

INSPIRE • ACHIEVE • SERVE

John F Kennedy Catholic School

27th March 2026



Easter Liturgy



We all knew in school that this five week half term would go by quickly...and so it did! And here we are on the last day of the Spring Term, and roughly two thirds of the way through the school year. We are still in the solemn season of Lent, with crosses and statues covered by purple cloth in church and the omission of the 'alleluia' in the Mass. We call this to mind each day in school with our two-minute SiLent observance. I had some visitors in school on Wednesday and it was lovely for them to witness the school falling silent for those two minutes - a tangible sign of the school's commitment to its Catholic faith. That said, it is difficult to avoid joyful activity; every week there is something to celebrate in school.

At the beginning of the week we had our first Chamber Choir Easter concert, held in St Mark's church, under the directorship of Mrs Metcalfe and accompanied on piano by Fr David, Parish Priest of Hemel West. It was a beautiful evening with high quality singing, interspersed with reflections on the Easter story and prayer. On the same evening many other JFK students were showcasing their talents, hard work and commitment to service. This was the annual Dragons' Apprentice Final - the culmination of a challenge that is a great tradition at JFK. Although still referred to as a Dacorum event, it has in recent years been opened up to schools from outside the area, notably Harpenden. As is also a tradition here, we entered four teams into this year's challenge. I am delighted to announce that JFK won three of the awards on the night, including 'overall winners'! This is a magnificent achievement and my congratulations go to all involved, especially because of the huge amount of money raised for charities. Further details are shared below.

The term ended with our Easter liturgy, which presents the Stations of the Cross in a dramatic form (see photo above). Our Chamber Choir added musical accompaniment to the action on stage and reflections and prayers accompanied the freeze-frame images of each station. My thanks and congratulations go to all involved, and in particular to Mya Joshi in Year 9, who directed the acting. The liturgy ended with prayers for our school community and beyond, focusing especially on prayers for members of our school community who have died recently: members of staff Yunus Docrat and David Roberts, and former student Antoni Ochmanski. We prayed for the happy repose of their souls. Indeed, the message of the liturgy is one of hope in the resurrection, that we will be celebrating in just over a week's time, at Easter.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support for JFK over the past term and wish you and your family a very happy Easter!

I look forward to welcoming the students back to school on Monday 13th April for the start of the Summer Term.



SIXTH FORM

Year 12 University of Cambridge Visit



This week, some of our Year 12 students were fortunate enough to visit one of the University of Cambridge colleges in the heart of Cambridge city centre: Gonville and Caius College.

The day began with a talk from an admissions tutor, where students gained valuable insight into what the university looks for in applicants, what is considered in the application, as well as what to expect from the interview process. This was followed by a Q&A session, giving students the opportunity to ask questions directly to those who review thousands of applications each year, to help them better understand what makes a candidate stand out.

To conclude the morning, current university students led another Q&A, answering questions about life at the college, student culture, and the wide range of societies and clubs available. The campus tour took place in beautiful weather, with students exploring the grounds, library, and dining halls, where they also enjoyed lunch.

The day finished with a taster lecture in either economics or international law, both of which were thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended.

Overall, it was an insightful and engaging trip that the students greatly enjoyed.



Mr Wainman - Assistant Director of Sixth Form

SIXTH FORM

UCAS Discovery Exhibition Visit



The Year 12 students from John F Kennedy Catholic School recently attended the UCAS Discovery Exhibition at ExCeL London, gaining valuable insight into their future pathways.

The UCAS Convention is a large-scale event designed to support students as they begin making decisions about life after sixth form. It brings together universities, apprenticeship providers, and employers from across the UK, giving students the opportunity to explore courses, career options, and entry routes, as well as speak directly with experts and current students.

Throughout the day, JFK's Year 12 cohort demonstrated excellent engagement, approaching the experience with maturity and enthusiasm. Students actively interacted with exhibitors, asked thoughtful questions, and made the most of the wide range of opportunities available to them.

Feedback from the trip was overwhelmingly positive, with many students highlighting how useful it was in helping them clarify their ideas for the future. The visit has provided a strong foundation as they begin to consider their next steps.

We now look forward to continuing to support our students as they build on this experience and move confidently towards their future education and career pathways.

UCAS

Mr Joyce - Director of Sixth Form



DRAGONS' APPRENTICE AWARDS

John F Kennedy Catholic School celebrates another outstanding year in the Dragons' Apprentice Challenge, run by Community Action Dacorum.



