

# INSPIRE • ACHIEVE • SERVE

## John F Kennedy Catholic School

5th December 2025



### Stay Awake!



In assemblies this week the focus was on the new season in the Church's year: Advent. The Gospel reading from Sunday presented a clear message to Christians about the importance of the preparation for Christmas:

*'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'*

Advent is therefore a time in which to take stock of our lives and self-assess the extent to which we are living out our Christian faith. In the assemblies I reminded students of the one notable account in the Gospels of Jesus displaying an angry rage. The episode is referred to as 'Jesus cleansing the temple' and recounted Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem with his disciples. He naturally made his way to the temple - the 'house of his father', a place of prayer and worship - but found it to be taken over by market traders and money dealers. His disbelief turned into anger as he started overturning tables and brandishing a whip to move people out. For me, the key issue here was people not behaving in the necessary reverential way in that holy place, forgetting the reason for the existence of the temple. How might our students prepare for Christmas during Advent? By reminding themselves of the purpose of JFK school, summarised by its Mission Statement, and reflecting on how well they are contributing to the community. I suggested a simple dictionary definition:

**Catholic school** (*noun*) a place where children go to learn in order to be the best Christian role models they can be in the adult world.

So, a simple check up would look like this: are you conducting yourself in a way that inspires others, achieving your best in all you do, and being of service to the community? There are so many examples of these attributes demonstrated by our students each day at JFK but we all have room to grow and develop further. Now is a good time to commit to improvement in order to be our best selves, ready to welcome Jesus at Christmas..



## CELEBRATIONS

### Presentation Evening

A celebration highlight of the school year took place on Wednesday evening this week. It was our annual Presentation Evening, at which we presented GCSE certificates to last year's Year 11 students together with a variety of other special awards, celebrating achievements during 2024-25. Stephen Wheatley, CEO of the All Saints Catholic Academy Trust, was our guest of honour. He presented the awards and delivered a speech congratulating the award winners and praising the role that the wider JFK community has played in supporting the young people in its care. Stephen is always very complimentary of JFK as a member of the Trust and quoted an interesting statistic: of the 14 schools in ASCAT, 6 schools are led by either myself or a former student of JFK! In addition many members of staff across the schools are also former JFK students. Stephen went on to encourage the young people in the audience to consider their own vocations. Perhaps the next generation of teachers or school leaders in the Trust were sitting in front of him?! Following the formal proceedings, light refreshments concluded the evening in a very happy, celebratory mood. Special congratulations to the following prize winners:

**Tobenna Meniru and Reanna Mallari** - best performance at GCSE

**Susannah Wickham** - Geoffrey Gower Prize for History

**Freddie Welch** - Michael Stothard Prize for Music

**Sylvie Couldridge** - Paul Smith Award for outstanding creative development within art and design

Students of the Year 2024-25

Year 7: **Holly Woodham** and **Oakley Whittle**

Year 8: **Julia Sowa** and **Shay Fernandes**

Year 9: **Jasmine Okoh** and **Ryan Yates**

Year 10: **Genevieve Gilbert** and **Marek Kosala**

Year 11: **Emilia Blasi-Colleran** and **Reece Bladon**

Year 12: **Caitlin O'Connor** and **Michael Ihenetu**

**Ollie Clissold** received the Dacorum Rotary Young Chef Competition shield as the winner of this year's competition

Mayor of Dacorum's Award for Outstanding Student of the Year

Key Stage 3: **Lily Kelly**

Key Stage 4: **Jakub Pawlina**



**Mr Neves - Headteacher**



## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

### Conor's Remarkable Swim: Pushing Limits and Inspiring Us All



This August, Conor Gavin, a Year 10 student in St Helena House, took on an extraordinary challenge - swimming the English Channel as part of a relay team. When people asked him why he did it, Conor's answer was simple: he wanted to challenge himself. What amazes us further is that Conor did not even tell us about his achievement himself, a testament to his humility.

Conor was part of the Watford Ocean Warriors, a team made up of young people aged 14 to 18. Together, they conquered the Channel, showing that determination, teamwork, and resilience can lead to amazing achievements.

When asked about what he found most difficult he said, the training. The toughest part for Conor was those early morning swims - waking up before the sun to plunge into freezing cold water. It was tiring and tough, but every swim brought him one step closer to the goal.

