

INSPIRE • ACHIEVE • SERVE

John F Kennedy Catholic School

19th December 2025



Rejoice!



We are now in the third week of Advent. Last Sunday was the Third Sunday of Advent - otherwise known as 'Gaudete Sunday'. Gaudete means rejoice, and the traditionally sombre contemplative season of Advent takes a short break to consider the joy of the forthcoming Christmas celebration. The priest wears pink vestments and the third candle in the Advent wreath is coloured pink - all signs of a happy, exciting time in the Church's calendar.

There was much rejoicing at Shendish Manor on Friday evening for the staff Christmas party. It was, as usual, a great evening, bringing together colleagues from across the school to celebrate the nearing end of term. The two rooms in the hotel were full with different groups, no doubt from different companies and organisations in the area, and everyone was in party mood. Most people I know have got some kind of Christmas work celebration during this run up to the holiday season. And households everywhere are gearing up for the festivities. "I just can't wait for Boxing Day!" said my super-excited 18-year-old niece last Saturday. That's when 17 of my wife's family will descend on our house for part 2 of the Christmas festivities - part 1 will be with my family. What is my niece so excited about? The mountain of food? The free flowing drink? Actually I don't think so, even though those features will be appreciated. My niece is really excited about all the family getting together. We are very lucky to have a close-knit extended family and she very much appreciates having 5 cousins who are all of a fairly similar age, a sister and a brand new niece of her own - and she loves the organised chaos of a family get-together. And I'm...happy to go along with that!. When I was 18 I'm sure I had the same excitement as my niece. As I have got older, and actually since starting work at JFK, in a community dedicated to the promotion of the Catholic faith, I have become more conscious of 'the reason for the season' - the birth of Jesus. I don't think that will be on the mind of many of those gathering at my house on Boxing Day - they are mostly not of a practising religious tradition. But I'm not about to start preaching to them - well, not in words.

Each day in many different ways we have the opportunity to evangelise - to make known to our students the presence of God in our world - and in Advent, to remind them of the 'reason for the season'. By playing our part in building a community based on the values of the Gospel we can do much to achieve that goal.

On a separate note, I'm rather touched that my 19-year-old nephew has asked me to be his sponsor when he is received into the Church and confirmed in the new year. I've never preached to him in words. Maybe I have, in other ways?

In Monday's staff meeting, as I invited us all to pray, I suggested that we might take a moment to remember all those caught up in the horrific events at Bondi Beach in Sydney last Sunday...

Loving God

We thank you for all the blessings in our lives - the love of our families, our friends - and the things we may easily take for granted - a peaceful environment in which to live and the basic essentials of life. We pray for those families affected by the terrorist attack in Sydney, for those mourning the loss of a loved one and those injured.

We thank you for our school community and all who play their part in its development. May we celebrate the joy of our anticipation of the birth of your son as we each continue to love one another, to respect each person's dignity and to flourish as you had intended.

As we approach the season of Christmas, may we see the joy in giving as well as receiving.
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord

Amen



YEAR 9 FIRST GIVE CHARITY FINAL



This week the school hall was alive with nerves, props, enthusiasm, passion and joy for the final of our Year 9 First Give Project. We are now in our 4th year of running the programme and it continues to go from strength to strength. During the second half of the autumn term all year 9 students work on this project during their PSHE lessons. Each tutor group chooses a social issue they feel passionate about and researches a local charity that supports this. The students and their form tutors have worked tirelessly throughout the half term to deliver some of the most powerful and impactful social actions we have seen yet. On their social actions days the tutor group organises activities to raise awareness across the school community of their charity. This year the activities included escape rooms, a ducky dash, mask painting, painting bricks to build a road to recovery, quizzes, a student produced short film, a music video, a penalty shootout in someone else's shoes, a blindfolded obstacle course, mindfulness activities, yoga and meditation, letters of hope, thank you cards to peers and staff and of course, some bake sales.

