

St. John's Newsletter

2024

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back. The Spring Term is upon us promising new academic challenges and adventures, which hopefully will help your son/daughter develop their potential further in all areas of development. The following pages outline what is happening at St. John's in 2024.

Standardised Tests continue to track the progress of our students

Following the introduction of these tests during the last academic year, you have now been issued with a complete set of these taken in the Autumn Term. They made for interesting reading and I hope you have found them useful in helping you understand a little more of how your son's/daughter's results compare with those of their peers in the independent sector. They provide a comprehensive analysis of your child's strengths and areas of development in Maths, English and Science. These were then followed by a skill-set test, which helped us identify what type of learner they are. This is very useful information helping us understand how best to help each individual student by accommodating their style of learning.

Our next set of tests will be taken at the end of the Spring Term and on this round, we are looking to establish how much progress our students have made in the interim. **These tests will replace our regular mini-tests for this term on these three subject areas, i.e. Maths, English and Science.** Mini-tests will be set for the remainder of the subjects as per usual and these are taking place before half-term. No report will be issued for the mini-tests but parents will receive the examination papers to be reviewed and signed. Our students are becoming familiar with the type of questions set so we hope to see even better performances. Naturally, as these are 'standardised tests' each student's age is an important contributor to their final result. The older they are, the more challenging these tests become. We hope that by continuing to stretch our students, we will be pleasantly surprised with their outcomes.



WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPH & INDIVIDUAL/CLASS PHOTOS

Subsequent to a pleasing performance by our newly appointed photographer last year, we have invited 'Imago' to return this year and take our students' individual photographs. Their visits will span across the whole term so each year group will receive specific dates nearer the time.

The whole school photograph is scheduled for Thursday, 25th April so please make a note of this date in your diary to ensure that all students are in attendance.



Summer Term Production (1st- 4th July)

Auditions for our Summer Term production 'Cinderella' will be held shortly. Our students in Years 7 & 8 (First and Second Forms) will be introduced to the play and begin to practise for their show. We are looking forward to a professional performance where they may demonstrate their skills in acting, dialogue and musical expertise.



Swimming Gala (First Form – Y7 students only)

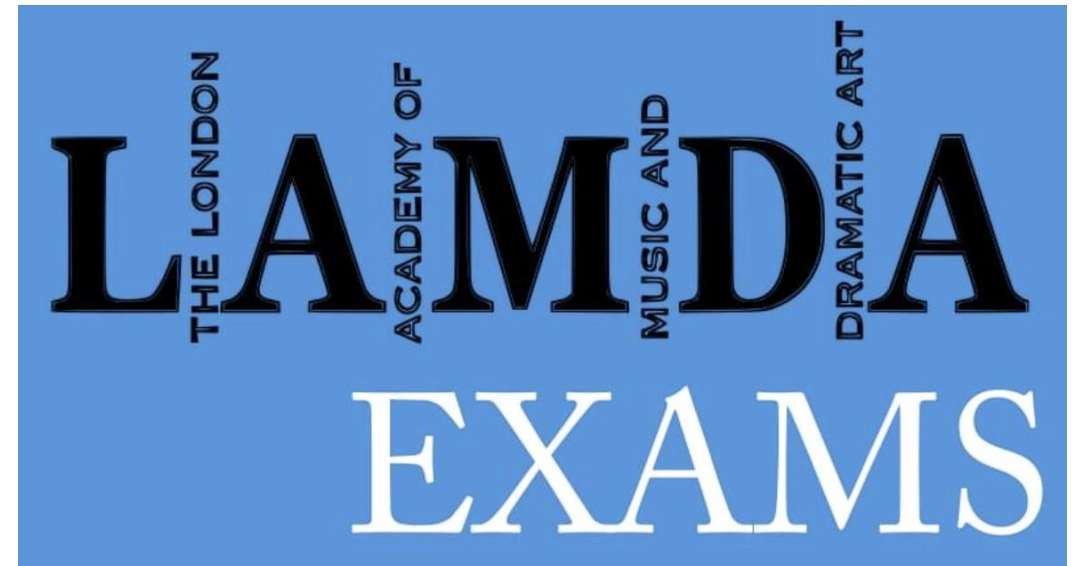
This event will be held as shown on the school calendar on **Saturday 16th March at 6.30 p.m.** This proved to be a very popular event last March, setting new records that were very impressive. We look forward to more of the same this time round.