What Conor enjoyed most wasn't just the swim itself, but the feeling afterwards - the deep sense of pride and accomplishment that comes from finishing something you once doubted you could do.

At John F Kennedy Catholic School, Conor's spirit perfectly reflects our core values: Inspire, Achieve, and Serve. We encourage all our students to aim high, be resilient, and rise to challenges with faith and determination. Like Conor's training for the Channel swim, success comes from hard work, support from others, and believing in yourself.

Now that the Channel is behind him, Conor is already thinking about his next adventure -swimming Lake Windermere, 11 miles of fresh water. Another challenge, another chance to see how far he can go.

To all our students: whatever your challenge, remember that with courage and perseverance, there's no limit to what you can achieve.

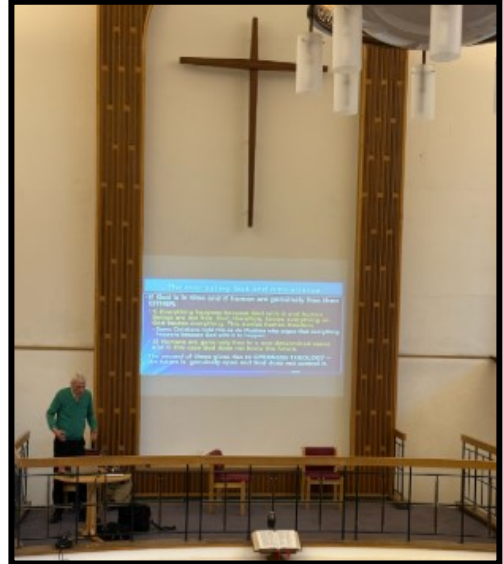
Congratulations Conor, we are enormously proud of you!

**Mr Palumbo - Deputy Headteacher**



## A LEVEL PHILOSOPHY

### Candle Conference



On Friday 21st November a group of A level RS students attended 'Candle Conference'. This event was hosted by Dr Peter Vardy, one of the country's leading scholars in the field of Philosophy, Ethics and Religious Studies. Students from JFK joined over 350 other pupils from Year 12 and 13 who are also studying this subject.

During the event, Dr Vardy discussed key areas of the Philosophy course, including key arguments for the existence of God. He also shared some useful tips regarding evaluation skills, something which is essential for the course and also really useful in the wider world of work.

The event concluded with a debate, which allowed students to engage with the topic of reason and faith. Hopefully this was a worthwhile event that will help students in the future!

Below is a review of the trip by Andrew Hope. A Year 12 student who attended the conference.

*'On our trip to London we were able to listen to Dr Peter Vardy speak about the various topics that will come up in our A level course. It was a really enjoyable experience and it gave us a nice teaser into university style teaching. He went into a lot of detail about the points of study, enriching our knowledge and our understanding of the course whilst also providing us with context to help our exam techniques'*

**Mr Brophy - RE Department**



## FOOD SCIENCE

### Year 10 Food Masterclass



This week saw the return of Chef Andy Wakeford from West Herts College delivering a food masterclass to some of our Year 10 GCSE food group .

The students prepared a pan fried chicken supreme stuffed with spinach and Emmental cheese served with a jus. At lunchtime they all sat down and enjoyed their culinary creations. Huge thanks to Chef Andy for the demonstration.

# West Herts College



**Mrs Parker - Food Science Department**



## FOOD SCIENCE

### Egg-cellent Lesson



This week, Year 7 took “starting the day right” to a whole new level - by mastering the humble (but mighty!) eggs on toast. As part of their work on healthy, balanced diets, students whisked, flipped and toasted their way to a breakfast that would make any nutritionist proud.

Not only did they perfect their cooking skills, but they also learnt why beginning the day with a nutrient-packed meal sets them up for success. After all, brains need fuel - preferably something a little more inspiring than a can of fizzy drink at 8am.

