



## WELCOME TO THE NEW SENIOR STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM 2026

24th April 2026



*From Left ; Andrew Hope, Emilia Blasi-Colleran, Adam Kandiah and Jakub Pawlina*

### **Adam Kandiah**

It is with a great honour and pleasure that I accept the duties and responsibilities of being JFK's new Serve Ethos leader. I look forward to the experience and knowledge I will gain but more importantly serving the community and opening up pathways and opportunities for those at the sixth form and lower school levels to succeed and express themselves.

I'm looking forward to working with my amazing team members to push forward the key tenets and ideals held by all those at JFK whilst bringing new ideas and proposals to the table to try and improve everyone's experience.

We have many plans already in the works that will be carried out over the coming terms, however I encourage all those with ideas and a calling for leadership to come forward and aid us in our endeavours. For lasting change and improvement does not come from the works of 3 or 4 individuals but through the unity of all individuals within our school community.

### **Emilia Blasi- Colleran**

I will be taking on the role of JFK's new Achieve leader for 2026/27. This has been the greatest honour, to be able to share my experience and expertise with the rest of the school. To help raise achievement not just academically but in terms of self-esteem and confidence. I have always been involved in leadership and I am so grateful to be given the opportunity to serve as part of our SSLT. As a team our main goal is to improve the student involvement and inclusion within the school. Ensuring that student voices are heard and appreciated so that we can create a school environment best suited to teaching students, growth, discipline and self-worth.

**Mr Joyce - Director of Sixth Form**



## WELCOME TO THE NEW SENIOR STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM 2026

### **Andrew Hope**

I'm Andrew and I am privileged to take up the role of Serve Charity. It is a real honour for me to accept this position as a member of the Senior Student Leadership Team and I can't wait to get started building up the school community. As a team we can't wait to work with the students at JFK and be a strong representation of their voice, ensuring we bring their ideas to the table when necessary. We are also hoping to continue the focus on the Catholic life of the school, ensuring all the while that every student feels included, valued and heard. I am really excited to start this journey and I can't wait to get going on our planned projects.

### **Jakub Pawlina**

I am Jakub the new Inspire lead in SSLT. And I am very honoured and grateful to be chosen for this role. As the Inspire lead I will focus on developing the faith life of the school and the students. As one of the first changes, the team hopes to move towards Sixth Form houses which are named in honour of saints, these Holy men and women can stand as models for the students. I hope in the future to do assemblies which address different aspects of the Catholic faith, including the saints and miracles that have taken place. As well as implementing clubs and groups which will help to nurture the students faith. Overall, I wish to develop the Catholic life of each student helping them 'to know, love and serve [God] in this world and to be happy with Him forever in the next' (Baltimore Catechism).

**Mr Joyce - Director of Sixth Form**



## MUSIC



Last Saturday saw members of the Chamber Choir take part in a concert at St Dominic RC Primary School in aid of the AT Society. They joined three other choirs and sang beautifully and also listened to a stunning recital from pianist Alison Farr . The afternoon raised £1600 for the charity and as their teacher I could not have been more proud of their wonderful contribution - amazing JFK ambassadors.

### Music Extra Curricular Groups - 1.45pm - 2.15pm

**Monday** - Year 7 and 8 singers D01

**Tuesday** - Chamber Choir D01

**Wednesday** - Orchestra D01

**Thursday** - Keyboard Club D02

**Thursday** - Recording Studio and Music Technology

**Friday** - Rock Bands D01/D05

### Key Dates

- Summer Concert - Monday 29th June 2026, 7.00pm in the Hall
- Year 7 House Music Competition - Thursday 2nd July

### Music Super Curricular Challenge

This has launched now and there are tasks for KS3 and a separate list for KS4. KS3 need to achieve a total of 50 points and KS4 a total of 75. There are already many students underway and one KS3 student has completed the challenge already !

### Instagram

Please follow the music department: [@jfk.music.department](https://www.instagram.com/jfk.music.department) . Lots of updates and news of the music-making that takes place each week.

**Mrs Metcalfe - Music Department**



## LIBRARY



It's lovely to be enjoying the Library while the sun streams through the windows and we're making the most of the space with our new Book Club which launched today. As well as reading our own books, I'm encouraging the students to read the entries for the Spark! Book Awards 2026 and a few have already been borrowed. Book Club is open to all years and is a chilled Thursday break time activity for those who want some dedicated reading time.

The Library's Instagram account continues to grow with Mr Littlejohn gracing the grid this week to share his favourite reads! Follow along @libraryjfk and look out for more teachers joining as well as the usual celebrations for those caught reading and highlights of Library activities.

