

INSPIRE • ACHIEVE • SERVE

John F Kennedy Catholic School

30th January 2026



Unity



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1

A theme that has been present in the readings at Mass over the past two weeks has used the metaphor of people being the 'light of the world'. The original light of the world, prophesied by Isaiah, was Christ and Christ's instruction is that his followers are to be the light of the world - the body of the Church today, who can make a difference by our words and actions. The Gospel reading at Mass last Sunday told of Jesus' early recruitment campaign - inviting a group of fishermen at the Sea of Galilee to leave their boats and become his first disciples - to make them 'fishers of men'. In school our theme of the week is unity and for us in our Catholic school community that means everyone living according to the Christian ideals. That might need to evolve over time, but it requires disciples to lead the way. We have an innovative programme for this, the likes of which I don't know exists in any other Catholic school - our IAS leadership programme 'In the footsteps of Christ'. It is wonderful to see so many students actively involved in this and I would urge parents/carers to encourage their children to take advantage of this opportunity.

The image of a candle providing light in the darkness is a familiar one and it is the logo used for the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. Assemblies this week have focused on Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD), which was commemorated across the nation on 27th January - the date on which the infamous Nazi Concentration Camp Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated. HMD is all about educating people about the past, referencing not only the Holocaust, but also subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

On the subject of HMD 2026, Bridget Phillipson, Secretary of State for Education, wrote to all schools last Friday saying:

This year's theme, 'Bridging generations', calls on all of us to connect the testimony of survivors with the young people in our classrooms today. Schools and colleges are uniquely placed to do this vital work, helping students understand not only the horrors of the Holocaust but also its enduring lessons about where hatred and intolerance can lead. Learning about the Holocaust is not simply a matter of historical record. It enables young people to recognise prejudice, to challenge discrimination, and to understand the consequences when these go unchecked.

At JFK all students will learn about the Holocaust in history lessons but in addition to the passing on of knowledge and historical skills, our goal as members of staff is to provide a wider education about living in community, respecting others' differences and demonstrating love of one's neighbour - and remembering the motto on our school badge that represents the true goal of unity: *pacem in terris* - 'peace on earth'.



Prayer for Holocaust Memorial Day 2026

God our Father and Creator of all, on this Holocaust Memorial Day 2026, we bridge the generations to remember the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust and all victims of Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides. We acknowledge the fading voices of the first generation and hold the responsibility to carry their stories forward. Help us to bridge the gap between memory and action, ensuring that the lessons of the past enlighten our present. Strengthen us to turn away from hatred, to challenge prejudice, and to build a world of understanding. May we, the next generation, honour those who perished by fighting injustice and fostering hope. Amen.

JFK DAY — Friday 23 January

As we reported last week, the JFK Community took the opportunity to pause, reflect and to celebrate our Patron: President John F Kennedy.

The Deputy House Captains took the lead in creating a carnival atmosphere at lunchtime by setting up their very own fairground for students to enjoy during Friday lunchtime! From vision distorted basketball free throws to face painting, cup cakes and cup pong, there was something to appeal to everyone, if you had the courage to brave the number of footballs, basketballs, pingpong balls and even flying tigers that were being propelled through the air!

The funds raised bolstered the efforts of our Year 9 students during First Give:

- St Joan House - Kids in Action £145.96
- St Francis House - Safer Places £99.51
- St Kolbe House - Midlands Search and Rescue £182.54
- St Helena House - New Hope £152.64
- St Newman House - The Ben Kinsella Trust £127.75
- St Drexel House - Druglink £67.14

Thanks to their combined efforts, our Deputy House Captains have raised a collective total of: £775.54 in the space of one lunch break! Incredible!

On behalf of our whole school community, thank you so much for all your support! Whether it was through participation in games, making a donation for the non-uniform day or through planning and organising activities, you all helped to make JFK Day 2026 a wonderful celebration of who we are!

JFK Day also saw the awarding of the first ever JFK School Colours to students who embody the values of our faith and our school. They are now proudly wearing their black ties as a mark of their example and their achievements as they live out the spirit of President Kennedy's inaugural address: "Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country."