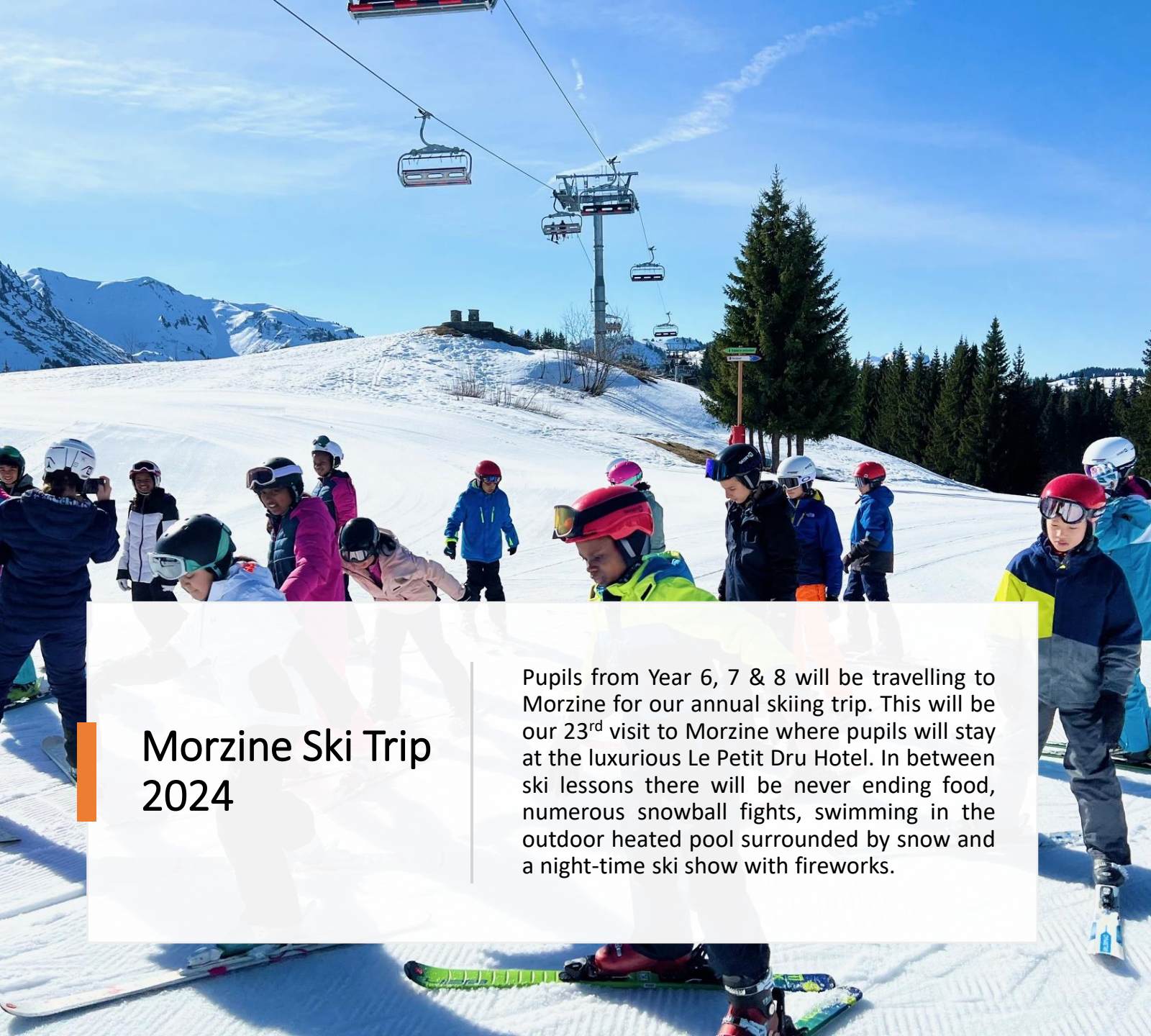
The swimming gala is a compulsory event, and all students must attend.

A letter detailing the exact events your son/daughter will be participating in will be sent to you in due time.

Optional LAMDA Exams

A reminder that the Optional Lamda exams this term will be held at school on Thursday & Friday 22nd & 23rd February.





