this school, we are all expected to be ambassadors for Christ.

'Spiritus UK' takes place from Friday to Sunday this weekend. We will be hosting 70 participants visiting Hemel Hempstead from various parts of the UK, Ireland, Austria, Germany, Italy and Australia. Each person has a role in Catholic education and we will be spending time engaging with a mix of academic learning, retreat experiences and liturgical celebration. As part of the 'sharings' sessions we will be showing participants our successful work in Catholic Life and Mission. I am praying for a successful gathering - one in which the JFK community can be seen as ambassadors for Christ.



## MEET SOME OF OUR NEW STAFF



### Miss Paterson

I am really glad to be joining the Science department here at JFK. I am originally from New Zealand, where I first began teaching, and I moved to Hemel two years ago. Since then, I have been teaching at another local school, but I am now excited to start this new chapter at JFK. My background is in Biology and Agricultural Science, and I have always had a strong passion for these subjects. Outside of teaching, I enjoy the outdoors, nature and following sports - especially rugby and hockey, which I was heavily involved in during my school years back in New Zealand. I am really looking forward to becoming part of the JFK community and sharing my enthusiasm for Biology and Science with students, while also encouraging them to develop their own curiosity about the world around them.

### Mr Fiorletta

Hello everyone, thank you all for the warm welcome to the school. I join the Mathematics department as an ECT1 career changer having previously worked with marketing data and strategy. I have two young children with whom I enjoy spending time reading, going to the park and discussing maths and science with (we're currently going through a space and planets phase, which feels on trend with our care of creation theme).

I look forward to getting to know each of you better in the year ahead.





## FOOD SCIENCE

Year 7



The Year 7 's have made a fantastic start during their first practical lesson this year . Learning about knife skills to make a fruit salad.



**Mrs Parker and Mrs Horsted – Technology Department**



## FOOD SCIENCE

### Year 10 GCSE



The week the Year 10 GCSE Food group got off to a flying start de-boning a whole chicken to make a variety of dishes from the various cuts. Well done!

**Mrs Parker and Mrs Horsted – Technology Department**



## SIXTH FORM

### Supercurricular and Volunteering Programme



Students in the Sixth Form attended the first session of our **Supercurricular and Volunteering Programme** this week. The programme has been designed to broaden learning beyond the classroom, develop leadership and interpersonal skills, and provide valuable experiences to support future applications to university, apprenticeships, or employment. During the session, students were introduced to:

- A range of **supercurricular opportunities**, including MOOCs, online lectures, reading, essay competitions, and student-led discussion groups.
- **Volunteering roles** such as literacy mentors, sports leaders, learning support mentors, subject ambassadors, and library assistants.
- The **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)**, which provides students with the chance to undertake a 5000-word independent research project, equivalent to half an A-Level.
- Guidance on **Oxbridge and early entry pathways**, with a focus on the academic confidence and skills required to succeed.

This programme reflects our commitment to encouraging students to extend their learning, contribute to the school community, and prepare effectively for the next stage of their education.

**Mr Wainman – Sixth Form Team**



PE

Gym and Dance Show 2025



**Matinee Performance -**

Tuesday 11th November 2025

11.30am

**Evening Performance -**

Wednesday 12th November 2025

7.00pm

**Evening Performance -**

Thursday 13th November 2025

7.00pm

Miss Perry – PE Department



## ENGLISH

### GCSE and A Level Revision



Revision for GCSEs and A Levels starts here! Weekly revision packs are now available from outside A13 for GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature and A Level Literature. These will change each week, and will include past papers as well as exam board material and tasks to practise key skills. Just come along and take what you need!



Miss Bullen – English Department



## ARRIVA BUS STRIKE



Please be aware that **Arriva bus drivers are striking for the next few weeks**, which is expected to significantly affect bus services across the local area.

The strikes are expected to cause severe disruption to routes in Luton, Milton Keynes, Stevenage, Ware, Hemel Hempstead and Watford.

The strikes will take place during the following dates:

**Tuesday 23rd September - Friday 26th September**

**Wednesday 1st October – Saturday 4th October**

**Thursday 9th October – Sunday 12th October**

**Tuesday 14th October – Friday 17th October**



## STUDENT SERVICES

### Labelling Uniform



A reminder that all uniform, including PE Kits must be clearly labelled with the students full name and form. Student Services are currently receiving lots of lost property that is unnamed .