Mr Fenrych-Fahy - Assistant Headteacher



DUKE OF EDINBURGH



The practice expedition for our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students is fast approaching! Therefore, we are training our students how to use the cooking equipment that they will be given to cook their dinners on. This first round of training was very successful, with all students safely cooking themselves a small practice dinner. The next half of the students will be taught how to use the equipment next Wednesday. After this the count down will be on for their practice expedition which will run from March 22nd to March 23rd.

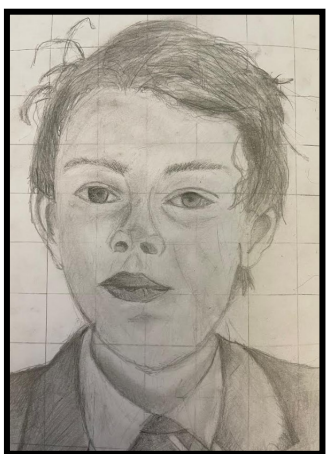
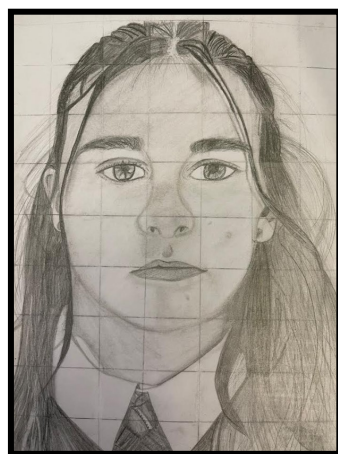
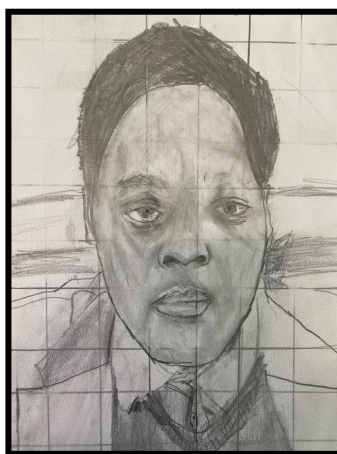
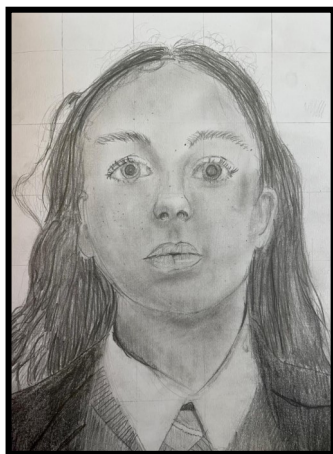
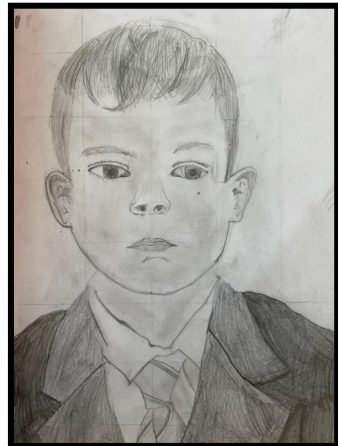
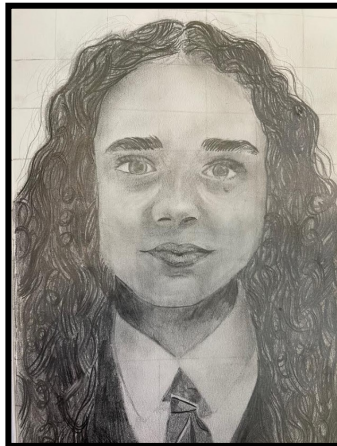
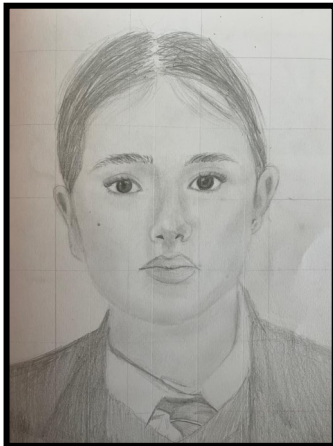
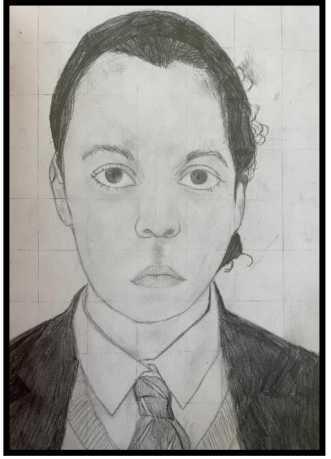
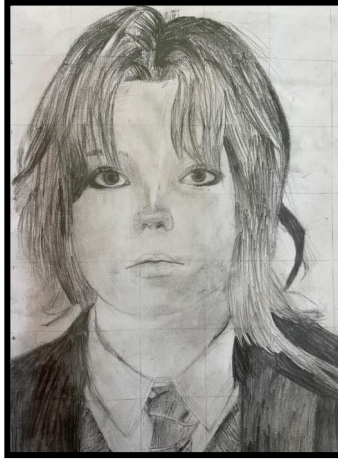
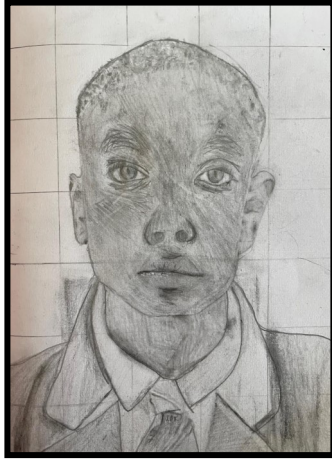