Morzine Ski Trip 2024

Pupils from Year 6, 7 & 8 will be travelling to Morzine for our annual skiing trip. This will be our 23rd visit to Morzine where pupils will stay at the luxurious Le Petit Dru Hotel. In between ski lessons there will be never ending food, numerous snowball fights, swimming in the outdoor heated pool surrounded by snow and a night-time ski show with fireworks.





New York – 6th Form Trip 2024

Students will stay at the 5-star Marriot Hotel on Broadway. They will be provided with tickets to watch the New York Knicks at Maddison Square Garden. They will then tour all of New York including, Wall Street, Empire State Building, The Edge, Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty, Top of the Rock, The United Nations, One World Observatory, 911 Memorial and Museum and of course there will be a must see visit to the famous Carlos Bakery. A very popular and exciting trip.



Paris Disneyland 2024

The perfect blend of fun and education. Our Year 8 students will spend half their time in Paris exploring:

- The Orsay museum,
- Sacre Coeur,
- La Tour Eiffel,
- Notre-Dame,
- The Conciergerie,
- Champs Elysees,
- L' Arc de Triomphe,
- The Louvre
- The Tuileries gardens.

The remainder of their time will be spent enjoying Disneyland with their friends - Supervised by teachers!



ICELAND 2024

November

St. John's brings back a trip which took place many years ago – Students will visit locations such as Reykjanes Peninsula, Akyreyri, Geothermal areas, Pseudocraters, Lake Myvatn, Jokulsarlon Glacial Lagoon, the Lava Centre, Diamond Beach and various geothermal swimming locations.





Madrid 2024

Students will visit:

- *Royal Palace of Madrid*
- *Plaza Mayor*
- *El Retiro Park*
- *Santiago Bernabeu*
- *Catedral de la Almudena*
- *El Escorial*
- *Puerta del Sol*



Greece / Athens 2024

Students will have the opportunity to visit the historical sites of Delphi, The Acropolis, Mycenae, The Ancient Agora, The Acropolis Museum, The Corinth Canal all whilst staying at one of the best hotels in central Athens.

