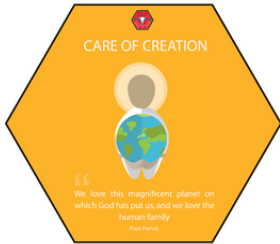


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John F Kennedy Catholic School

18th September 2026



There are lots of secondary schools in our area. They all have similarities, for example, in the age of the children they serve, the curriculum that is taught and the range of extra-curricular activities on offer. However, one thing is very clear to me and it is something I remind our staff about, on a regular basis: as a Catholic school, we must be seen to be distinctively different from non-faith schools. And that means more than the compulsory study of RE throughout the school, more than the prayer and worship life of the school. What it actually means is that the school's foundation is the person of Jesus Christ - every aspect of school life is built on him, his teachings and his example. And it is one of his core teachings that provides our theme of the week: forgiveness. In Sunday's Gospel we heard the parable of the unforgiving servant:

A king wants to settle accounts with his servants. One servant is brought to him who owes an impossible amount—10,000 talents. The servant cannot pay, so the king orders him, his family, and his possessions to be sold. The servant begs for patience, and the king takes pity and cancels the entire debt. That same servant leaves and finds a fellow servant who owes him a tiny amount—100 denarii. He chokes him and demands immediate payment. The second servant begs for patience using the exact same plea, but the first servant refuses and has him thrown in prison. Other servants see this and tell the king. Angry, the king calls the first servant wicked, revokes his forgiveness, and hands him over to be tortured until he pays back every last penny.

The king in this parable represents God who has infinite forgiveness for us. The message is clear - that we should demonstrate similar forgiveness for others.

But how does that sit with having rules in school and consequences when students break the rules? Learning to follow expectations in a large community is an important preparation for life in the adult world and the staff are therefore tasked with educating our developing young people in readiness for that. We also understand that, as humans, we all make mistakes. Importantly, for us, forgiveness means allowing students a clean slate. We want to model the attributes we believe are important to the building of God's kingdom here on earth - and that includes forgiveness. Our students may not always remember our example while they are here but our hope is that they will in their future adult lives, because that will enhance the prospects of a more peaceful world.

DRAMA

LAMDA EXAM SUCCESS



Students at JFK have once again shown their acting abilities by successfully gaining MERITS + DISTINCTIONS when they took their London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts exams in London at the end of July.

They spent lunchtimes in the Summer term rehearsing and learning their scripts alongside their Knowledge for a conversation with an examiner at the London LAMDA Centre: very daunting!

They did not just pass but instead showed their real acting skills by gaining top grades with one: Sofia Gazza gaining 91/100 for her Shakespeare Level 1 Acting exam!

Any are welcome so just come along on Wednesday lunchtimes to see if you would like to hone your Acting skills and gain accreditation at the same time.

Successful candidates were:

Kayne Franklin: Merit in Shakespeare Level 1

Aoife Farrelly: Merit in Grade 4 Acting

Sofia Gazza: Distinction in Shakespeare Level 1

Piotr Czarniawski: Distinction in Shakespeare Level 1

Oliver Ricketts: Distinction in Shakespeare Level 1

Ms Brewer - Drama Teacher



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DRAMA

SCHOOL PRODUCTION

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe – Auditions & Rehearsals

Our auditions for this year's school production of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe took place on Tuesday 8th September and what an incredible evening it was!

We were absolutely overwhelmed by the number of talented students who auditioned. There was a real buzz of creativity, enthusiasm and talent in the Performing Arts Faculty and our students brought so many wonderful ideas, performances and interpretations to their auditions, as well as some truly stunning voices.

Casting the show was incredibly difficult — quite simply, there were so many brilliant students that making the final decisions was no easy task! However, our cast has now been selected and rehearsals are already well underway. We have had a fantastic start, with some truly magical moments beginning to emerge as we bring this much-loved story to life.

We cannot wait to share our very own journey into Narnia with you all.

Keep your eyes peeled for ticket information coming soon — and make sure you join us in February for a magical winter extravaganza!