This week I launched the Summer Summaries competition (thanks to Anna Slowik and Chantelle Gunasekera for their idea!). Students 'sell' Library books they've enjoyed by writing a short summary which will hopefully entice others to read it. Each time that book is borrowed they earn House Points (and prizes!). I'm looking forward to seeing which books are the most popular!

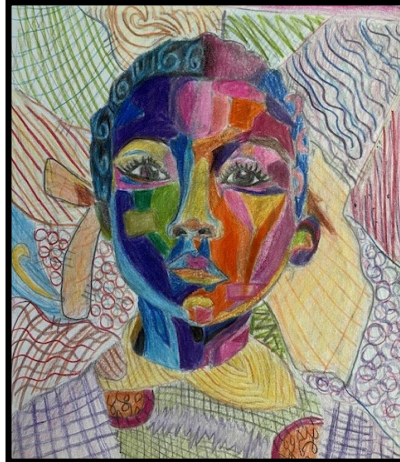


**Mrs Powell - Librarian**



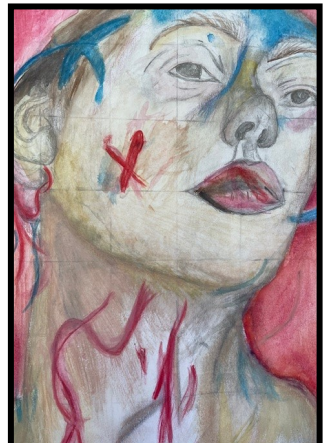
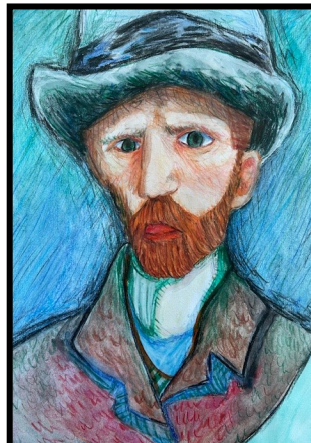
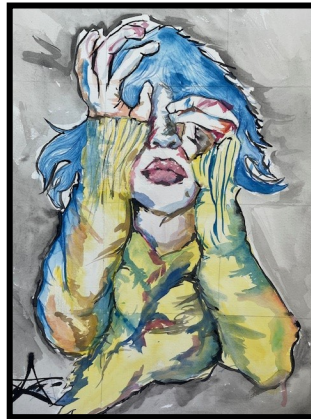
ART

Year 8 Portrait Artist Studies





ART



Miss Freed - Art Department



## PE

### Summer Term Sports Clubs

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HP	MUPH	JYHHP	LJ	LH/JJY
<b>LUNCH 1.35pm – 2.20pm</b>				
Y9&10 Rounders Recreational & Performance		Field Athletics Long/Triple Jump		
Y7&8 Rounders Recreational & Performance	KS3 Dance Recreational Dance Studio		Track Athletics Middle Distance	
Rec Basketball Gym/Courts	Tennis Recreational	Field Athletics Javelin		
Y7&8 Rounders Recreational & Performance		Field Athletics Shot	Track Athletics SAQ, Track & Relay With George	Badminton Recreational Dance Studio
	Athletics Throws Performance Invite	Field Athletics Discuss	Track Athletics Hurdles With Jude	
Y7,8,9&10 Cricket Recreational	Athletics Jumps Performance Invite		Track Athletics Track & Relay	
Y7&8 Rounders Recreational & Performance		Field Athletics High Jump with Phoebe Dance Studio		
KS3 Dance Recreational Alanna & Shaname	Boys Gaelic Recreational & Performance		Girls Gaelic Recreational & Performance	



## 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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> of each month for the following:**

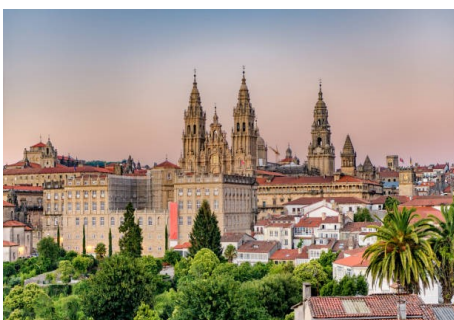
A Level Biology F/T, 1st - 3rd June 2026

Croft Farm, 22nd - 24th June 2026

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

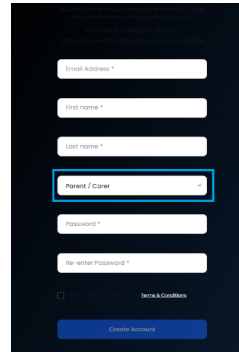
GCSE Geography F/T, 6th - 8th July 2026

Duke of Edinburgh 2026, Bronze and Silver





## SAFEGUARDING IN FOCUS



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.