The charities chosen this year were:

- 9J - Kids in Action
- 9F - Safer Places
- 9K - Midshires Search and Rescue
- 9H - New Hope
- 9N - The Ben Kinsella Trust
- 9D - Druglink

The project ends with a final where representatives from each tutor group present to a panel of judges. The winning tutor group secure £1000 for their chosen charity. This year we had an incredible line-up of judges as we were joined by our MP David Taylor, Stephen Wheatley (CEO, ASCAT), local councillors Graeme Elliott and Fiona Guest (Dacorum Council), the Mayor of Dacorum, Cllr Catherine McArevey, and Mr Neves. The atmosphere in the hall was absolutely buzzing and the quality of presentations outstanding. Every student presenting did so with care, warmth, confidence and passion being supported by every member of their year group watching.

David Taylor, MP for Hemel Hempstead, said of the event; *"What is great about the event today is that it brings a group of young people together who are not thinking about themselves, but about their communities. We saw students representing a wide range of charities and sharing their own inspiring social action projects. It was a privilege to judge the First Give presentations at JFK School and see the incredible empathy and confidence of our Year 9 students. These young people aren't just learning about social issues - they are taking direct action to tackle them. I was blown away by the depth of research on display..."*

Mrs Bailey - Deputy Headteacher



YEAR 9 FIRST GIVE CHARITY FINAL

Stephen Wheatley shared his thoughts too *“As a Catholic school it is a wonderful way for students to put into practice the principles of Catholic Social Teaching that they learn about through the school’s curriculum. I never fail to be amazed by the creative and inventive ways in which students communicate their learning from the First Give project and the confidence that it gives them to articulate all of this in front of their peers.”*

And perhaps most heart warming were some of the comments from the students themselves; *“Even if we are young, and may not be able to make a huge impact like others who are older, we can still do something, even something little that make a difference.”*

“It proves that you don’t have to have that as much experience to make a difference. Even the smallest of actions can help and make a difference.”

“The proudest moment was when we all came together as a form during our social action because we all felt passionate about our charity and what we wanted to achieve.”

It was a very close competition, I have no idea how the judges chose the winners this year. However, I am delighted to announce that this year the winners were 9D who were supporting Druglink.

The First Give project shows how powerful the voices of our young people are and reminds the students they are the voice of the future and they can make change happen.

Congratulations to 9D, particularly Alanna, Maja, Ayden and Nasri who presented on the day and their special guests from year 11 Levi, Esther, Jessica, Karen and Richard. Huge thanks to Gosia from First Give whose enthusiasm and energy is infectious, our Year 9 form tutors for coordinating such amazing social action events, our judges for making the final such a wonderful occasion and to all the students involved for showing the best of our JFK community.



Mrs Bailey - Deputy Headteacher



CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2025

A journey through the Christmas story



For all of our musicians Christmas starts in October! When we all sit and enjoy beautiful, seeming effortless, festive music the performers have been rehearsing hard for some weeks! Yesterday evening's Christmas Concert was a shining example of this . We were treated to the Year 7 and 8 choir (with superb soloists and ensembles) the orchestra and the chamber choir. Along with Fr David, we journeyed through the Christmas Story told through music and readings. The performers rehearsed all day and arrived back in the evening ready to wow the audience and to fill us with warmth and Advent cheer. A huge congratulations to everyone who took part!

The evening included the Dragon's Apprentice teams - the sides of the hall were filled with stalls selling refreshments, a tombola and a raffle. This added to the occasion and raised money for their chosen charities too. Thank you to everyone who came to support the Christmas Concert and to everyone who has made my first term here at JFK one of welcome, support and joy. The evening also saw the presentation of badges to the new Chamber Choir and Orchestra Captains and to our four Music Prefects. These students already show great leadership qualities and can now develop these as they carry out a variety of duties enhancing the Music life of the school. Congratulations to Jessica, Harry , Sylvie, Victoria, Zach and Lily .

Watch out next term for Rock Fest and Battle of the Bands! There are amazing rock musicians in all year groups under the excellent guidance of Mr Suddick . Year 9 will all be forming bands as part of their music lessons - it will be a rock-focussed few months! The recording studio will be up and running and a new lunch club taking place for those interested in live recording skills. Watch this space! Year 7 will be drumming and Year 8 discovering how to create music using YuStudio software. Much to be looking forward to.