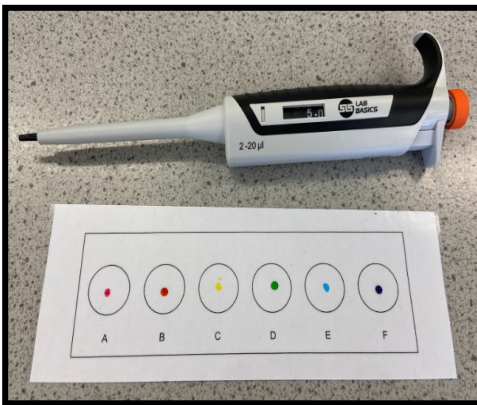
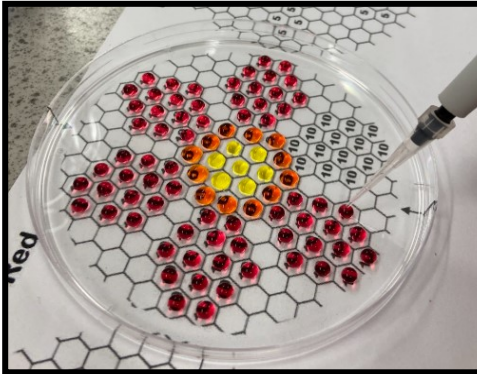
A cracking job, Year 7!

**Mrs Horsted - Food Science Department**



## SCIENCE

### The Snowdrop Project



A group of dedicated students have been meeting every Thursday lunchtime since the beginning of term to develop new knowledge and skills to support the Snowdrop Project. We will be carrying out a piece of novel research with the aim of working out the DNA sequence of 12 varieties of snowdrop plant and deducing how closely the varieties are related to each other. We were awarded a £3000 grant from the Royal Society which has enabled us to purchase the cutting-edge apparatus required to do the work.

We have covered a variety of topics to date, including micropipetting techniques, isolating chloroplasts from leaves, extracting DNA from chloroplasts, and DNA electrophoresis.

One of our STEM partners, Dr Sarah Dyer from EMBL EBI has also led an informative interactive online session explaining how to use databases to decode our DNA sequences.

The spring term will see us visiting Anglesey Abbey, a National Trust property, in order to collect our snowdrop specimens. Back in school we will extract DNA from the samples, then we will sequence the DNA with help from another of our STEM partners, Dr Steven Pearce of Rothamsted Research. We hope to ultimately be able to present our findings at the Royal Society in London next July.

Congratulations goes out to the enthusiastic group of students who have engaged with the project from the start. Miss Digby has also been an invaluable support, sourcing equipment and developing protocols as well as helping with practical sessions; and I extend a huge thank you to her too! We're all looking forward to next term's work!

**Mrs Davison - Science Department**



## HISTORY

### Year 11 Historians Explore Berlin's Compelling Past



Back in October thirty one Year 11 History GCSE students embarked on an unforgettable educational journey to Berlin, immersing themselves in the city's complex and fascinating history.

The three-day trip provided invaluable first hand experience of sites from their modern history curriculum and really brought the Cold War experiences of Berlin to life. At the East Side Gallery, pupils examined the Berlin Wall's vibrant murals, hearing stories about life in the divided city. Students learned how the wall brutally separated families overnight in 1961 and stood as the physical embodiment of the Iron Curtain for nearly three decades. The group explored Checkpoint Charlie, the infamous Cold War border crossing where American and Soviet tanks once faced each other in tense standoffs. Students examined spy stories and daring escape attempts that defined this era of ideological conflict.

The trip also allowed students to explore Germany's Nazi past. At the imposing Berlin Olympic Stadium, built for the 1936 Games intended to showcase Nazi propaganda, students learned about Jesse Owens' remarkable triumph that challenged Hitler's ideology. At Bebelplatz, students viewed the poignant underground memorial to the 1933 book burnings, whilst the understated Hitler's Bunker site prompted discussions about how nations confront difficult histories. The group visited Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, a deeply moving experience that shed light on the Holocaust and the suffering of the victims of the Nazi Regime. Time at the Holocaust Memorial provided space for quiet reflection on the challenging histories pupils had been learning about.

**Mr Morgan - History Department**



## HISTORY

In between our historic site seeing there was time for us to visit some of Berlin's iconic buildings as students posed before the Brandenburg Gate and climbed The Reichstag Dome which offered spectacular views across the city.

Throughout the trip, students demonstrated excellent behaviour and genuine enthusiasm for learning beyond the classroom. Many commented that walking through these historical sites brought their GCSE studies to life and deepened their understanding of totalitarianism, division, and reconciliation.