Ms Horton - Drama Subject Leader



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PSHE



PSHE is well underway now and students are exploring new topics. Letters were sent home last week to Y7-11 with the roadmap of the topics covered in PSHE. As you may be aware, the Government has changed the statutory guidance for what is covered in PSHE and you may find this article useful to help understand what has changed. <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2025/07/new-rshe-guidance-what-parents-need-to-know/>

Year 7-10 have started their Relationships topic, all with different focuses. Y7 are looking at getting to know each other and making new friends, and how best to deal with change. Year 8 are looking at communication and how to deal with conflict, both on and off line. Year 9 are looking at what makes a positive relationship and how consent and boundaries work in all relationships. Year 10 are covering coercive control and harassment and how to cope when a relationship ends.

Year 11 have started their Living in the Wider World topic which has a focus on post-16 options and careers, and includes a trip to a Careers Fair in Dacorum on 30th September to help the students think about what they would like to do moving forward and how best to achieve that.

If you have any questions about PSHE, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email address is kholtan@jfk.herts.sch.uk

Mrs Holton - PSHE Subject Leader



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MUSIC

It has been a busy start back in the Music Department. Firstly auditions for the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe, followed by the first full-cast singing rehearsal. All lunchtime groups have also started this week - Chamber Choir, Orchestra and Rock Bands and the ABRSM theory class on a Wednesday after school.

The full list of lunchtime activities is as follows:

**JOHN F KENNEDY**
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
— PACEM IN TERRIS —
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WHAT'S ON in MUSIC ?!

**AUTUMN TERM 2026
- KEY DATES -**

	MONDAY 19 th OCTOBER	SOLOS CONCERT	
	THURSDAY 12 th NOVEMBER	GCSE CONCERT TRIP	
	THURSDAY 19 th NOVEMBER	ST CECELIA'S DAY MASS FOR MUSICIANS	
	MONDAY 7 th DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS CONCERT	

*Live Music.
Real Moments.
Be Part of It!*

J

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**JOHN F KENNEDY**
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— PACEM IN TERRIS —
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Mrs Metcalfe - Director of Music



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MUSIC

Our KS3 classes are studying Djembe Drumming , Film Music and Guitar this first half term. A heartfelt thank you to JFKSA for giving the music department funds for a class set of new acoustic guitars. This now gives us a fully equipped department with guitars, ukuleles , djembe drums and keyboards for all classes to use.



We welcomed Mr Lawrence Thackeray to the instrumental team this week. He will be teaching singing and piano on a Monday. We also welcomed On The Decks DJ and Music Production teachers this week who will be teaching each Tuesday. Please watch out for emails regarding timetables for all instrumental lessons. It's a busy department with a lot going on!

It was an exciting beginning to the term for the Chamber Choir who sang on Monday morning for the St Carlo Acutis Mission Mass. They met Archbishop Richard Moth afterwards for a photograph and their contribution has been appreciated by many.



Mrs Metcalfe - Director of Music



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PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Super Curriculum Programme: The Super Curriculum is open to all students, providing an exciting opportunity to extend learning beyond the classroom. It aims to build confidence, and develop independent and reflective learners who are ambitious and curious about the world around them. The programme offers a deep dive into the subjects students love, encouraging them to:

- Be ambitious and take responsibility for their own learning.
- Explore challenges that stretch and inspire them within their year group.
- Reflect on their progress and celebrate personal achievement.

How to take part: Explore the Super Curriculum challenges for each year group. Complete activities on your classroom that stretch and challenge, earning points. Once 20 points are completed, let Miss Rooney know by completing this [Google form](#) on your Google Classroom page.