Miss Casserly - DofE Coordinator



ART

Year 9 Portraits





SCIENCE

On Monday 26th January, 14 students and 2 staff visited the National Trust garden at Anglesey Abbey in Cambridgeshire as part of our snowdrop DNA project. The purpose of the visit was to see the enormous range of varieties of snowdrop that exist (the collection at Anglesey Abbey holds over 500) and to collect samples from the 9 varieties which we will be using in the project. Over the next few weeks we will extract the DNA from the plant material in school, and then visit our STEM partners at Rothamsted Research and EMBL-EBI to complete the DNA analysis.

The trip was an extremely memorable and informative experience. The grounds themselves are extremely beautiful and contain a multitude of vibrant and interesting plant life as well as an impressive collection of snowdrops. It was a privilege to see so many snowdrop species up close and learn about them from such a knowledgeable guide (Senior Gardener David Jordan) as well as collect samples for our research project. This entire project is such an exciting opportunity and this trip was definitely a highlight. - Erin, Fabiana and Gabriela, Year 11

The trip was an incredibly beautiful experience. There were so many different types of flora, which were all unique and fascinating. The most interesting part was all of the different kinds of snowdrops, which all had subtle but distinctive variations in their appearance. - Mapalo and Maisie, Year 12

We went to Cambridge Anglesey Abbey to collect snowdrop leaves to later extract their DNA at Rothamsted. It was an amazing and beautiful experience exploring the gardens and the mill and we took many group photos and photos of the view. We saw many statues and places that had a lot of historic meanings behind them which senior gardener David Jordan explained really well. Our goal with this project is to research how closely different species of snowdrops are closely related to each other. Overall it was a really fun time with my friends and teachers, Miss Digby and Mrs Davison, and it was also a very educational experience where I got to learn a lot about the different species and types of snow drops.—Vihaan Gandhi, Year 11

We visited Anglesey Abbey where we collected our snowdrop leaves for our project. When we arrived we met David, one of the gardeners at Anglesey Abbey. He was very welcoming and was well versed on the plant world. David gave us a tour and took us to the snowdrop sanctuary. He talked about the different species and we all learnt a lot.—Isabella Bignell, Eve Woods, Ryan Yates, Year 10

When we arrived at Anglesey Abbey I had first set my sights on the gift shop but as senior gardener David Jordan took us around I couldn't help but feel a wave of fascination. I was interested not only in the reason why we were there (which was to collect snow drop leaves for DNA) but the history behind Anglesey Abbey. It was a very beautiful experience to go to such a place and I would love to visit again.—Metu, Year 11



Mrs Davison - Science Department



LIBRARY

This week I have been making sure that teachers have their new 'Go All In' National Year of Reading posters on their doors, so do encourage your children to take a look and find out what they're reading (and if the book stays the same for a while, maybe they can ask why!) It's been great to see more students picking up the books I'm leaving around on the desks and discussing amazing science facts, crazy animal capers, finding Wally (a fave!) or just reading their latest fiction find. 'Get Caught Reading' launched this week and the winner was Shadrach Banning - will it be you next time?

I'm delighted that 5 new students have joined the Library Ambassadors, bringing our fantastic team to 13. They help each lunch time with library duties and are absolutely brilliant for recommending what students could read next, given they are so much closer in age to them than myself!

Finally, this week I launched the Library's instagram page @libraryjfk which is regularly updated with new books, competitions and what's going on in the Library, so follow along!

Happy reading!

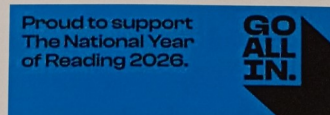


Get Caught Reading!



(maybe not quite like this, but you get the idea...)

Students and teachers caught reading (books, eBooks, comics etc) will be entered into a regular prize draw!



#caughtreading #GoAllIn2026 #NationalYearofReading

Mrs Powell—Librarian



PE

Junior Football Coach Award: The award showcases arrival activities which your junior coaches can deliver back at your club, along with creating their own by working with other course participants. The course also covers what a 'good' coach looks like, allowing participants to identify their own positive attributes. Lastly, junior coaches will look to practice giving players individual challenges in a small sided game/match scenario.

Date: Tuesday 17th February 2026

Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm

Venue: Hertfordshire FA, Community Football Centre, Baldock Road, Letchworth SG6 2EN

Cost: £50pp

Who is it for? The award is aimed at 12-16 year olds.

Learners are required to be a minimum of 12 years old and maximum of 16 years old, on the date of the course.

Register here: https://eventspace.thefa.com/hertfordshirefa/event/junior_coach_award_011#init

House events

Badminton, Table tennis, Basketball & Volleyball - House sports starts real soon, so bring your energy, team spirit and passion to get points for your house.

Hertfordshire Golf Schools Teams Championship - Monday 23rd March

The Schools Team Championship is an 18-hole Strokeplay competition. The winners of the Scratch.

Teams may be all boys, all girls or mixed, but must be in full time education in Hertfordshire

Entrants must be members of a Golf Club and hold a Handicap Index (HI) no higher than 28.0

If you are interested please let Ms Rooney know by Tuesday 3rd Feb. Sign up is on the Girls PE office door

Congratulations to those who have completed the super curriculum this week or were awarded star of the unit.

This Week's Fixture Results

26th January, Y8 Football 1 vs HHS 4

27th January, Year 9 Netball 5 v Ashlyns 3

30th January, U13 Girls Football v Longdean A

Next Weeks Fixtures

2nd February, Y8 Girls Football v Tring A

2nd February, Senior Netball v Ashlyns A

3rd February, Y11 Football QF v Rickmansworth A

4th February, Y9 Girls Basketball v Longdean A

5th February, U13 Girls Football v KLS A

Miss Rooney - PE Department



PE

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS AND PRACTICES T2: 2025-26



Passion and Progress for all Inspire, Achieve & Severe Be kind, work hard, no excesses