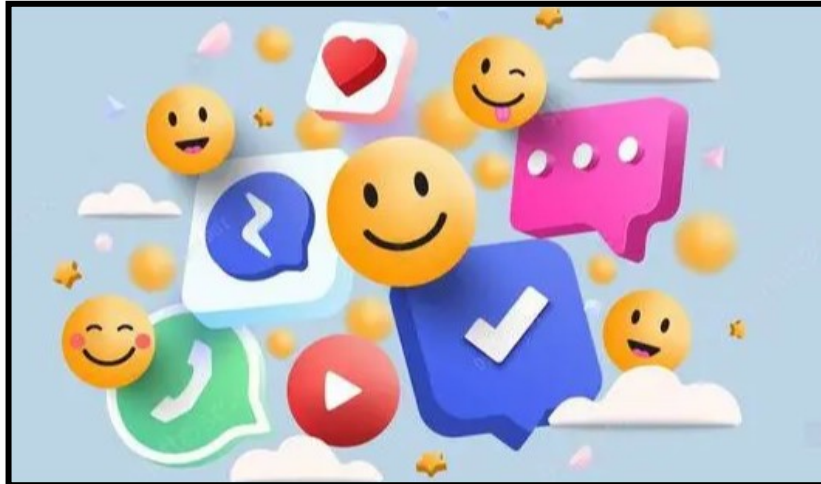
We ask that parents and carers to reinforce these messages at home and check that bikes are roadworthy, with working brakes, lights, and reflectors, especially during darker mornings and afternoons.

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

**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**

## WE ARE HIRING!

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



## FUTURE DATES

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

**Friday 19th June - Year 11 Leavers Day**

**Monday 22nd June - Wednesday 24th June, Year 7 Residential Trip**

**Thursday 25th June, JFK Sports Day @ Jarman Park**

**Friday 26th June, INSET Day, School Closed**

**Thursday 9th July - New Year 7's Transition Day**

**Thursday 9th July - Creative Exhibition, D Block Gallery**



## 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

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**



Elevate Education's Summer Term

## Parent Webinar Series

Elevate Education delivers high-impact workshops to our students that help to develop their study skills, motivation, and exam preparation. Over the next term, you're invited to join their parent webinar series, where you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.

### ***Ask Me Anything (Live Q&A)***

28th April 6:00pm (BST)

### ***How You Can Help Improve Your Child's Memory***

12th May 6:00pm (BST)

### ***How to Help Your Child Alleviate Stress***

9th June 6:00pm (BST)

### ***How to Get (And Keep!) Your Child Motivated***

23rd June 6:00pm (BST)

### ***How You Can Set Your Child Up for Success***

7th July 6:00pm (BST)

Register today at: <https://go.elevateeducation.com/ukschoolwebinar>



# HEMEL STORM JUNIORS



**MAY HALF TERM BASKETBALL CAMP**

**TUESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY – FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**WHO:** Primary and secondary school aged children



Runs **9am – 3pm** every day

**EARLY BIRD CLUB** – 8am to 9am (£3 per day) ☀️

**AFTER CAMP CLUB** – 3pm to 5pm (£6 per day) ☀️



**PAYMENT: £40** for one day

**£160** for the week (4 days) 📁

**SIBLING DISCOUNT** – 10% off bookings

**EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT** of 10% off until 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT ENDS 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY**



**THE HEMEL HEMPSTEAD SCHOOL,  
HEATH LANE, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD HP1 1TX**

🌐 **BOOK NOW:** <https://hemelstormyouthbasketball.kidsclubhq.co.uk/login>





## SACRED HEART CHURCH

**Sacred Heart RC Church Youth Mass and Social** - Our next Youth Mass and social is on **Saturday 25th April** at 5pm.

Everyone is welcome to the Mass and we would like to invite all those in Year 7 and above to come to both the Mass and social in the hall.

Look forward to seeing you there for pizza and games!!

SACRED HEART CHURCH  
PARK ST, BERKHAMSTED, HP4 1HX

# YOUTH MASS AND SOCIAL

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL

5PM

SOCIAL  
FOR  
YEARS 7  
AND  
ABOVE

FUTURE  
DATES:  
30/5  
27/6

**COME CHILL WITH FREE PIZZA  
AND DRINKS WITH TABLE  
TENNIS, FOOTBALL & MORE**

**MASS AT 5, SOCIAL 6 - 7.30**



# 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](mailto:dredwood@tring.school)

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE - [www.tring.herts.sch.uk/teacher-training](http://www.tring.herts.sch.uk/teacher-training)