The Dragons' Apprentice Challenge is a local enterprise programme that gives students the opportunity to experience real-world business. Teams are each given a small start-up loan and matched with both a business mentor and a local charity. Their task is to create and run a fundraising initiative, developing skills such as teamwork, leadership, budgeting, marketing, and communication - all while raising money for good causes. At the end of the programme, teams pitch their journey and results to a panel of "dragons," competing for a range of awards.

This year, JFK entered four teams - the highest number of any participating school. Across Hertfordshire, 19 teams initially took part, with 17 teams successfully completing the project from 9 schools.

JFK's teams delivered an exceptional performance:

- Team Genesis raised an incredible £3,791, supported by The Gym Group and Sunnyside Rural Trust
- Interstellar raised £1,222, working with Christy Woodgate (DBC) and Hemel Hempstead's Heather Club
- Goonies raised £1,190, partnered with Hybrid Software Helix Ltd and Hospice of St Francis
- Youth in Motion raised £2,195, supported by JHP Electrical and Gaddesden Riding for the Disabled Association

Together, JFK students raised a remarkable £8,399, contributing to an overall total of £28,943 across all schools.

Mr Joyce - Director of Sixth Form



DRAGONS' APPRENTICE AWARDS

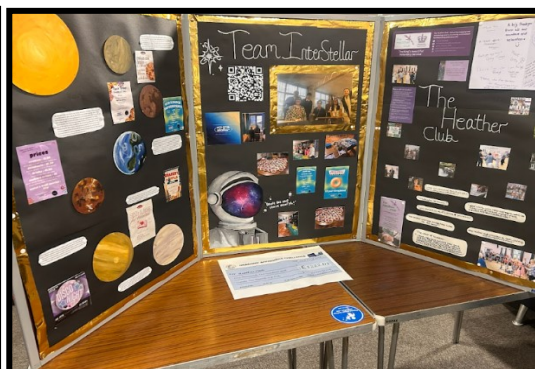
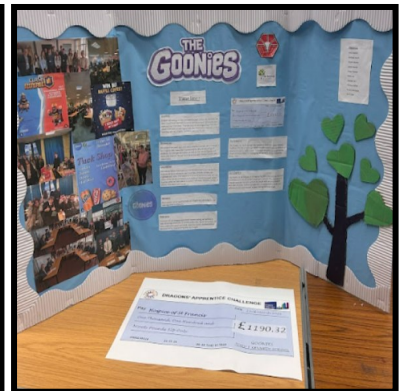
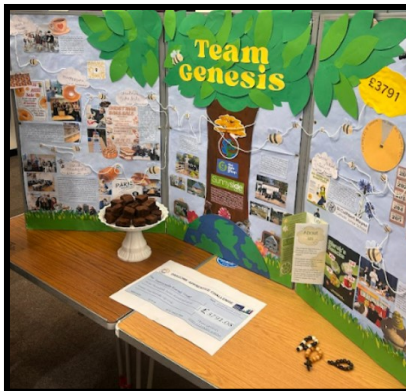
While the fundraising totals were impressive, the individual achievements were even more noteworthy. *Interstellar* won the award for *Greatest Social Impact*, recognising their meaningful contribution to the community. *Team Genesis* enjoyed an exceptional evening, winning both *Best Business Plan* and the top honour, *Dragons' Apprentice Champion*.

The school is incredibly proud of every student involved, not only for the money raised but for the wide range of employability and life skills developed throughout the challenge.

The Dragons' Apprentice programme has been running for around 13 years, with JFK involved in 11 of those years. During that time:

- 298 students have taken part
- A collective £184,074 has been raised across the programme
- JFK alone has contributed an impressive **£56,233**

A huge congratulations goes to all teams for their dedication, creativity, and success in what has been another fantastic year.



Mr Joyce - Director of Sixth Form



MUSIC



It has been a wonderful and fun-packed few weeks in the Music Department. Friday saw the Rock Festival take place during the day - Year 9 enjoyed a performance in the hall given by Mr Suddick, Mr Lawlor and Mr Fishwick . In between the music they chatted on stage about their experiences as musicians to help enthuse and encourage the next generation. The morning's presentation was made complete with a superb performance delivered by Riverside, one of the Year 13 bands. They wowed the audience and showed how dedication and practise leads to great things.