Mrs Metcalfe - Music Department



YEAR 11 MOCK RESULTS DAY



On Wednesday 17th December our Year 11 students took part in a Mock Results Day event designed to closely replicate the experience they will encounter in the summer when they receive their GCSE results. The event aimed to help students feel informed, prepared, and confident ahead of the real results day later this year.

Following the distribution of results, students had the opportunity to reflect on their results. They rated their preparation for their mock exams, identified areas for improvement, and set clear targets for the half term ahead. They also reflected on what their parents/carers would think of their results! Students also had the opportunity to let the Year 11 Achievement Team know any further support they feel they need at this stage.

The event was a valuable learning experience, reinforcing the importance of preparation, resilience, and reflection. By experiencing a results day in advance, students are better equipped to approach the summer exams with confidence and a clear understanding of how to maximise their potential.

We are proud of the mature and positive way Year 11 students engaged with the day and look forward to supporting them as they continue their journey towards their final examinations.

See photos below

Mrs Preston - Assistant Headteacher



YEAR 11 MOCK RESULTS DAY

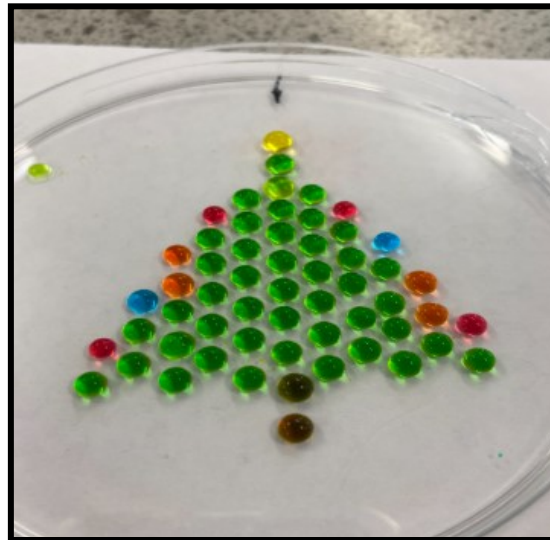


Mrs Preston - Assistant Headteacher



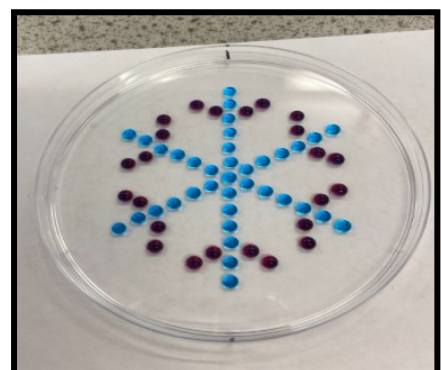
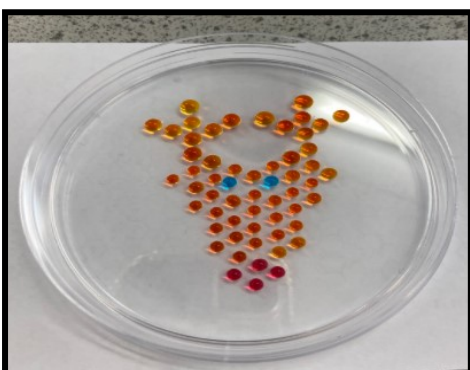
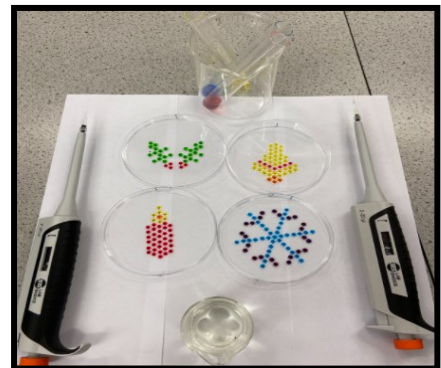
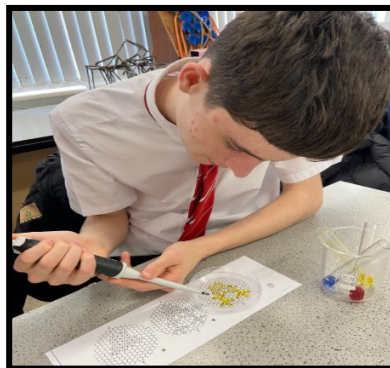
SCIENCE

The Snowdrop Project



The keen regulars at the lunchtime Snowdrop club have enjoyed practising their micropipetting skills this week.

