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John F Kennedy Catholic School

June 25, 2026



Dignity of the Individual

Two weeks ago it was my grandson's baptism. My daughter's home is a 5 minute walk from JFK, and the baptism took place at Saint Mary and St Joseph in Boxmoor, was conducted by Fr David, supported by Callum. They became the newest members of the Hemel West Parish and my grandson, Jamie, the newest member of the Church. I went back to the church in Boxmoor the following day to attend the 10 am Mass with them. It was lovely to see lots of the JFK community there - students and parents - and in particular several students altar serving. As usual at the end of Mass Fr David went over the notices for the week, which included the Caritas Afternoon Tea, a parish strawberry cream tea and a quiz night. In addition he reflected on the busy First Holy Communion Masses that are taking place and two Confirmation Masses, with 38 young people at each one receiving the sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Paul McAleenan, and the RCIA course for adults wishing to be received into membership of the Church. It certainly is a vibrant parish, with a good mix of faith development opportunities as well as social activities. And for me, that's an important identity of a parish - a community that is at the service of its members, and providing a sense of belonging. It is in the parish that most Catholics get the opportunity to develop and practise their faith life - only a minority of us have the privilege to do so in their workplace. But of course everyone is called to model the faith each day - in their interactions with others, their kindness and compassion, and care for the poor and needy. In this way we are called to mission, and the ideal description is that we become 'missionary disciples' - people who carry on the work Jesus started 2000 years ago.

Mission was the theme of our week last week. Being active in our mission can involve commitment to the IAS leadership programme, to volunteering to be of service to the JFK community or to our partner primary schools. But we must remind our students that it begins with a commitment to demonstrating the values that Jesus taught us. Reminded by our Catholic Social Teaching theme 'Dignity of the individual', this means treating everyone with kindness and respect.

YEAR 11 LEAVERS DAY



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GEOGRAPHY



Our Year 7 form groups are well underway with their day trip visits to the Boxmoor Trust watercress beds.

These science / geography field trips involve a steady walk down to the site followed by a day of work in and around the River Bulbourne. Led by Trust volunteers, the sessions are designed to introduce our students to the local chalk stream ecosystem and its wider environment. The Trust website (<https://www.boxmoortrust.org.uk/>) gives a detailed overview of the work carried out by this historic local charity.

During the day, students complete **three distinct fieldwork activities**:

- **Invertebrate Survey:** Students get into the water to take samples from the river bed, which they then study on the bank for signs of life.
- **River Channel Measurements:** Students measure the width and depth of the river to understand its physical shape.
- **Wildlife Walk & Talk:** A guided tour along the riverbank focused on river restoration and the success of recent species reintroductions, including water voles and otters.

Upcoming Trip Dates

The remaining forms are scheduled to visit on the following dates:

7F - Monday 29th June
7H - Monday 13th July
7N - Wednesday 15th July

Parents / carers. Please ensure your child comes fully prepared for the day as outlined in the original trip letter (including a packed lunch, appropriate footwear/wellies and weather-appropriate clothing). Thank you for your continued support in making these outdoor learning experiences a success.

Mr Cato and Mrs Davison

Mr Cato - Geography Department



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YEAR 10



On Wednesday 17th June, a selected group of students took part in "Study Sensei: Helping Students Study Effectively", delivered by Elevate. The interactive session focused on effective revision techniques and strategies to help prepare students for the challenges of Year 11. Students were highly engaged throughout, with several volunteers contributing to activities and discussions.

The students' behaviour was excellent, and I am extremely proud of the way they represented the school. The session was very well received, and as can be seen from the student reviews, the presenter, Will, received fantastic feedback for his engaging and informative delivery.

"Pretty cool and Will was also pretty cool 10/10" - Beau 10D

"I think elevate was really helpful, it gave me ideas on how to focus more on my learning and revision leading up to GCSEs. It has made me excited to use some new revision sources and has made me think I won't get too stressed, not only that but Will was really nice and with the way he acted it made me intrigued to listen." Ruby 10J

Miss Galatola - Achievement Leader



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Hertfordshire GAA Gaelic Football Tournament Success



Before half term, JFK proudly attended the Hertfordshire GAA Gaelic Football Tournament at Harpenden Rugby Club, entering U14 and U16 boys' and girls' teams. The event brought together schools from across the county and provided a fantastic opportunity for our students to develop their skills, compete with pride, and represent the school.

All of our players made excellent progress throughout the day, demonstrating great teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship. It was particularly pleasing to see the confidence and skill levels of all teams grow with each match.

A special congratulations goes to our U16 boys' squad, who enjoyed a highly successful tournament and were crowned Plate Champions. An additional congratulations goes to Jimmy, who was deservedly named Player of the Tournament in recognition of his outstanding performances, leadership, and commitment throughout the competition.

We would also like to recognise Mr J. Joyce, who received a special mention for his dedication and contribution to the event over many years. Mr Joyce was one of the founding members when the tournament first began with just 12 teams, including JFK. Thanks to the commitment and vision of individuals such as Mr Joyce, the competition has grown into a remarkable four-day festival of Gaelic Games involving primary schools, secondary schools, and clubs, with hundreds of teams taking part each year.

Well done to all of our students for representing JFK so positively and contributing to another successful year at this prestigious event.

PE Department



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District Tennis Champions

Our Year 9 and 10 boys have been crowned district champions after a fantastic team performance. They now march on to represent Dacorum in the Hertfordshire finals later this term. Congratulations to the squad and coaching team!

Leadership

Congratulations to our Year 7 and 8 students who successfully completed the Super Curriculum programme and were subsequently selected to take part in the Leadership Programme.

As part of this opportunity, students visited the Everyone Active Sports Centre, where they led a multi-events competition for Year 1 primary school pupils. It was fantastic to see their leadership, communication, and collaboration skills in action as they organised activities, motivated participants, and worked together to deliver a successful event.

The students received excellent feedback from both staff and pupils, who praised their enthusiasm, confidence, and professionalism throughout the day. They were outstanding ambassadors for JFK and represented the school with pride. Well done to all involved – JFK doing us proud!

PE Department



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Gifted and Talented Sports Programme Visit



This week, our Gifted and Talented pupils had the exciting opportunity to visit University of Hertfordshire, where they took part in a series of workshops designed to enhance their sporting performance and understanding of athlete development.

Students worked with the university's Strength and Conditioning Coach, learning how athletes use training programmes to improve speed, power, agility, and injury prevention. They explored the importance of proper warm-ups, movement techniques, and how strength training can support performance across a range of sports.

The group also attended a Nutrition for Sport workshop, where they discovered how nutrition fuels athletic performance. Pupils learned about the role of carbohydrates, protein, and hydration, as well as the importance of pre- and post-exercise nutrition to maximise energy levels and aid recovery. They were also challenged to analyse food choices and create balanced meals suitable for young athletes.

The students were highly engaged throughout the day, asking thoughtful questions and demonstrating a genuine interest in applying their new knowledge to their own sporting journeys. It was a fantastic experience that provided valuable insight into the science behind sporting success.

County Championships



We had a large number of students representing JFK at the County Championships on Saturday this week. Congratulations to the following students ;

Campbell Nwachukwu - 1st in 200m and Long Jump

Phoebe Molnar - 1st in High Jump

Gabi Centracchio - 1st in Shot

Amelia Mihalcea

Daniella Adenaike

Max Clark

Esther Faponle - 100m Finalist

Rosie Wade

Anna Abegunde

Joanna Nwanosike

Geraldine Obasanmi

Jack Hancock - 100m Finalist

Angel Ahenkan

Zofia Henry

Dalu Okeke

Nathan Ojo

George Brooks-Johnson - 100m Finalist

Anneliesa Ambridge

Bianca Tomsa

Grace Wilson

Angelina Ambridge

Harry Deacon

PE Department





Department



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LIBRARY

Craft Club



Mrs Cole and Mrs Powell would like to give a huge shout out and thank you to Arabella Cobb, Hana Sobota and Marnie Drinder, who gave up their entire lunchtime on Wednesday to start decorating the windows of the library. It wasn't as easy as we thought but they have done an amazing job! To be continued next Wednesday...if anyone else would like to come and help, you are welcome!

