



## DRAMA

### GCSE and A Level Cabaret Trip



On Wednesday 24th September, our wonderful Year 11, 12 and 13 Drama students enjoyed a matinee performance of Cabaret at the “Kit Kat Club” Playhouse Theatre in London. Set in 1930s Berlin during the rise of the Nazi Party, Cabaret immerses audiences in the smoky, seductive world of the Kit Kat Club, where glamour and danger intertwine. The students were captivated by the production’s stunning performances, powerful staging and bold reimagining of this iconic musical. Their enthusiasm, curiosity and impeccable behaviour throughout the trip were a credit to our school — a truly memorable theatrical experience for all. They will use this experience to inform both their practical work and be the subject of their written exam.

#### Student Review by Daniella N, Year 11

On Wednesday 24th September, I had the opportunity to attend a matinee performance of Cabaret at the Playhouse Theatre in London. Cabaret is a story set in Berlin during Germany’s jazz age, which follows two stories. These stories are the budding romance between Cliff Bradshaw (an American Writer) and Sally Bowles (an English Performer at the Kit Kat Club), and the fragile romance between Herr Schultz (a German-Jewish Fruit Monger) and Fraulein Schneider (a German Lodger). These stories are presented to the attendees of the Kit Kat Club (where the audience are watching the performance) amidst the background of the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party.

Cabaret is an immersive experience, which commences from the moment of entry in the Playhouse Theatre. I was lucky enough to enter the building through one of the stage doors, where upon entry I witnessed one of the dancers performing a routine near the bar. Many dancers appear in not only the bar area, but also in the seating area for the audience!

The show itself was absolutely brilliant. Not only was it an enjoyable and engaging experience, but it was also a reminder of what I’d studied in Year 9 History, as well as the Political News that has recently been broadcasting globally. The technical aspects, as well as the acting itself, made you feel almost as if you were really witnessing history unfolding in front of you.

Overall, it was a spectacular and an intricately crafted show. I thoroughly enjoyed it, and I am thankful to the staff who organised the trip for us students who were able to watch it!

**Drama Department**



## DRAMA

### Year 11 GCSE Drama

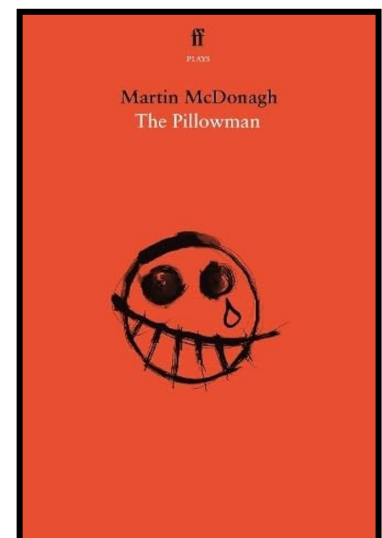
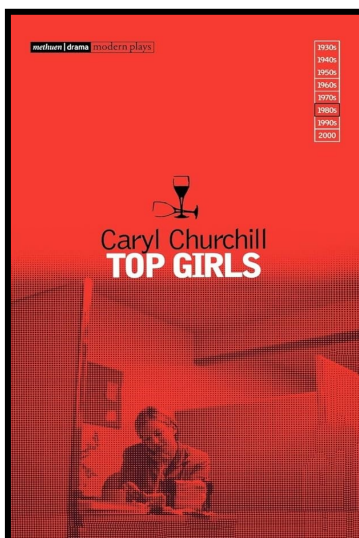


Year 11 GCSE Drama students have started their component two performance rehearsals. This is a scripted performance, which will be marked by a visiting examiner in March and requires students to apply excellent physical and vocal skills to their work. The texts students have chosen to explore include:

**Caryl Churchill's, *Top Girls*:** A thought-provoking play about women, ambition and the sacrifices people make for success.

**Duncan Macmillan's, *People, Places and Things*:** A raw look at addiction, recovery and the search for identity.

**Martin McDonagh's, *The Pillowman*:** A dark play exploring the power of storytelling and its impact on life and morality.