They produced some perfect Christmas pictures using accurate pipetting technique - Well done to all involved and a big thank you to Miss Digby who designed the templates!



Mrs Davison - Science Department



YOUTH MINISTRY



To begin the Youth Ministry Round-up, we'd like to offer a massive thank you to the students, staff and parents who have supported us this term! We're so blessed to have you all in the JFK community and look forward to the opportunities to work with you for the rest of the year!

Back in September, we not only ran our annual Year 7 retreats, assisted by Inspire Achieve Serve leaders, but welcomed a new member of the Youth Ministry team and ex-student, Skye Swift! The Year 7 retreats are focused on the gifts of the pupils being integral for our community to run. We reflect on their life in primary school and look forward to whatever God has planned for them in their new journey.

Hemel West Parish was fortunate enough to be visited by the Knights of St Columba, who visited Ss Mary and Joseph Church on their Relic tour. Some of our students walked down to the church with us, attending the Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul McAleenan, joined by both St Cuthbert Mayne and St Rose's children.

In October, we were able to take students down to our fellow ASCAT schools in the Dacorum Hub (St Rose's, St Albert the Great, St Cuthbert Mayne and St Thomas More). After warm welcomes from their children, our students got to leading small groups of all ages to make their very own Rosary beads in honour of Our Lady!

We had some superstars for these days:

- Nathan (7H)
- Kayne (8K)
- Julia (9N)
- Kuba (12G)

Youth Ministry Team



YOUTH MINISTRY

November, the month of remembrance, was a solemn but beautiful month. The month began with our ASCAT All Souls Day celebration, where some of our House Captains and Inspire Achieve Serve leaders attended a Mass and Synod workshops to learn and teach other student leaders all over Hertfordshire in their school's Catholic Life and Mission. We were then straight into celebrations of life in our Holy Souls Services, led by Callum, our Leader of Youth Ministry. These services were followed by the Remembrance Service on 11th December, where our Chamber Choir and trumpeter, Marek in Year 11, led us in a wonderful ceremony to mark the day.

Advent was preceded by more Inspire Achieve Serve trips to primary schools in the Dacorum Hub, where Jesse Trees were crafted in St Cuthbert Mayne and St Thomas More to prepare the children for the season of Advent, led by Skye. The IAS Leaders led small groups, each reading, reflecting and creating a symbol for each biblical story correlating to a day of Advent, based on the lineage of Jesus Christ.

In December, more IAS Leaders went to different primary schools to do a Christingle craft day. This day consisted of the leaders leading small groups and supervising the children in creating and comprehending the symbolism behind the Christingle.

We had some superstars for these days:

- Emma (7N)
- Romy (8J)
- Sian (9F)
- Eliza (10K)
- Adam (12R)
- Narges (12R)



Youth Ministry Team



YOUTH MINISTRY

We can't wait to see what next term has in store for us all!

See below the Youth Ministry Timetable

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School	Staff Briefing	Laudate	Laudate	Mass	Laudate
Breaktime 11:10 - 11:30	Breaktime Worship	Breaktime Worship	Breaktime Worship	Breaktime Worship	Breaktime Worship
Lunchtime 13:35 - 14:30	Crochet Club	Eucharistic Adoration	- Closed -	Worship Band	Eucharistic Adoration
After School		On The Way Year 2	On The Way Year 1	On The Way Year 2	Mixed Martial Arts



Youth Ministry Team



DECEMBER READS



On Thursday I was delighted that students who completed the Christmas Reads challenge were awarded with chocolate coins and prizes. More than 170 coins were handed out as rewards for reading through the alphabet and 143 books have been read since the competition was launched mid November! I was very impressed with the determination of the top scoring students, especially Y7 student Emma David who read 23 books!