Throughout the day all the competing bands rehearsed for the evening Battle of the Bands . With three categories - Best Newcomers Band, Best KS3 Band and Best KS4/5 Band - there was a lot to play for. The Rock Orchestra rehearsed too for their performance as a part of the evening entertainment.

At 7:00pm the hall was packed with excited family and friends and the Battle was underway . The atmosphere was one of support for each other along with some healthy competition . The fans cheered on their bands and Mr Suddick compered the evening which culminated in the judges final decisions. Mr Graham Thomson and Mr Palumbo had the very difficult decisions to make and the final results were :

- Best Newcomers Band : **The Ninjas**
- Best KS3 Band - **The Static Band**
- Best KS 4/5 Band - **Riverside**

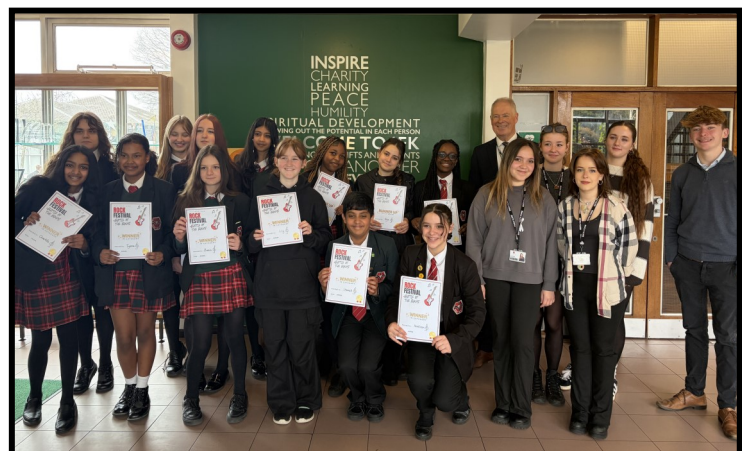


Photo Above - Celebrating the success of the musicians.

Mrs Metcalfe - Music Department



MUSIC





MUSIC



Monday evening saw the Chamber Choir perform an evening of music and prayer for Lent . They sung five stunning choral pieces including a beautiful setting of Amazing Grace and For the Beauty of the Earth by John Rutter. The Song for Peace was a poignant addition and with a Taize chat between the prayers the evening was one of stillness and reflection. Father David accompanied the choir on the piano and afterwards joined us all for refreshments . The gathering in the Parish Room was joyous with the chamber choir, their family and friends, all enjoying some social time together.

Summer Concert - save the date!

Monday 29th June 2026 - Bands, Chamber Choir , Orchestra, Solos - a celebration of everyone who takes part in all ensembles in the Music Department.

If you have not taken part yet then please come along after the Easter Holiday . There is something on every lunchtime , all starting 1.45pm

Monday - Year 7 Singers

Tuesday - Chamber Choir

Wednesday - Orchestra

Wednesday - 3.30 - 4.15pm ABRSM Music Theory tuition

Thursday - Recording Studio

Friday - Rock Bands

Music Super Curricular challenge starts after Easter - for all year groups and the new music Instagram account . Watch this space !

Mrs Metcalfe - Music Department



SCIENCE

Snowdrop Project



Last week we saw the culmination of all our hard work investigating the DNA links between snowdrop species. We visited the Wellcome Campus near Cambridge where Dr Sarah Dyer, the Non-vertebrate Genomics Team Leader at EMBL-EBI, led a fascinating workshop on bioinformatics. Students were shown how to compare their DNA sequences with other known DNA sequences to enable links to be made. Unfortunately only one of our samples yielded enough data to enable it to be 'mapped', however we've still been able to contribute new data to the snowdrop phylogenetic tree. Students also enjoyed a guided tour of the Wellcome Genome Campus where they learnt about the fascinating history of the mapping of the human genome and how the Wellcome institute is at the forefront of global research. This was an extraordinary opportunity for the students to engage with real-world science and they were fantastic ambassadors for JFK!



Mrs Davison - Science Department



LIBRARY

Reading Challenge Competition



We're celebrating another successful reading challenge at the Library with a competition suggested by Year 9 student Lily Kelly. Twenty two students across Years 7 - 10 read almost 150 books and between them were awarded Easter treat bags, creme eggs and Easter eggs! I've been really encouraged to see students branch out to read genres they haven't tried before.