## PE



Our Year 8 boys had their first fixture of the year and it was a cup game. Despite the score at the final whistle our boys remain in good spirits and have their heads held high ready for the next fixture! A huge thank you to our amazing Sixth Formers! Jude who stepped up as coach, Tessa for being the minibus DJ and Megan for being our cheerleader!

### Stars of the Unit

Many congratulations to all our Stars of Unit 1. Next week we are moving onto Unit 2 ( see tables below ).

- If you wish to purchase a red Gilbert dress please open this [link](#)
- [Learn CPR in just 15 minutes](#)





## PE

### Year 7

<b>UNIT 2: 6th October</b> Assessment Week 3/11	Netball Courts	Gymnastics Gym	Rugby Field	Football Field
<b>HOUSE WEEK: 10th November</b>	Netball Tournament - Courts		Football Tournament - Field	
<b>UNIT 3: 17th November</b> Assessment week 8/12	Football Field	Dance Studio	Gaelic Football Field	Basketball Gym
<b>HOUSE WEEK: 15/12 Santa Runs</b>	House XC - Field			

### Year 8

<b>UNIT 2: 6th October</b> Assessment Week 3/11	Netball Courts	Gymnastics Gym	Rugby Field	Football Field
<b>HOUSE WEEK: 10th November</b>	Netball Tournament - Courts		Football Tournament - Field	
<b>UNIT 3: 17th November</b> Assessment week 8/12	Football Field	Dance Studio	Gaelic Football Field	Basketball Gym
<b>HOUSE WEEK: 15/12 Santa Runs</b>	House XC Field			

### Year 9

<b>UNIT 2: 6th October</b> Assessment Week 3/11	Netball Courts	Gymnastics Gym	Rugby Field	Football Field
<b>HOUSE WEEK: 10th November</b>	Netball Tournament - Courts		Football Tournament - Field	
<b>UNIT 3: 17th November</b> Assessment week 8/12	Football Field	Dance Studio	Gaelic Football Field	Basketball Gym
<b>HOUSE WEEK: 15/12 Santa Runs</b>	House XC Field			

### Year 10 and 11

<b>UNIT 2: 6th October</b> Assessment Week 3/11	Netball Courts	Gymnastics Gym <small>Includes performance week</small>	Football Field	Table Tennis Dance Studio	Y10 Intervention group Y11 GCSE Support
<b>HOUSE WEEK: 10th November</b>	Netball Tournament Courts	Netball Tournament Courts	Football Tournament Field	Volleyball Gym	
<b>UNIT 3: 17th November</b> Assessment week 8/12	Football Field	Badminton Gym	Gaelic Football Field	Football Field	
<b>HOUSE WEEK: 15/12 Santa</b>	House XC - Field				

### This weeks fixture results

**Year 10 Football v Sandringham 2-1 (L)**  
**Year 10 Netball v CGS 8-6 (W)**  
**Year 9a Netball v Ashlyns 7-4 (W)**  
**Year 9b Netball v CGS 8-1 (L)**  
**Year 8 Football v Samuel Ryder 2-1 (L)**



PE Department



## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Congratulations to Nathan S in Year 7 who completed the Shine 10km Night Walk around London in order to raise money for those affected by cancer, particularly for the charity Haematology Cancer Care at UCLH who cared for his grandfather.

His total is now over £800. Well done Nathan!



**HAEMATOLOGY  
CANCER  
CARE.**

UCLH Charity



## DIGITAL SAFETY



In today's digital world, apps are part of everyday life for secondary-age children. They offer creativity, entertainment, and social connection. However, alongside the positives come risks that parents and carers should be aware of.

### Understanding the risks

Many apps collect large amounts of personal data, from location details to contacts, often without children realising the implications. Others expose young people to inappropriate or harmful content, whether through unfiltered videos, anonymous chats, or user-generated posts. Bullying and harassment can also take place within these platforms, sometimes hidden from parents and carers' view.

Another concern is the presence of online predators who may disguise themselves as peers in order to exploit children. On top of this, the design of many apps can encourage overuse through constant notifications and endless scrolling which can interfere with sleep, wellbeing, and school performance.