**Mr Morgan - History Department**



## LIBRARY

### Reading for Pleasure



The Library is looking lovely and Christmassy with window decorations, a Christmas tree and an advent calendar! Several students have added plenty of chocolate coins to their reading challenge collection as they have been reading through the alphabet. Students have been choosing books by different authors and have said 'It makes reading so much more fun!', 'It's fun and we read more' and 'I absolutely love reading so I enjoyed it'. The idea to read through the alphabet was from Year 8 student Hana Sobata - thanks Hana!

The Library Ambassadors as well as a sixth former have been doing a fantastic job 'genrefying' the Library fiction collection which means deciding which genre each book falls within and then labelling it. This is a formidable task and I'm very pleased that they've been enthusiastic about it so far! Hopefully it will make finding a book much easier and lead to more students finding the books that they love to read, or trying a new genre.

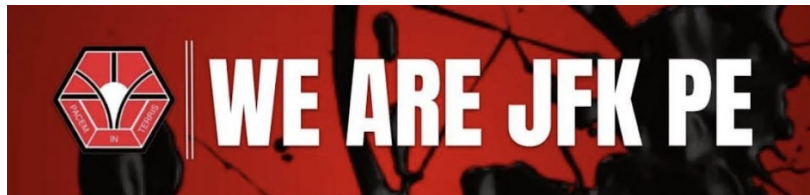
Peaceful Reads has started well and a small group of students are gathering each Wednesday to read in peace and quiet - embracing Reading for Pleasure and enjoying the wide variety of books on offer. It's great to be able to have this opportunity in the middle of a busy week and I encourage staff to come and join us too. There are lots of Christmas-themed books available at the moment including a fantastic new book called 'Light in the Darkness' which is the retelling of the Nativity in a graphic novel complete with realistic pictures of how events surrounding Jesus' birth would really have looked.



**Mrs Powell - Library**



## PE



A polite reminder for our GCSE PE students in Year 10 and 11 about practical assessments. Remember to sign up if you wish to attend: <https://forms.gle/n2XaxvRz3upwJGKA6>

### GCSE PE Internal assessments:

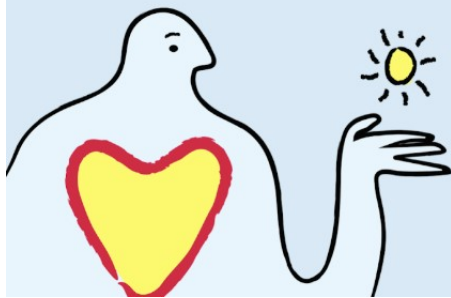
What?	When?	Where?
Athletics Shot	All students during lesson time	
Gymnastics	11/11/25	During gym & dance evening
Athletics - Track events	1/12/25 3:30 - 5:00	Hemel track RP & TJ.
Athletics - Field events	8/12/25 3:30 - 5:00	Hemel track RP & TJ. Small cost involved to support track hire £3.
Dance	8/11/25 P5	Dance studio LT & MR
Trampolining	8/12/25 1:35 (practice can happen during our open evening if arranged in advance)	Lunch time, gym MR & LT
Badminton	9/12/25 1:35	Lunch time, gym - RP, JJY & MR
Football	4/12/25 P5	Field TJ & JJY
Handball	8/12/25 P5	Gym MR & JJ
Netball	9/12/25 P5	Courts MR & FH
Gaelic Football	11/12/25 P5	Field Mr & JJ
Table Tennis	12/12/25 1:35	Lunch Time, gym JJY & FH
After 24/11 Rock Climbing - Trip dates TBC and it will involve a cost, approx £120 - MR & RP. Details to follow		

Miss Rooney - PE Department



## ENGLISH

### Poetry Competition



#### Choose poems

Find a poem to learn from any of our timeline and showcase collections

#### Learn poems by heart

With tips on how to memorise poems and how to polish them for performance

#### Perform poems out loud

Share your poems aloud in a class, club or event of any shape or size, at school or college

#### Enter the national competition

Do it your way - either the 1-poem Freestyle celebration or the 2-poem Classic championship

#### Come to the Grand Finale

Classic finalists and the best Freestylers perform on stage at Shakespeare's Globe, London - with guest tickets for schools taking part

#### Everything you need is here

Videos of past finalists, hundreds of classic and contemporary poems, and pupil and teacher competition guides

This year JFK will be entering an exciting national poetry competition called Poetry By Heart.