JFK SPORTS CLUBS: Term 1

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	After School
Day/Even	Netball/Football			Recreational Sport	Rugby/GFB	
1st Half term: LUNCH 1.30pm – 2.30pm						3.30 – 4.40pm
TJ	Y11 Football Recreational & Performance	Y8 Football Recreational & Performance	Y7&8 Bball Recreational & Performance	Y7 Football Recreational & Performance		Y7 FB Y8 FB Y11 FB
JJY	Y10 & Sr Football Recreational & Performance		DUTY		Y7&8 Rugby Recreational & Performance	10 FB Y7&8 Rugby
SC*		Y9 Football Recreational & Performance			Girls Football Recreational & Performance	Y9 FB U13 GFB U15GFB
LT		Y8 Netball Recreational & Performance				Y8 NB
FH	Y11 Netball Recreational & Performance	DUTY				Y11 NB
MR	Y9 Netball Recreational & Performance	Y7 Netball Recreational & Performance			Detentions & intervention	Y7 NB Y9 NB
RP	Y10 Netball Recreational & Performance			Girls Football Recreational & Performance <i>When SC on maternity</i>		Y10 NB
Due to the Gym & Dance show, after October half term Netball will be paused until after Christmas.						
LT	Y10 Dance Performance: D/Studio	Y7 Gymnastics Performance: Gym			Y8 Dance Performance: D/Studio	Monday: Tap Performance
FH	Y9 Gymnastics Performance: Gym	DUTY	Y7 Dance Performance: D/Studio			
MR		Y9 Dance Performance: D/Studio		Y8 Gymnastics Performance: Gym	Detentions & intervention	TBC: Ballet Performance
RP			Y10/11Elite Gymnastics Performance: Gym	Commercial Performance: Studio	Jazz Performance:/Studio Irish Performance:/Studio	

Ms Rooney - PE Subject Leader



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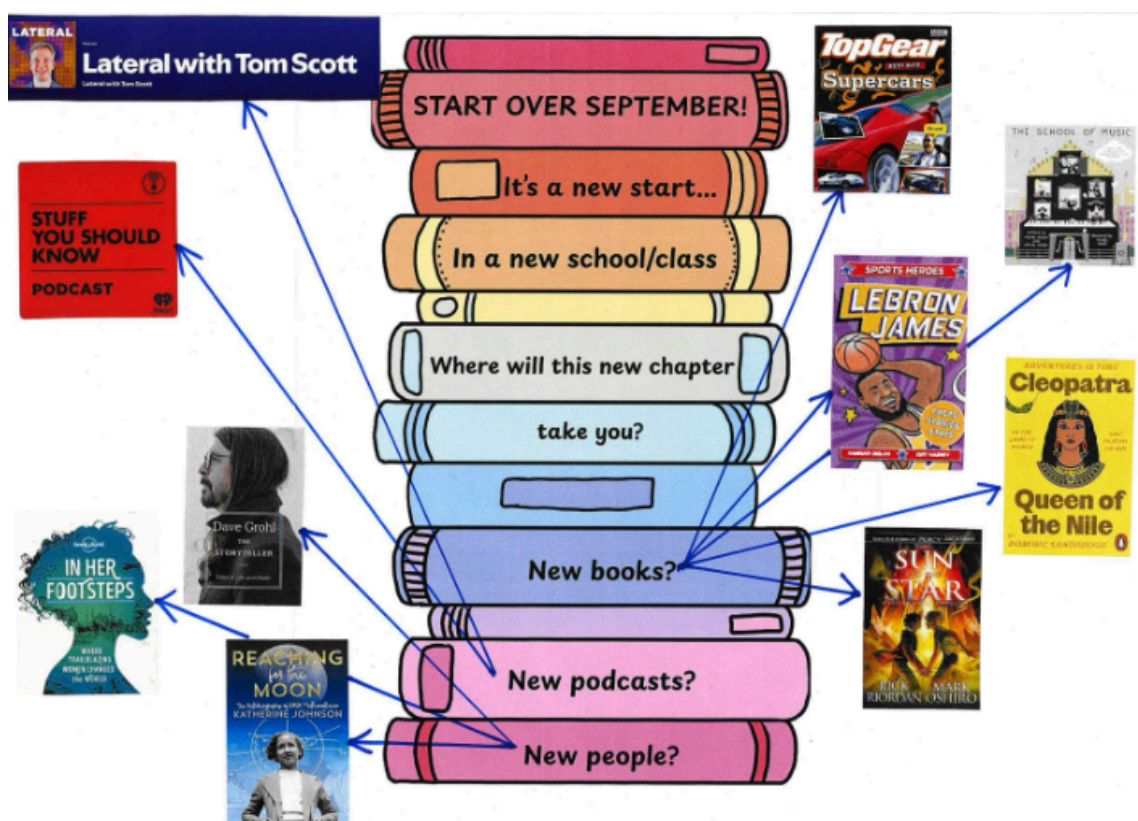
LIBRARY

It's been a fantastic start to the year at the Library with a record number of issues for this time of the year which are already higher than at the end of September last year! But, as I've been explaining to all the Year 7 students during their Library inductions, the main thing is they find what that they love to read - that they are 'Reading for Me' - whether that's books, comics, manga, history books, cookery books etc. I look forward to helping the Year 7 students in particular as they continue their reading journey at JFK and of course providing a fantastic choice of resources for all students. Start Over September, our theme for the rest of the month, highlights some ideas for new books, podcasts to listen to and people to read about.