A particular hit has been the graphic novel of Corrie Ten Boom's life. Corrie was held at Ravensbruck concentration camp for hiding Jews in her family home during the Holocaust but she survived and was able to eventually forgive those who had treated her so badly. Hers is an amazing story of bravery and faith, beautifully brought to life in the graphic novel format. After reading it, Arabella in Y8 said "The best book I have read. I really recommend this book as it is great for people who like comics and if they want to branch out then this is a great place to start. The drama makes it exciting and made me keep reading."

Other favourite books which have been in demand have included Flight: The Complete History of Aviation and Teen Skin Care. I look forward to adding more books after the Easter holidays as the Library's collection continues to reflect the students' requests.

I'm excited to launch Book Club after Easter when we hope to meet weekly and chat about the books we're reading, including the Spark! Book Award entries for this year's book judging competition. Book Club is open to all years and already there's a good amount of interest.

Mrs Powell - Librarian



CAREERS



Over the past two weeks, we have been fortunate to host two engaging careers talks for our students.

Year 10 welcomed an Early Careers Manager from Tesco, who spoke about the wide range of opportunities available from age 16 onwards, including apprenticeships, graduate schemes, and internships. As one of the UK's largest employers, with its Head Office based in Hertfordshire, it was invaluable for students to gain insight into how a career can develop within such a well-established organisation.

Year 11 students also benefited from hearing from former student Daniel, who is currently in the second year of his apprenticeship at Whitestar Electrical. He shared his experiences of day-to-day life as an apprentice and offered a helpful comparison with the college route, giving students a realistic perspective on the different pathways available after school.

These talks have provided students with important insights into future career options and the variety of routes they can take beyond Year 11.

Job of the week



Events

Business Start-Up Fundamentals

HERTFORDSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Scan the QR code for your free ticket
• www.hertsagssociety.co.uk/food-farming-and-sustainability-careers-day-tickets

FOOD, FARMING & SUSTAINABILITY CAREERS DAY

REGISTER FOR FREE

The Showground
Dunstable Road
Redbourn
Herts
AL3 7PT

TUESDAY
30/06/26

TIME
3.30pm - 6.30pm

THICKBROOM ENTERPRISE CIC

BUSINESS START-UP FUNDAMENTALS

WEBINAR

Thickbroom Enterprise CIC's free webinar for first-time business owners.

Learn how to confidently set up your first enterprise with our expert accountants.

SIGN UP TODAY! 12 MAY 2026 11:00-12:00

Mrs Jenkins - Careers

JFKSA

Spring Smiles and Brainy Battles: A Huge Thank You!



It has been a whirlwind of activity for the School Association lately, and we are still buzzing from the energy of our recent community events. From high-stakes trivia to sweet surprises, here is a look at what we've been up to.

Quiz Night Success

Our recent Quiz Night was a resounding success! The hall was packed with parents, staff, and friends all vying for the top spot. Our fantastic Quiz Master, Deric Newman, kept the energy high and the questions challenging, covering everything from pop culture to local JFK facts with some Rock and Roll Bingo and the every popular 'heads and tails'

While the "healthy competition" was fierce we are delighted to announce that The Teachers' Table has claimed the trophy once again! Rumour has it the staff are already polishing the silverware in the staffroom.

100 Golden Tickets: The Easter Egg Draw

This week, we wanted to spread a little extra joy across the entire student body. The School Association was delighted to donate 100 chocolate Easter eggs for a special school-wide prize draw.

To keep things fair and exciting, every single student's name was entered into the hat. On Wednesday morning, the lucky 100 winners were announced. The atmosphere during the collection was wonderful; seeing the genuine surprise and excitement on the students' faces was a real highlight for us.

The students were incredibly grateful, and it was lovely to see that "Easter cheer" spreading through the corridors as they headed off with their prizes.

A Final Note

Events like these are only possible because of your continued support and the hard work of our volunteer parents. Whether you donated a prize, bought a quiz ticket, or helped set up tables, thank you for making our school community so vibrant.

Mrs Bailey - Deputy Headteacher



JFKSA





PE

Leadership



“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Just as the Gospel reminds us that true leadership is rooted in service to others, at JFK we've been bringing that message to life during Leadership Week. In PE, we've focused on building a culture of kindness, encouraging students to lead with positivity, respect and teamwork.