Students from any year group can come along and choose a poem, learn it by heart and perform it, it's as simple as that! Any students who take part in the showcase event at school could become national finalists and be invited to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre to perform on stage.

Students should come and see Mrs Sharp in A14 on Wednesdays at lunchtime to get involved.



## JFK CHRISTMAS TREE 2025



We are very grateful to Christmas Tree Place for donating the wonderful tree that is situated in our main Reception area. They grow all the Christmas trees on their family farm which is located just off the A41 Chesham/Berkhamsted junction - HP4 2SZ.

<http://www.christmastreeplace.co.uk/>



**CHRISTMAS TREE PLACE  
BERKHAMSTED**



**GROWING & SELLING SINCE 1991**





CHRISTMAS LUNCH - 10TH AND 11TH DECEMBER



**A VERY  
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
MENU**

**Mains**

**Christmas turkey**

Roasted turkey, roast potatoes,  
seasonal root vegetables,  
pigs in blankets, yorkshire pudding,  
sage and onion stuffing, gravy

or

**Mushroom wellington**

with all the trimmings

**to finish**

**Santas pavlova**

Whipped cream and fruit compote  
with crisp meringue

**Brownie yule log**

Rich chocolate brownie  
filled with cream

**Fresh fruit salad**

Cut fresh fruits

**£4.65**

*Only available when  
ordered in advance*

*Gluten free and vegan option  
available upon request*

by **culinera**



**CAROL CONCERT 2025**



**Tickets are now on sale !**

The Orchestra, Chamber Choir and the Year 7/8 choir will lead this joyous evening with both traditional Christmas Carols and new pieces to guide us through the Christmas Story. For Year 7 it is their first opportunity to take part in this whole-school celebration. Please look out for the email sent home with all details included.