I am so excited to announce that we have been awarded £1400 to spend with Browns Books as part of the National Year of Reading 2026. I will of course be consulting with stakeholders (students!!) about what they would like to see in the Library so that everybody's interests are catered for. Thank you, Department for Education!

Caught reading has started again and so far two Year 9 pupils have been 'caught' and awarded a sweet treat. It's been encouraging to see more independent reading happening at the Library during breaks and lunch times and at our Book Club on Thursday break times.

Parents and carers, we'd love to involve you in the life of the Library and with your child's/children's reading journey, so please do get in touch if you have any questions or suggestions. Follow what we get up to @libraryjfk on Instagram!



Mrs Powell - Librarian



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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 6thform@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



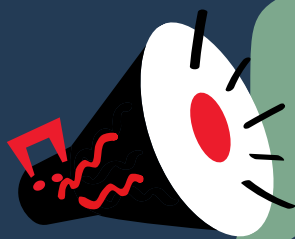
[Is my child too ill for school?](#)

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 :**

- Year 7 Retreats
- Theatre Trips - Hadestown and Oliver
- Year 7 Pantomime
- Iceland 2027 - one space now available to Year 10/12/13, please speak to Mr Cato
- Sports Tour 2027 - one space now available
- A Taste of Italy 2027 - one space now available. Instalments start from September 2026
- Rome 2027, 30th April - 3rd May 2027- to students in current years 7,8,9 and 11 (6th form) - one space now available



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UPCOMING EVENTS

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday 22nd September, Year 7J Retreat
- Wednesday 23rd September, Year 7F Retreat
- Thursday 24th September, Year 7K Retreat
- Tuesday 29th September, Year 7H Retreat
- Wednesday 30th September, Years 7-11 Flu Vaccinations
- Thursday 1st October, Year 7N Retreat
- Friday 2nd October, Year 7D Retreat

FUTURE DATES

- Tuesday 6th October, School closes at 12.35pm
- Tuesday 6th October, 6 - 9pm Open Evening for secondary transfer
- Wednesday 7th October, INSET DAY (school closed to students)
- Monday 12th October, Years 7-11 Flu Vaccinations
- Tuesday 20th October, Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
- w/c 26th October, HALF TERM



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.



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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 JFK 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



St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Reception Tours for
September 2027



- Supportive and engaged community
- Proud to be an OPAL Platinum school
- Rooted in Catholic values
- Academic ambition for all

Tuesday 10th
November
9:15-10:15 am

Monday 23rd
November
9:15-10:15 am

Monday 11th
January
2-3pm

Book here:
<https://forms.gle/L7encspGDmrLWCKd8>



"Leaders make early years a priority. They give children a happy and positive start to school."
- Ofsted Report June 2026

Dignity|Compassion|Perseverance

📍 Greenway, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 3LF
☎ 01442 385060
✉ admin@stmore.herts.sch.uk

📷 Check us out on social media: @stmorecps
🌐 Visit our school website: www.stmore.herts.sch.uk

DSPL8

Delivering Special Provision Locally

Please see the DSPL8 Parents/Carers Newsletter Autumn 2026 [HERE](#)



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STORM BASKETBALL - FIRST HOME GAME

FIRST HOME GAME

HEMEL STORM

Vs

OAKLANDS WOLVES

British Championship Basketball Trophy

Sunday 20th September

6pm tip off

Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre, HP1 1JS

To guarantee entry purchase tickets via the Fanbase app or scan QR code.

Visit www.stormbasketball.net for more details.

Tickets may be purchased on the night subject to availability.



Family: £34

Adult: £12

Mini Family: £17

u18: £7.50

Concessions: £9.50

** family ticket maximum 2 adults*

*** mini family 1 adult & 1 u18*



Fanbase



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Hemel Storm Basketball



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