Financial risks also exist, with in-app purchases or "loot box" style features that can tempt children into spending money without fully understanding the consequences. Some apps may even appear harmless but are designed to hide conversations or bypass parental oversight, adding another layer of complexity for families.

**Mrs McKenzie – Assistant Headteacher**



## DIGITAL SAFETY

### What parents and carers should look out for

When your child asks to download a new app, it's worth considering a few key questions. What age is the app designed for?

- Does the rating match your child's stage of maturity?
- How much personal data does it request?
- Are the privacy settings easy to control?
- Does the platform have strong moderation and reporting tools?
- What is the community culture like?

You may also want to check how easy it is to make in-app purchases and whether parental controls are built in. Exploring these factors together with your child not only helps you assess the risks but also builds digital literacy, encouraging them to think critically about the online spaces they inhabit.

### A trusted resource

To make this easier, **Internet Matters** has put together a clear, parent-friendly guide to the apps and platforms most commonly used by children today. It highlights what each app does, its key features, and the potential risks to be aware of.

You can find the full guide here: [Internet Matters – Apps & Platforms \(11–16\)](#).

This resource is regularly updated, so it's a reliable way to stay informed as new platforms emerge and existing ones evolve.

The NSPCC website also contains helpful advice regarding keeping children safe online - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

### Practical steps you can take

The most effective safeguard is open communication. Ask your child what apps they use and why, and take time to explore those apps together. Set clear boundaries around screen time and "offline hours" such as at mealtimes or after bedtime. Encourage your child to block or report users who behave inappropriately, and make sure location sharing is switched off unless absolutely necessary.

Apps can be positive spaces where young people learn, create, and connect. But without awareness and guidance, they can also present real risks. By staying informed and keeping conversations open, parents and carers can empower children to use technology safely and responsibly.

**Mrs McKenzie – Assistant Headteacher**



## SAFEGUARDING IN FOCUS

A screenshot of the online enrolment form for The National College. The form is dark-themed and includes fields for 'Email Address', 'First Name', 'Last Name', 'Parent / Carer', 'Password', and 'Re-enter Password'. A blue button at the bottom is labeled 'Create Account'.

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/carer. Once you're set up, you'll get instant access to all training and resources.

### 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 below:

- [App store](#)
- [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**



PE

Gym and Dance Show 2025



**Evening Performance -**  
Wednesday 12th November 2025  
7.00pm

**Evening Performance -**  
Thursday 13th November 2025  
7.00pm

Miss Perry – PE 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:

**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 7th October, Early Finish, 1.30pm

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

Monday 15th October , Open Morning, 9.30am

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

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

## WE ARE HIRING!

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



## FUTURE DATES

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

Wednesday 12th November, Gym and Dance Display, 7pm

Thursday 13th November, Gym and Dance Display, 7pm

Friday 28th November, Occasional Day, School Closed

Wednesday 3rd December, GCSE Presentation Evening, 6.45pm

Tuesday 9th December, Year 10 Consultation Evening, 4.00pm, Hall



## TRIPS 2025 – 2026

**"A Gentle  
Reminder"**

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

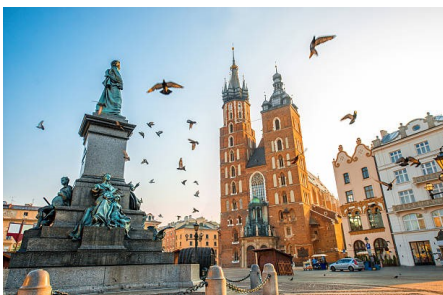
**Berlin, October 2025 – final payment due.**

- Ski Trip, February 2026
  - Valencia 2026
- Taste of Italy, February 2026

*Upcoming trips :*

**\* Year 7 Croft Farm 2026 - limited places available\*.**

- Winter Athletics
- Hertfordshire Zoo
- A Level RE , Conference
  - DofE Bronze
- Panto , December 2025 - New Year 7
- Punch, Years 10, 12 and 13 Drama
- 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



### 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.



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

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 [FACEBOOK.COM/ADVANCETHEATRE](https://www.facebook.com/advancetheatre)

SCAN ME





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## 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)

Funded by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund