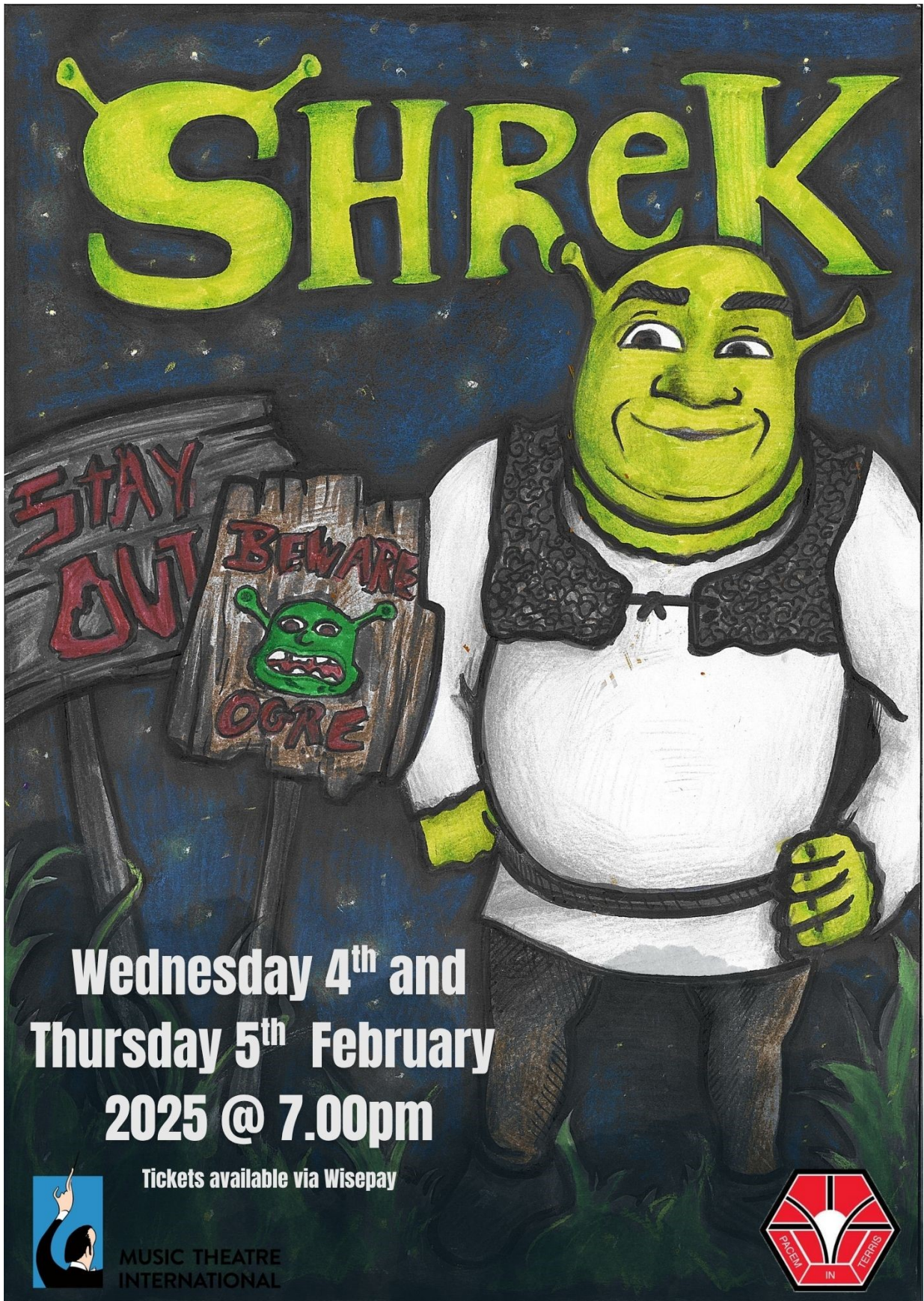
**Mrs Metcalfe - Music Department**

INSPIRE • ACHIEVE • SERVE



SCHOOL PRODUCTION

# SHREK



**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February  
2025 @ 7.00pm**

Tickets available via Wisepay



MUSIC THEATRE  
INTERNATIONAL





## TRIPS 2025 – 2026

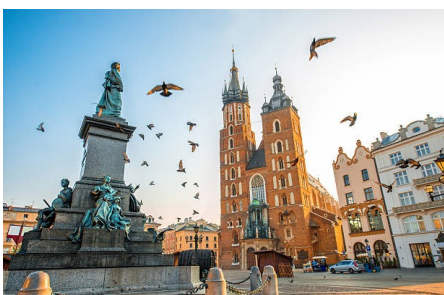
**"A Gentle  
Reminder"**

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

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

***Upcoming trips :***

- DofE Bronze and Silver
- Panto , December 2025 - **Year 7** , refreshments are now available to order.
  - Back to the Future, January 2026, **Year 9**
- Senso Licence , payment is due for **Years 7,8,10 and 11.**
  - Paper birds, GCSE Drama





## 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.



## 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

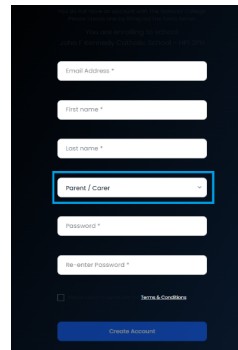
The most effective safeguard is open communication. Ask your child what apps they use and why, and take time to explore those apps together. Set clear boundaries around screen time and "offline hours" such as at mealtimes or after bedtime. Encourage your child to block or report users who behave inappropriately,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



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**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Monday 15th December, Carol Concert, 7.00pm, Hall

Tuesday 16th December, Year 7 Pantomime Trip

Wednesday 17th December, Year 11 Mock Results Day

Friday 19th December, End of Term, 12.35pm

## WE ARE HIRING!

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



## FUTURE DATES

Monday 5th January, INSET Day, Closed to students

Tuesday 6th January, Spring Term Starts

Thursday 15th January, Year 11 Consultation Evening, 4.00pm, Hall

Friday 23rd January, JFK Day

Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th February, School Production, 7.00pm, Hall

Tuesday 10th February, Year 10 Consultation Evening, Online



## 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



### Consultation of St Rose's Catholic Infants School Admissions Policy

St Rose's Catholic Infants School is a part of the All Saints Catholic Academy Trust (ASCAT), and collectively we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. We are contacting all our stakeholders to inform you of our plans to make some changes to the Admissions Policy of the school for the admitting year 2027/2028.