Throughout the week, lessons have developed key leadership skills such as communication, inclusion and creating enjoyment for others. Students then stepped up to lead parts of sessions themselves, delivering activities across basketball, cricket, table tennis, badminton and rounders.

It's been fantastic to see so many take responsibility, support their peers and grow in confidence. We are incredibly proud of the effort, enthusiasm and maturity shown, amazing examples of how being a leader can have a powerful, positive impact on everyone involved.

This Girl Can

Congratulations to all outlets girls who took part in the This Girl Can JFK project this half term. The project has been a fantastic success, bringing together a group of KS3 girls to grow in confidence, resilience, and friendship.

Throughout the programme, the girls showed real dedication and enthusiasm, working incredibly hard alongside Calum on mixed material arts and supporting each other every step of the way. It's been brilliant to see their progress, not just in their creative skills but in their willingness to step up, challenge themselves, and build strong connections.

In Term 3, they'll be taking on an exciting new role helping to lead activities with primary school students, a wonderful opportunity to inspire others.

Well done to all the girls for their commitment and positivity, and a big thank you to Calum for his support and guidance!

Miss Rooney - PE Department



PE

Super Curriculum

Congratulations to all those who have received their super curriculum badge this term. If you want more information and to get involved then check out your google classroom.

GCSE Moderation

Wednesday 15th April

Term 2 Competitive Sports Recap

Netball Year 7: Cup Finalist and 2nd in the league	Football Year 7: District Cup Final
Netball Year 8: Cup QF and 5th in the league	Football Year 8: 4th in league
Netball Year 9: Cup finalists, Herts Tournament 3rd and 2nd in the league	Football Year 9: Cup QF and 3rd in the league
Netball Year 10: Plate WINNERS	Football Year 10: District Cup Final
Netball Year 11: 3rd in the league	Football Year 11: District Cup Final and Country Cup Final
Netball Year 12/13: Cup WINNERS and 3rd in the league	Football Year 12/13: 2nd in the league
Dance: 3rd in Dessert Dance	Rugby Year 7 and 8: 100% win rate



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



TRIPS 2026 – 2027

**"A Gentle
Reminder"**

NEW TRIPS COMING.....

Sports Tour 2027 – Current Year 7 and 8 students

UPCOMING DAY TRIPS AND EVENTS

Year 10 Rock Climbing, May/June 2026 - PE students only

TRIPS

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

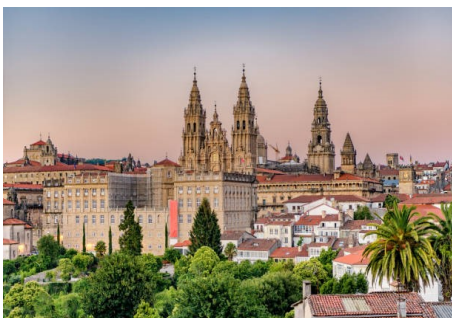
A Level Biology F/T, 1st - 3rd June 2026

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

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

We're delighted to let you know that John F Kennedy Catholic School has become a member of The National College – a multi-award-winning online training provider for staff and parents.

What does this mean for you?

As part of our membership, The National College provides dedicated training and resources for parents and carers – particularly, around online safety and keeping children safe online.

Online safety advice on any topic

Of course, staff will continue to teach children about the risks online. But with the internet so readily accessible, the most effective approach to online safety needs everyone involved, including parents and carers.

That's why you've now got access to **hundreds of courses, explainer videos and online safety guides** to support your awareness of the online world. Topics range from understanding apps like TikTok and Instagram to recognising the signs of online harm and what you can do to help.

Signing up is easy

Signing up to the platform is simple. Just follow <https://v2.nationalcollege.com/enrol/john-f-kennedy-catholic-school> and complete your details. You will be asked to enrol and enter some key details. As you enter your details it is important that you sign up as a parent/carer. Once you're set up, you'll get instant access to all training and resources.

Download the app for free

Another fantastic benefit of The National College is its National Online Safety app, which you can download for free. It gives you access to all their parent and carer resources on the go, whenever you want.

You can download the National Online Safety app using the links below:

- [App store](#)
- [Google Play](#)

They're always here to help

The National College has a brilliant support team if you have any questions. Their [help centre](#) provides a comprehensive bank of answers to most FAQs, but if you still can't find the answer you're looking for, you can always get in [contact](#) with them.

Mrs McKenzie – Assistant Headteacher



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.