We've had a great term at the Library and I'm looking forward to next year, especially as there will be a chance to encourage students and staff to [Go All In](#) - to read about the topic/person/event which really interests them. 2026 is a National Year of Reading so I will be making the most of it and sharing what happens at the Library here and on social media.

Do encourage your children (and yourself!) to read a book/comic/magazine/newspaper over the Christmas holidays, even if just for a few minutes. Audiobooks are also a great way to relax. When our children see *us reading it's better for everyone!*

Happy Christmas and Happy Reading!



MENTORING CHRISTMAS MINI - PARTY



On Wednesday 17th December, the Year 12 mentors and their Year 7 mentees had a Christmas Mini-Party. It was a lovely gathering and a wonderful way to end their first term on the Mentoring programme. A nice time was had by all with Christmas music, party food, drinks and gifts.

*Merry
Christmas*

Mrs Hilton - Learning Support



MFL



We had a great end to the term this week, with our wonderful Year 8 French small group hosting 'Un Marché de Noël' in MFL. We had 30 students enjoying the festivities, sampling French crêpes, tasting 'jus de pomme chaud' and even joining in with a French choir to sing the French version of Jingle Bells 'Vive le vent'.

We are so proud of our young linguists who hosted and organised this great event, we even had a visit from Papa Noël himself, well Mr Neves dropped in to see their hard work! We will look forward to an annual Christmas market, bringing a little bit of France to the classroom!

Joyeux Noël!



Mrs Milton - MFL Department



CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY - GIVE A GIFT APPEAL



"Thank you" simply doesn't seem like enough. Once again, we were absolutely staggered by the generosity of our JFK families in response to the Catholic Children's Society *Give a Gift Appeal*.

On 1st December, the floor space in our top corridor slowly disappeared as more and more bags and boxes were delivered by members of each tutor group. There were gifts for all ages, including a fantastic number of gift vouchers which are perfect for teenagers.

It took an entire minibus to transport the donations to the Catholic Children's Society headquarters in London. The appeal coordinator was overwhelmed by the kindness of our school community, later emailing to say: *"I just wanted to say thank you again for the incredible gifts JFK donated. You've made it so much easier for us to give children the perfect presents this Christmas!"*

Your kindness will make a significant difference to many families this year. The CCS team is now busy sorting, wrapping, and organising the delivery of your gifts.