All details regarding our admissions protocol can be found on our school website <https://www.stroses.herts.sch.uk/Key-Info/Admissions/> If you have any questions relating to any aspect of our admissions policy, please contact Chair of Governors, by email at [chair@stroses.herts.sch.uk](mailto:chair@stroses.herts.sch.uk).

### Admissions Consultation 2027/28 Policy

The governing body is putting the [2027/28 Admissions Policy](#) out for consultation between 27th October 2025 and 7th December 2025.

The published admission number (PAN) for 2027-28 will be 180 and this has not changed from previous years.

The changes on which we are asking your opinion are:

- Criterion 2 applicants to provide a Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP) to confirm children are practising Catholics
- Priority of siblings within criterion 7 - Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church

We would be pleased to receive any comments on this to Ms E Final (Clerk to Governors) at the school address or by email to [efinal@jfk.herts.sch.uk](mailto:efinal@jfk.herts.sch.uk) by 7th December 2025.



## GENERAL NOTICES

### **Make a Difference Where It Matters Most — Become a Foundation Governor!**

Are you passionate about helping children thrive? Do you want to use your skills, values, and experience to strengthen your local community? We are looking for inspiring, committed people to join our Local Academy Councils as **Foundation Governors** — and you could be exactly who we need.

The Local Academy Council (LAC) is responsible for supporting the mission and strategic direction of the Catholic Multi Academy Trust (CMAT) at a local level. Rooted in the values and teachings of the Catholic Church, the LAC serves as a key link between the individual academy, its parish community, and the wider Trust. The primary responsibilities of the LAC include:

- **Faithful Stewardship and Ethos:** Uphold and promote the Catholic identity, values, and mission of the academy, ensuring Gospel principles guide all aspects of school life.
- **Advocacy and Governorship:** Act as advocates of the Trust's vision and strategy while serving as Governors for the local academy within the Trust, parish and wider community to build partnerships.
- **Impact and Accountability:** Provide local support and challenge to school leaders by monitoring standards, inclusion, safeguarding, and ensuring effective implementation of Trust policies.

#### **Why this role matters:**

Foundation Governors (practising Catholics) play a powerful role in shaping the future of our school. They help protect and promote our values, support our leadership team, and ensure every child has access to an excellent education. Your voice and your perspective can directly influence the school's direction, priorities, and success. There are limited spaces available for parents in their child's school.

#### **No previous governance experience? No problem.**

We welcome people from *all backgrounds* — *what matters most is your enthusiasm, willingness to learn, and commitment to our school's ethos. Full training, guidance, and mentoring are provided.*

See next page



## GENERAL NOTICES

### We're especially keen to hear from people who:

- Care deeply about the wellbeing and development of young people
- Share and support the school's foundation and values
- Can think strategically and ask thoughtful questions
- Bring experience from any profession or community role
- Want to make a meaningful, lasting contribution

### What you'll gain:

- A rewarding leadership role with real impact
- New skills in strategy, education, finance, and governance
- Opportunities to work with dedicated school leaders
- A chance to give back and shape the future of children in your community

### Time commitment:

Around 6–8 meetings per year, plus some school visits and training.



## 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



## FLU VACCINATIONS



Vaccination UK

The School Immunisation Team have completed their visits to the school to offer the flu vaccination. If your child did not receive their vaccination and you would like to book a community clinic appointment, please do so via this link: <https://bed.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/book>