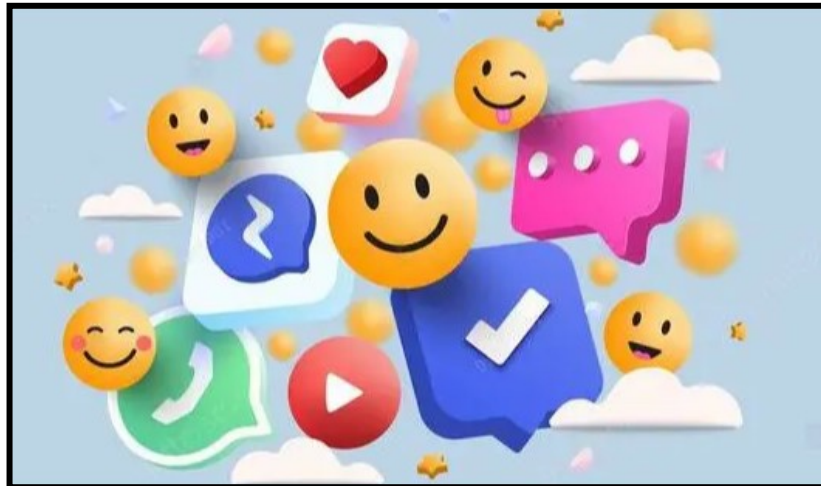
We ask that parents and carers to reinforce these messages at home and check that bikes are roadworthy, with working brakes, lights, and reflectors, especially during darker mornings and afternoons.

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.



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

Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April, Easter Holiday

Monday 13th April - Start of Summer Term

Tuesday 21st April, Duke of Edinburgh Awards Evening, Hall

WE ARE HIRING!

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



FUTURE DATES

Monday 4th May, Bank Holiday, School Closed

Wednesday 6th May, Year 12 Consultation Evening, In Person

Tuesday 19th May, New Year 7 Parent Information Evening, 6.30pm

Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May, Half Term, School Closed

Monday 8th June - Friday 12th June, Year 10 Work Experience Week



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



BECOME A FOUNDATION GOVERNOR

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



BECOME A FOUNDATION GOVERNOR

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



VACCINATIONS



Vaccination UK

MMR / HPV / DTP and MenACWY vaccine (students of Year 8 and above) catch up clinic we are holding in Hemel Hempstead on Friday 10th April 2026, details as follows

Friday 10th April 2026, 10am to 5pm (walk-in and bookable appointment)

St Albert the Great Catholic Primary School

Acorn Road Hemel Hempstead HP3 8DW

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



VACANCIES



St Cuthbert Mayne Catholic Junior School

Come join the team at St Cuthbert Mayne School in Hemel Hempstead as an **Afterschool Club Manager**. This rewarding role involves creating a fun, safe environment for children after school, leading activities and inspiring creativity. If you're enthusiastic, organised, and passionate about supporting young people, we'd love to hear from you.

Link to apply: [Afterschool Club Manager - Eteach](#)

St Cuthbert Mayne School, Hemel Hempstead, is seeking a reliable **Premises Assistant** to support the day-to-day running of the site. If you are practical and take pride in maintaining safe, well-kept buildings, this could be the perfect role. Join a supportive school community and help create a welcoming environment for staff and students.

Link to apply:- [Premises Assistant - Eteach](#)



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



UNDERSTANDING MY AUTISM/ADHD

Empowerment Course for Children and Young Teens in Hertfordshire



SCAN ME



Join us for an online transformative 6-week group course designed to empower Autistic & ADHD children and young teens. Through interactive sessions, participants will explore what being ADHD/Autistic means to them, identify strategies to support their well-being, articulate their needs, and celebrate their uniqueness.



COURSE DETAILS

AUTISM PRIMARY Tues 14/04 - 19/05 (Years 4-6)
ADHD PRIMARY Wed 15/04 - 20/05 (Years 4-6)



add-vance.org/children-young-people

INSPIRE • ACHIEVE • SERVE



CHESHAM & LEY HILL GOLF CLUB
HP5 1UZ

WOMEN IN GOLF DAY 2026

Girls over 14 years also welcome

SUNDAY APRIL 19th

2pm until 4pm



To sign up contact ANNE BIRKETT
annebirkett@cheshamgolf.co.uk

www.cheshamgolf.co.uk/womeningolf26