Craft Club are also in need of the following art and craft supplies: acrylic pens, chalk pens for writing on glass etc, wool, pebbles for painting, any unwanted craft kits eg 'Bedazzle' kits etc. Also googly eyes, pipe cleaners, coloured card and white card, decent felt pens - all donations gratefully received. Please bring to A5 on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Thank you!



Mrs Cole - English Department



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GENERAL NOTICES

Ahead of the summer break we would like to share an important message from our Director of Public Health Sarah Perman.

Dear Parent, Carer

The number of children with measles has increased since the start of the year, with most cases in unvaccinated children aged 10 years and under. Measles is a very infectious illness which can make children very unwell and sometimes leads to serious complications. Sadly, two children in England have died from measles in 2026.

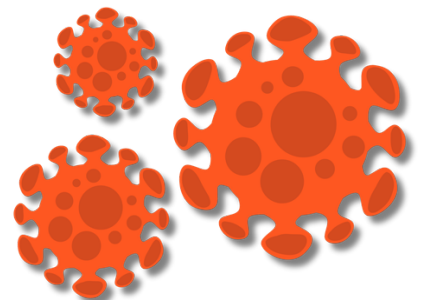
In Hertfordshire we have had outbreaks of measles in some of our schools and cases of measles are increasing. I am therefore asking that parents take the following actions:

- Check your child's red book or the NHS App to make sure your child is up to date with their vaccinations.
- If your child has missed one or both doses of MMR, please contact your GP practice to arrange an appointment.
- You can also contact your local Community & School Aged Immunisation Service who run vaccination sessions for all ages. Details can be found here:
<https://www.hct.nhs.uk/service-details/service/hertfordshire-and-east-anglia-community-and-school-age-immunisations-35/>
- If your child is ill and you are worried it might be measles, check symptoms of measles here:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles>. If you need help, please phone your GP or 111 and follow their advice.

An alternative vaccine is available for those who want to avoid pork products. You can find out about this when booking an appointment. The MMR vaccination is safe and free in the NHS and highly effective in protecting children from three serious diseases, Measles, Mumps and Rubella."

Yours faithfully

Sarah Perman
Director of Public Health
Hertfordshire County Council



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	 
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 sixthform@jfk.herts.sch.uk

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



[Is my child too ill for school?](#)

NHS advice about when to keep your child off school



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TRIPS 2026/27



A GENTLE REMINDER

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

- Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, 30th June - 7th July 2026
- GCSE Geography F/T, 6th - 8th July 2026
- War Horse - Drama and History (Year 9, 10 and 12) - 15th July 2026
- Duke of Edinburgh 2026, Bronze and Silver
- Year 11 Prom 2026
- Iceland 2027



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UPCOMING EVENTS

MONTH OF JUNE

- Friday 26th June, INSET Day, School Closed

FUTURE DATES

- Monday 6th July, Year 12 Work Experience
- Tuesday 7th July, Sports Presentation Evening , 7.00pm
- Wednesday 8th July, DofE Silver Expedition
- Thursday 9th July - New Year 7's Transition Day
- Thursday 9th July - GCSE and A Level Creative Exhibition
- Friday 17th July, End of Term, 12.35pm

- Tuesday 1st September , INSET Day (School Closed to students)
- Wednesday 2nd September, Year 7's Only
- Thursday 3rd September



UPCOMING EVENTS



A vibrant poster for a Summer BBQ event. The background is a bright yellow with green foliage and colorful bunting flags at the top. The main title 'SUMMER BBQ' is in large, bold, textured letters. Below it, a blue banner reads 'food, fun & community for all!'. The event details include the date 'SUNDAY 12TH JULY FROM 12PM' with a calendar icon, and the location 'SACRED HEART RC CHURCH, BERKHAMSTED' with a location pin icon. Four icons represent the activities: a burger for 'GREAT FOOD', a glass of beer and wine for 'BAR', a soccer ball for 'FOOTBALL', and a bouncy castle for 'BOUNCY CASTLE'. A red banner at the bottom provides the booking email 'berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk'. A table of ticket prices is shown at the bottom, with a picnic basket on a checkered cloth to the right.