Thank you

**This item belongs to:**

**Mrs Doyle – Student Services**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 23rd September, A Level Geography Field Trip

Tuesday 23rd September - Berlin Parent Information Evening, 6pm Hall

Wednesday 24th September - Year 11 Careers Fair

Tuesday 7th October, Open Evening , 6pm – 9pm

Wednesday 8th October - INSET Day, School Closed to students

Thursday 9th October, Year 7 Welcome Mass, 7pm Hall

## WE ARE HIRING!

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



## FUTURE DATES

Monday 15th October , Open Morning, 9.30am

Thursday 23rd October, Year 13 Consultation Evening, 4pm

Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October, Half Term

Thursday 6th November, Sixth Form Open Evening, 6pm



## TRIPS 2025 – 2026

**"A Gentle  
Reminder"**

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

Berlin, October 2025

Ski Trip, February 2026

Valencia 2026

Taste of Italy, February 2026

***Upcoming trips :***

\* Year 7 Croft Farm 2026 - Letters have been sent out today, limited places available\*.

Year 7 Retreats, September

Year 11 Careers Fair

DofE Bronze

Panto , December 2025 - New Year 7

Punch Years 10, 12 and 13 Drama

Matilda, November 2025, Year 8

Back to the Future, January 2026, Year 9





## 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



### Home School Agreement

Further to Mr Neves' letter on 5th September 2025, Parents and carers are requested to sign the home-school agreement, which can be found following this [link](#).

In relation to behaviour, by signing the home-school agreement, this confirms your understanding of what we expect of behaviour in school and that you will support the school's approach to managing behaviour.



**St Cuthbert Mayne**  
Catholic Junior School

### St Cuthbert Mayne Catholic Junior School Open Evening

Open Evening for prospective parents and children on **Tuesday, 11th November 2025, from 6.00pm to 7.00pm** at St Cuthbert Mayne School.

If your child does not currently attend St Rose's, we kindly ask that you email [admin@cuthbertmayne.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cuthbertmayne.herts.sch.uk) to confirm your attendance.



## GOVERNOR RECRUITMENT

# All Saints Catholic Academy Trust



The All Saints Catholic Academy Trust is recruiting for Clerks for two school boards, St John's Catholic Primary School and St Joan of Arc Catholic Secondary School. This is a great opportunity with flexible working and professional development.

More information is available at:

[Clerk to Local Academy Council](#) - St John's

[Clerk to Local Academy Council](#) - St Joan of Arc

Interested parties can contact Director of Governance & Compliance, [Christina Reffold](#) at [governance@ascat.co.uk](mailto:governance@ascat.co.uk) for more information



## 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



## Parent & Carer Support TALKING ASD & ADHD Workshops Autumn 2025



Workshops are FREE to parents and carers living in [Hertfordshire](#) of children aged 2-25yrs with suspected or diagnosed Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

← [Eventbrite Page](#)

### RESPONDING to ANGER



- Healthy & unhealthy anger.
- How to spot the signs early.
- Our own and our children's triggers.
- Techniques that stop angry and aggressive behaviour escalating and when to use them.
- How to respond to our child in meltdown, keeping ourselves, our child and siblings safe.

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 9.30-11.15am**  
Workshop SL781 book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/asd-adhd-responding-to-anger-781-for-parentscarers-in-herts-registration-1413258727899?aff=oddtcreator>

### THE TEENAGE YEARS



- Teenage brain development and how it affects a child with ASD/ADHD.
- Reducing conflict by learning how to respond effectively to difficult situations.
- How to agree appropriate boundaries and teach risk assessment.
- Help teens develop independence skills.

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30-9.15pm**  
Workshop SL782 book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-adhd-the-teenage-years-782-for-parentscarers-in-herts-registration-1417376895449?aff=oddtcreator>

### SCHOOL AVOIDANCE



- What is Emotionally Based School Avoidance and is this what your child is experiencing?
- Common causes and triggers of school avoidance.
- How EBSA is affecting you and your family.
- Practical steps you can take to support your child and look after yourself.
- How to work with your school in your child's best interests.

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30-9.15pm**  
Workshop SL783 book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-adhd-school-avoidance-783-for-parentscarers-in-herts-registration-1417463965879?aff=oddtcreator>

### TECH USE



- Keep your child safe online.
- Help your child to switch their device off.
- Support behaviour difficulties when playing.
- The effect of using devices as a reward or consequence.
- Teach children to develop their own methods of regulating device use and staying safe.

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30-9.15pm**  
Workshop SL784 book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-adhd-tech-use-784-for-parentscarers-in-herts-registration-1417436894909?aff=oddtcreator>

Follow us on:



Contact via:

[info@supportinglinks.co.uk](mailto:info@supportinglinks.co.uk)  
[www.supportinglinks.co.uk](http://www.supportinglinks.co.uk)

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