*Thank
you!*

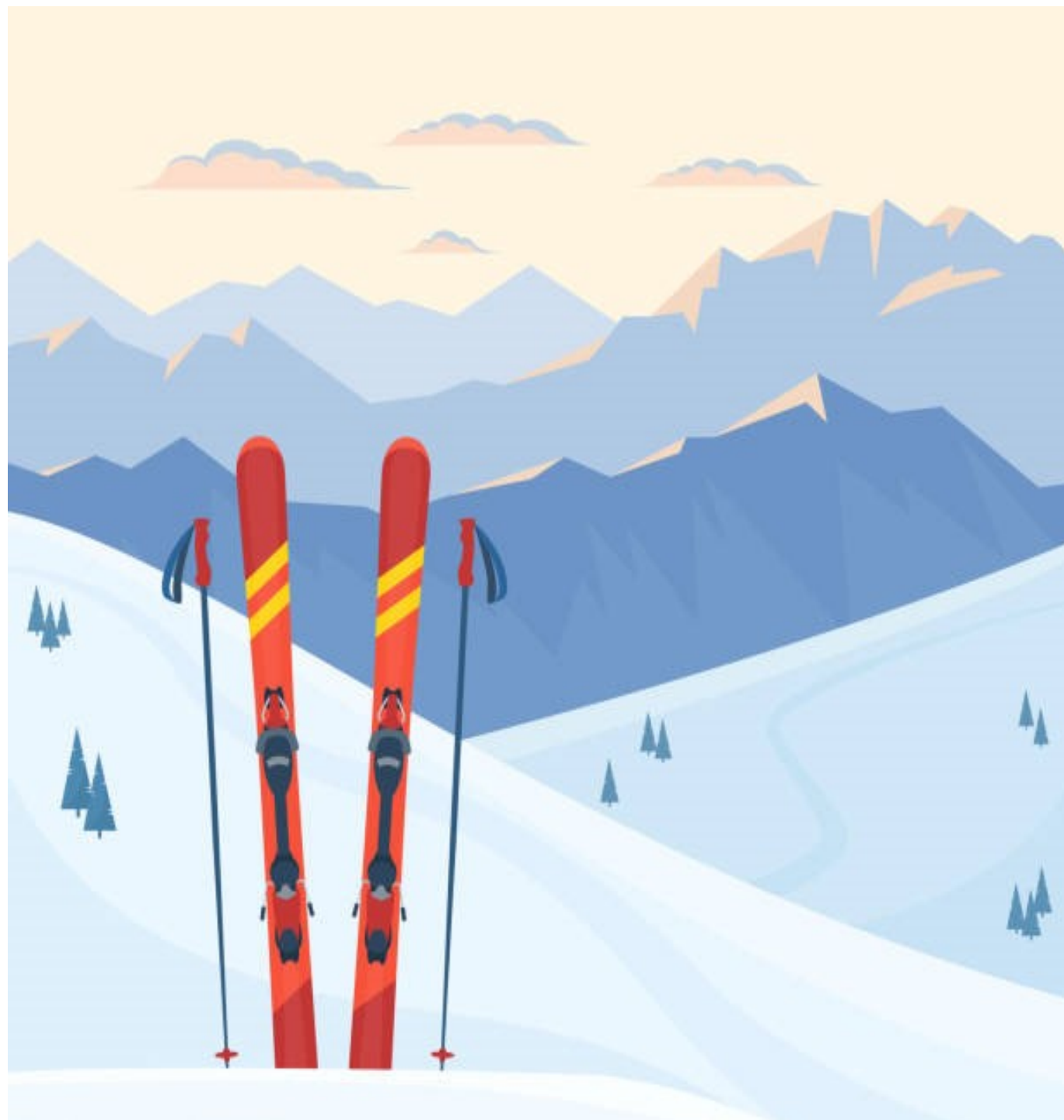
Mrs Bailey - Deputy Headteacher



SKI TRIP 2026

Ski Information Evening Monday 12th January 2026

There will be a meeting about the ski trip held in the school hall from 6.00pm - 7.00pm. You are invited to attend with your child to hear important information about the trip. Look forward to seeing you then.