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Duty		FH	MI*		JJY
Cover	JJY	HP	TJ	MR	MR
LUNCH 1.35pm – 2.20pm					
FH	PE Support Sessions DANCE ST		Netball MasterClass COURTS		
LT			Dacorun Dance DANCE STUDIO	GCSE Dance Intervention DANCE ST	GCSE Dance Intervention DANCE ST
TJ	Yr 7 Boys Football FIELD	Yr 7&8 Girls Basketball GYM		Yr 10 & Yr 11 Boys Football FIELD	
MR		KS3 Rec Badminton Max 20 DANCE ST	Netball MasterClass COURTS		PE Detentions
TW/RP	Y7&8 Boys Basketball GYM			Y9&10 GBB GYM (after Feb HT)	
JJY		Boys Rugby FIELD	Yr 9 & 10 Boys Basketball GYM	Yr 9 Boys Football FIELD	
SC	Yr 8 Boys Football FIELD				All Yrs Girls Football FIELD
JM		Gaelic Footba FIELD (after Feb HT)			
AFTER SCHOOL 3.30pm - 4.30pm					
	Dacorun Dance 3:30 - 4:30 Dance Studio LT				

Miss Rooney - PE Department

INSPIRE • ACHIEVE • SERVE



SCHOOL PRODUCTION

SHREK



**Wednesday 4th and
Thursday 5th February
2026 @ 7.00pm**

Tickets available via Wisepay



MUSIC THEATRE
INTERNATIONAL





SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Q&As with the Cast

Take 5



Ever looked at a good actor and wondered: "What's their favourite movie?"
Well here's your answers to your obscure questions!

We asked the Shrek Jr. cast these 5 questions:

1. What year are you in?
2. Who is your favourite character in Shrek?
3. What has been your favourite part of making the production?
4. What is your favourite movie/series? (excluding Shrek)
5. What previous experience do you have in Drama?

The Finale: Four Fionas!

These are the answers we received:



Mischa U

1. 10
2. Donkey
3. Seeing it all come together
4. A series of unfortunate events
5. No past experience



Maizie B

1. 10
2. Donkey
3. Getting to hang out with friends and socialize
4. Superstore
5. Stage coach and drama school

A Level BTEC Business Students



SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Q&As with the Cast

1. What year are you in?
2. Who is your favourite character in Shrek?
3. What has been your favourite part of making the production?
4. What is your favourite movie/series? (excluding Shrek)
5. What previous experience do you have in Drama?



Sophia J

1. Year 8
2. Donkey
3. Seeing it all come together
4. Gilmore Girls
5. Acting outside of school



Jessica F

1. Year 10
2. Donkey
3. Having fun and socialising with friends
4. The Great Gatsby
5. Westend Summer School and Berkhamstead Youth Theatre



CAREERS



From understanding apprenticeships to learning what it's like to work in different industries and acing your application, this fair is a great opportunity to explore your options and get your questions answered by the experts. Join live sessions with employers from across the UK and speak directly to their representatives to achieve your dream apprenticeship!

[To register for the Fair please use this link](#)

Employers

A&O Shearman	Durham County Council	Ricoh
ACCA	E.ON	Royal Ballet & Opera
Aldi	EDF	Scottish Power
AON	EY	Tarmac
Astrazeneca	GKN Aerospace	Unilever
BBC	Hill Group	Wates
British Airways	KPMG	RSM
British Army	Metropolitan Police	Laing O'Rourke
CMS	National Grid	Jaguar Land Rover
Early Years Careers - Do Something Big	NESO	
	RAF	

Sessions included are:

- How to use AI successfully in applications
- Day in the life: education
- Degree apprenticeships
- Everything you need to know about apprenticeships
- How to ace your written application
- How to ace interviews and assessment centres
- How to showcase your skills in applications
- Understanding the different levels of apprenticeships
- SEND and apprenticeships
- Parents and carers session: what are apprenticeships and how to support applications
- Day in the life: engineering
- Life of an apprentice: what to expect
- How to find and ace your work experience
- What to expect from the application process

Mrs Jenkins - Careers



TRIPS 2026 – 2027

**"A Gentle
Reminder"**

NEW TRIPS COMING.....