SACRED HEART RC CHURCH

SUMMER BBQ

food, fun & community for all!

 **SUNDAY 12TH JULY**
FROM 12PM

 **SACRED HEART RC CHURCH, BERKHAMSTED**
PARK STREET
HP41HX

 **GREAT FOOD**

 **BAR**

 **FOOTBALL**

 **BOUNCY CASTLE**

 **EMAIL TO BOOK:**
berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk

<i>Tickets</i>	ADULTS	5-17 YEARS	UNDER 5'S
	£10	£5	FREE



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UPCOMING EVENTS



THE JOHN F KENNEDY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

CREATIVE EXHIBITION

206

MONDAY - 6TH JULY 4PM

D BLOCK GALLERY



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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.



ATTENDANCE

Supporting Every Student's Journey

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." — John 10:10

At the heart of our Catholic community is the belief that every child is a unique gift from God, blessed with individual gifts and talents. Our mission is to nurture the whole child—spiritually, academically, and emotionally—so they can flourish and thrive.

To truly experience "life to the full" within our school community, consistent attendance is vital. When your child is here, they aren't just attending lessons; they are building friendships, growing in faith, and developing the resilience they need for the future.

Working in Partnership

We understand that life can sometimes bring challenges that make school attendance difficult. Whether it is a health concern, anxiety, or a change in family circumstances, please know that you are not alone.

In line with the latest Department for Education guidance, we believe that attendance is a shared responsibility. Our goal is to work in partnership with families to remove any barriers your child may be facing.

How We Can Help

The best time to reach out is always the early stage. If you notice your child is reluctant to attend or is struggling, please don't wait for the situation to escalate.

- **Early Conversation:** A simple phone call to your child's Achievement Team can start a supportive dialogue.
- **Tailored Support:** We offer a range of internal pastoral support, from mentoring to counselling and mental health support.
- **Our Online Support Hub:** We have a dedicated Attendance page on our school website. This includes practical tips, links to external wellbeing resources, and a clear guide on how we work with families to improve attendance.

[Attendance JFA Website](#)

By working together we ensure that every student feels safe, valued, and ready to learn.

Mrs Bailey - Deputy Headteacher



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COMMUNITY

Are you looking for local activities and SEND services for a child or young person with SEND?

The SEND community activities directory promotes a wide range of local activities and support groups. Some activities will also include discounts for families registered with a Herts Card (SEND).

We will be adding additional activities on a regular basis.
Find fun, inclusive activities your child will love – all in one place! [Explore the SEND community directory](#).

If there are any activities you know of or wish to see promoted through this directory, please email us on: SENDcommissioning@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Are you a family with children and young people aged 0-25 with Special Educational Need and/or Disabilities looking for local activities?

The SEND directory promotes a wide range of local activities and support groups, some activities will also include discounts for families registered for our Herts Card (SEND).

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SENDdirectory



STEVENSONS

Summer Shopping

Your uniform is supplied through our
St Albans Branch

Address:

131-135 Victoria Street,
St Albans,
AL1 3XS

Contact:

stalbanbranch@stevensons.co.uk

Please note we are a cashless branch.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:30am - 5pm
Tuesday: 9:30am - 5pm
Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Closed
Friday: 9:30am - 5pm
Saturday: 9:30am - 5pm
Sunday: Closed

Online

Shopping online at www.stevensons.co.uk is easy!

You can select home delivery or opt for convenient Click & Collect from your local store.

Our in-stock items are typically dispatched within 48 hours.
Plus, with our 365-day return policy, you can shop with confidence knowing that returns are hassle-free.

In Store Opening Hours

Will be open for pre-booked fitting appointments from Monday 20th July - Friday 21st August.

We recommend booking a fitting appointment so we can offer you dedicated one-to-one service during the summer period.

Walk-in customers are welcome. Saturdays are a great option for visiting without an appointment, and our team will assist you as soon as they are available.

Please visit our website to check extended opening hours over the summer.



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