Area:	Town:	Address:	Date:	Time:
Hertfordshire	St Albans	Marshalswick Community Centre, AL4 9TU	Wednesday 29th October	10.00-2.00pm
Hertfordshire	Bishops Stortford	Bishops Park Community Centre, Lancaster Way, CM23 4DA	Saturday 1st Nov	10.00-2.00pm
Hertfordshire	Ware	Widford Village Hall, Ware, SG12 8SH	Saturday 22nd Nov	10.00-2.00pm
Hertfordshire	Watford	Meridan Centre, Garsmouth Way, Watford WD25 9ET	Friday 28th Nov	15:00-19:00pm
Hertfordshire	Hemel Hempstead	Leverstock Green Village Hall, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8QG	Saturday 29 Nov	10.00-2.00pm
Hertfordshire	Stevenage	St Nicholas Community Centre, 59 Canterbury Way, SG2 4LJ	Saturday 29 Nov	10.00-2.00pm
Hertfordshire	St Albans	Marshalswick Community Centre, AL4 9TU	Wednesday 10th Dec	16:00-19:00
Hertfordshire	Bishops Stortford	Havers Community Centre, 1 Knights Row, CM23 3GR	Wednesday 10th Dec	15:00-17:00
Hertfordshire	Harpenden	Harpenden Trust Centre, 90 Southdown RD, Harpenden, AL5 1PS	Saturday 13th December	10:00-14:30
Hertfordshire	Borehamwood	Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood, Borehamwood, WD6 5BT	Sunday 14th December	10:00-14:00
Hertfordshire	Watford	Meridan Community Centre, Garsmouth Way, Watford WD25 9ET	Saturday 20th December	10:00-14:00
Hertfordshire	Stevenage	St Nicholas Community Centre, 59 Canterbury Way, SG2 4LJ	Saturday 13th December	10:00-14:00
Hertfordshire	Welwyn Garden City	Welwyn Office- Orion House, Bessemer Rd, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 1HU	Saturday 20th December	10:00-14:00



## HOP Into Apprenticeships & T Levels The Hertfordshire Virtual Careers Fair for parents and carers



FREE

Wednesday 21st January 2026  
17:30 - 19:00  
Online (Zoom)



### What is the Virtual Careers Fair?

This free event is for parents, carers, and students to explore apprenticeships and T Levels. Visit different exhibitor rooms on a 10-minute rotation to learn about different programmes and opportunities available.

### Who should attend?

This event is for all parents and carers but will be particularly useful for those supporting children in year groups 10, 11, 12 and 13. Students in these age groups are also welcome to attend.

### Why attend?

This event offers many benefits, including:

- Free of charge to attend (fully-funded by Hertfordshire Careers Hub).
- Find out more about apprenticeships and T Level programmes with local training providers and colleges.
- Hear from local employers about opportunities and the recruitment process.
- Discover more about the skills and training provision being offered within Hertfordshire.
- Select which breakout room you would like to hear from.
- Ask questions and gather information from the comfort of your own home.

### Exhibitors will include:



And many more...

### How to attend?

- 1 Register by Monday 19th January, 2026 for your free ticket by clicking [here](#).
- 2 Read the attendee guidance ahead of the event to help you prepare.
- 3 Log on and join the event online on Wednesday 21st January 2026 17:30 - 19:00.

**BOOK NOW** >>

### Further information

Find out about the event by visiting: [amapps.uk/HOPIntro](https://amapps.uk/HOPIntro)

The Hertfordshire Virtual Careers Fair is brought to you in partnership by:



HERTFORDSHIRE  
FUTURES

Hertfordshire  
CAREERS HUB

THE CAREERS &  
ENTERPRISE  
COMPANY

Bedfordshire  
& Hertfordshire  
Provider Network

Amazing  
Apprenticeships



Hertfordshire's  
Holiday Activity Programme



# Free Festive Fun this Winter



**Does your child get benefits-related free school meals?**

**You could access FREE HAPPY Camps this Winter.**

Get your child's code from their school and scan the QR code or head to [sportinherts.org.uk](https://sportinherts.org.uk) to book

Winter bookings are live from 10am on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025.



Display until 05/01/26





## SUPPORT OUR SWIMMERS - PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS



### Why do we need to raise funds?

- Fund Coaching Qualifications
- Swimming Equipment
- Automatic Officiating Equipment
- Fund training for Officials and Team Managers

### Sponsorship opportunities could include:

- Sponsoring our galas
- Appearing in our newsletters & social media
- Large lettering on existing signage around poolside
- Logo on starting block covers / hats / kit

Hemel Hempstead Swimming Club is a family-focused, inclusive club whose swimmers regularly compete at county, regional and national levels. We warmly welcome local businesses to support our club - if you are interested in sponsorship, please get in touch using the email below. Packages to suit all budgets.



For more information email Sponsorship Coordinators  
Neil and Amanda Hawkes: [vicechair@hhsc.org.uk](mailto:vicechair@hhsc.org.uk)