UCAS Information Day, 24th March 2026 – Year 12 students

Sports Tour 2027 – Current Year 7 and 8 students

UPCOMING DAY TRIPS AND EVENTS

TRIPS

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

A Taste of Italy, 13th - 17th February 2026

Ski 2026, 15th - 21st February 2026

Valencia, 6th - 9th March 2026

A Level Biology F/T, 1st - 3rd June 2026

Croft Farm, 22nd - 24th June 2026

Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella, 30th June - 7th July 2026

GCSE Geography F/T, 6th - 8th July 2026

Duke of Edinburgh 2026, Bronze and Silver





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:

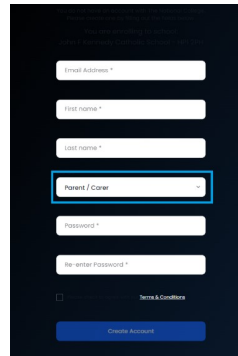
staysafe@jfk.herts.sch.uk

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



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



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.

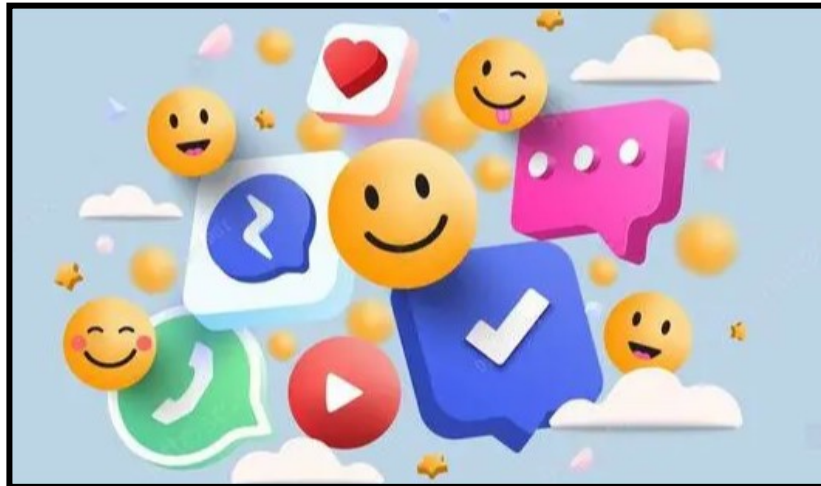
We ask that parents and carers to reinforce these messages at home and check that bikes are roadworthy, with working brakes, lights, and reflectors, especially during darker mornings and afternoons.

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.

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Tuesday 10th February, Year 9 Consultation Evening, Online from 4.00pm

Friday 13th February, Taste of Italy Trip Departs

Sunday 15th February, Ski Trip Departs

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February, Half Term

WE ARE HIRING!

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



FUTURE DATES

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 from 4.00pm

Monday 23rd March, Spring Concert, 7.00pm, Hall

Wednesday 25th March, Year 8 Consultation Evening, Online from 4.00pm



ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS 2025-2026

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 9.10 am constitutes unauthorised absence and can legally be the basis of an offence by the parent/carer
- Those students who arrive very late (after 9.10 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

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.*



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 confirmation 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



University of
Hertfordshire **UH**

TEF Gold Teaching
Excellence
Framework

DACORUM
SCHOOLS ALLIANCE

EVER THOUGHT OF BECOMING A TEACHER?

School Based Teacher Training with the Dacorum Schools Alliance



We will be offering a School Direct Teacher Training programme in the following subjects for September 2026

Applications accepted from October 7th

Art, Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Drama, Design and Technology, English, Geography, Mathematics, Modern Foreign Languages, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Religious Studies

We also accept applications for Primary teaching

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR TEACHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES email
David Redwood - dredwood@tring.school

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE - www.tring.herts.sch.uk/teacher-training



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



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



Join the exciting journey!

HEMEL STORM YEAR 7 DISTRICT BASKETBALL SQUAD



TRIALS

30th January , 6th & 13th February

6.00pm - 7.30pm

Longdean Sports Centre

Scan the QR code to sign up



Sessions will be run by
Hemel Storm pro players.

£15 for all 3 trial sessions

Players will then be selected
for further squad sessions