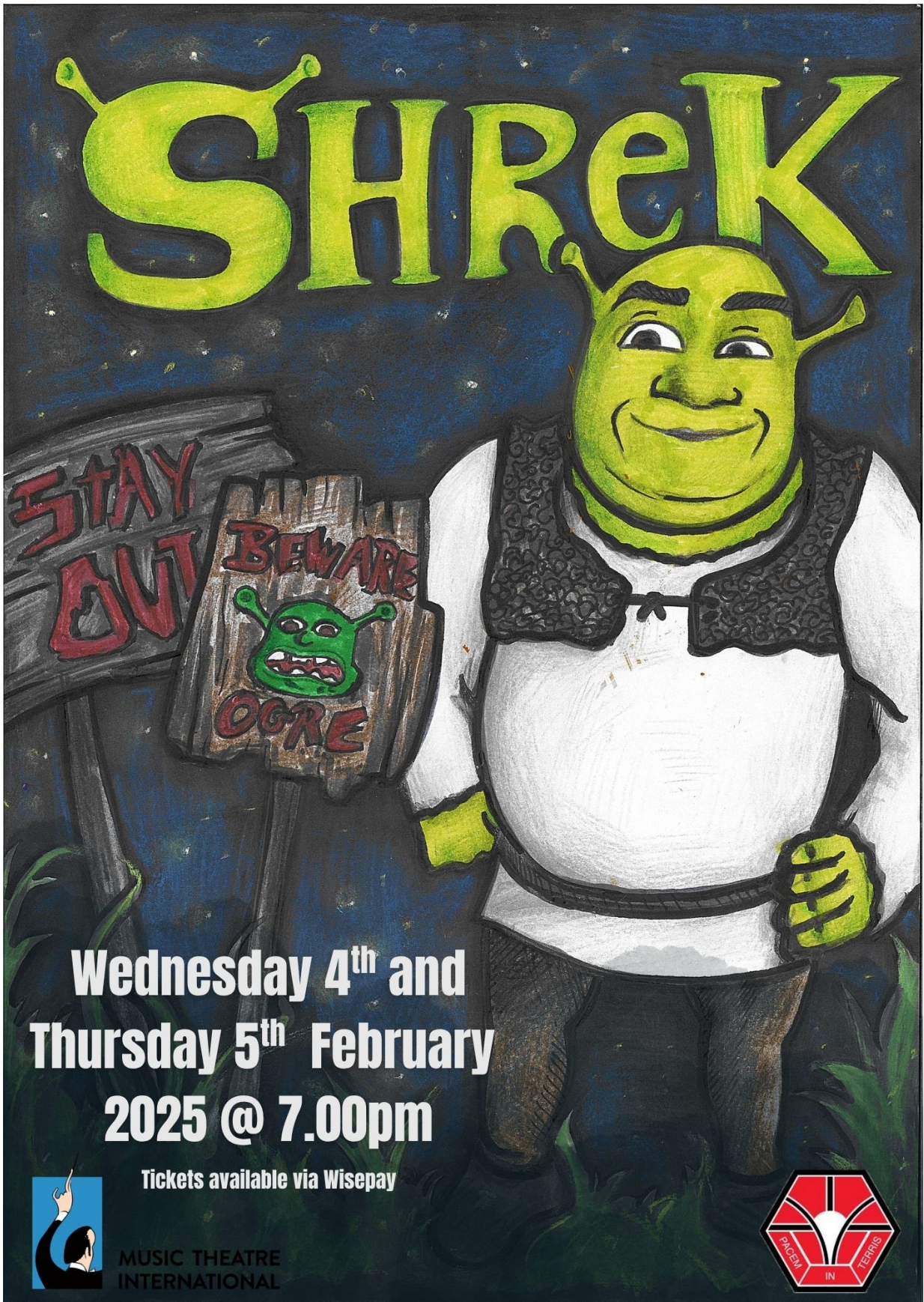
Mr Palumbo - Assistant Headteacher

INSPIRE • ACHIEVE • SERVE



SCHOOL PRODUCTION

SHREK



Wednesday 4th and
Thursday 5th February
2025 @ 7.00pm

Tickets available via Wisepay



MUSIC THEATRE
INTERNATIONAL





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





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
 - Back to the Future, January 2026, **Year 9**
- Senso Licence , payment is due for **Years 7,8,10 and 11.**
 - Paper birds, GCSE Drama





SAFEGUARDING IN FOCUS



At John F Kennedy Catholic School, safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do, and we work hard to ensure that every child feels safe, supported and listened to within our school community.

Our safeguarding team plays a vital role in this work. The team works closely with students, families, staff and external agencies to promote a culture where safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Students and families can reach out to the safeguarding team for support. We recognise that parents and carers are key partners in safeguarding. We encourage families to familiarise themselves with our safeguarding approach, policies and procedures, which are available on the school website:

Safeguarding information and policies:

<https://www.jfk.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Safeguarding&pid=82>

In addition, the school provides a range of **supportive links and resources** for students and families, covering areas such as mental health, online safety, wellbeing and external support services:

Support for students and families:

<https://www.jfk.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Support+for+students+and+families&pid=100>

If you ever have a safeguarding concern, no matter how small it may seem, we urge you to share it. Concerns can be raised confidentially by emailing:

staysafe@jfk.herts.sch.uk

Letting us know about concerns, however small they may seem, allows us to offer the right support when it is needed. Working closely with families helps us maintain a safe, inclusive and caring school community where every child can feel secure and valued.

Mrs McKenzie – Assistant Headteacher



CYCLING SAFETY



Cycling to school is a great way for pupils to stay active and independent, but it's important that it's done safely.

We strongly encourage all pupils who cycle to wear a properly fitted helmet every day. Helmets can greatly reduce the risk of serious head injury in the event of a fall or collision.

It is important that:

- **The helmet fits snugly and sits level on the head**
- **Straps are fastened correctly every time**
- **The helmet is in good condition and has not been damaged in a previous fall**

Bicycles are designed for one rider only. Carrying passengers on handlebars, luggage racks, or the back of a bike is unsafe and affects balance and control. Pupils should be reminded not to carry friends and to make sensible decisions even if others encourage them to do so.

The roads close to school can become particularly busy at the beginning and end of the school day, with cars, buses, and pedestrians all sharing limited space. Pupils should ride sensibly, stay alert, follow road signs and signals, and clearly signal their intentions when turning. Pupils should not weave in and out of traffic or between vehicles, as this is dangerous, unpredictable, and greatly increases the risk of an accident. Distractions such as mobile phones or headphones should be avoided.

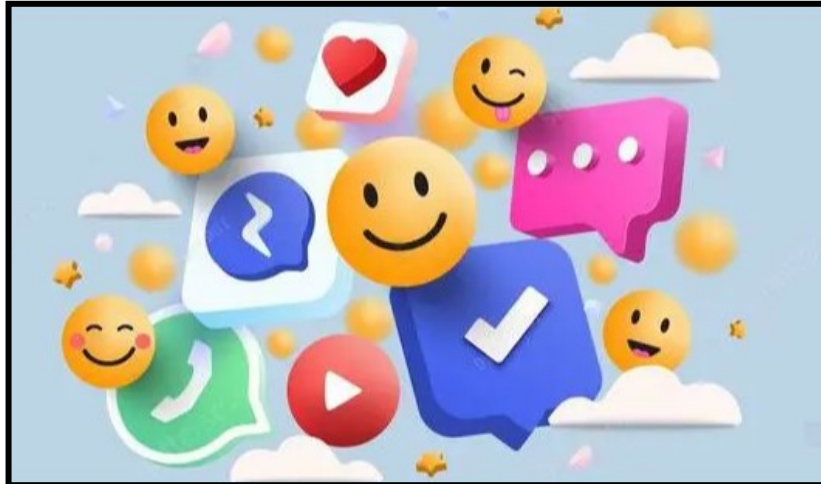
We ask that parents and carers to reinforce these messages at home and check that bikes are road-worthy, with working brakes, lights, and reflectors, especially during darker mornings and afternoons.

Thank you for your continued support in helping pupils travel to and from school safely.

Mrs McKenzie – Assistant Headteacher



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

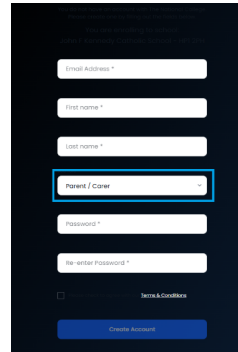
The most effective safeguard is open communication. Ask your child what apps they use and why, and take time to explore those apps together. Set clear boundaries around screen time and "offline hours" such as at mealtimes or after bedtime. Encourage your child to block or report users who behave inappropriately,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

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 9 Consultation Evening, Online

WE ARE HIRING!

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



FUTURE DATES

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February , Half Term

Tuesday 3rd March, Into KS4 Options Evening

Tuesday 3rd March, Year 8 Work Shadow Day

Friday 6th March , Bronze DofE Orienteering Walk

Friday 6th March , Year 10 and 11 Spanish Residential Trip

Thursday 12th March, Year 7 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.

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 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

Respiratory and flu-like cases are rapidly on the rise. We urge you to ensure your child receives the flu vaccination. You have a choice between the quick and painless nasal spray or the Injection which is porcine & gelatine free. This not only protects your children against being seriously ill but also protects vulnerable members of your family and community.

We have several community catch-up clinics available. Please use the link below to book an appointment.

[Vaccination UK Immunisation](#)

If you previously declined consent for your child when we visited the school, you **can change** your consent. Please call our office on 01462 427008, and we will book a clinic appointment for you.

Thank you for your support.

Hertfordshire Immunisation Team



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

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 to book

Winter bookings are live from 10am on 27th 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