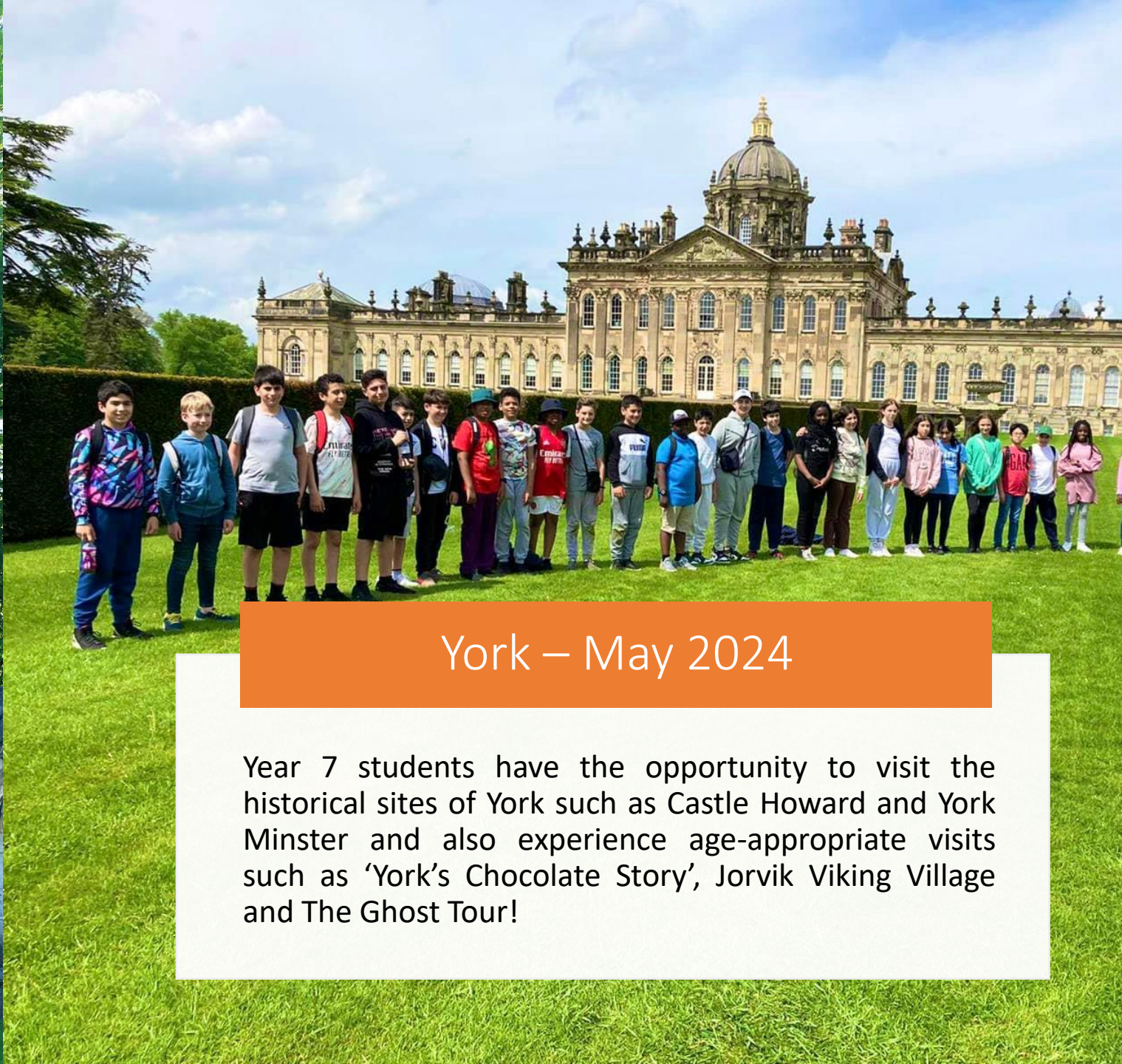


St. John's to compete in the Gothia World Youth Cup in Sweden Summer 2024

Having won three National Titles, St. John's has been given the opportunity to compete in the 'Gothia World Youth Cup'.

The opening ceremony is the week's major gathering; a two-hour long show with music, fireworks and a presentation of all participating nations. With 50,000 people in a packed Ullevi, this will certainly be a once in a lifetime experience for our football team.





York – May 2024

Year 7 students have the opportunity to visit the historical sites of York such as Castle Howard and York Minster and also experience age-appropriate visits such as 'York's Chocolate Story', Jorvik Viking Village and The Ghost Tour!

Berlin Historical and Cultural Trip

Every year, we have a cultural and historical trip to Berlin, where Fifth Form students have the opportunity to visit the famous historical sites and the traditional Christmas market, while practising their language skills. Last term, between the 28th and 30th November, our pupils experienced the unique Christmas market atmosphere, tried German traditional food and even had time to enjoy a little ice-skating. It was most pleasing to see our pupils discover another European culture at Christmas and the trip concluded with a visit to German landmarks, such as the Brandenburg Gate, Reichstag and the German Parliament.





Duke of Edinburgh

St. John's offers Duke of Edinburgh to its Years 9 & 10 students every other year. We would like to thank Miss Nixon, Miss Hayward and Mrs. Taylor for giving up their time to run this year's Duke of Edinburgh course.

What is happening in our Languages Departments?

French penfriend letters throughout the year with our partner school

Since 2015, we have established and strengthened a partnership with our Parisian school, Jean Baptiste de la Quintinye in Noisy-Le-Roi, near Versailles Palace. All 4th Form French students and some 1st Formers have their own pen-friend with our partner school; they write to each other during the year, which affords our students an opportunity to acquire a greater insight into a different European culture and compare their way of life with theirs.

The Lower School French Poetry competition

Last term, the French Department organised a poetry competition for the whole Lower school. Each year group was given a theme to write their poems on. First Forms had to talk about their families and their pets, the Second Forms shopping for food and the Third Forms described the importance of friendship and their best friends. After a second selection, we decided on our three finalists for each year group. Their poems were selected for their creativity, originality, the rhythm techniques and even humour. Our finalists were awarded a poetry certificate of excellence. In German, Kathryn McFarlane, Amelia Jones and Arjunraj Kanagaraj received a certificate. In French, Kamron Quilling, Lucy Graham and Zahir Muhammad were the winners.



French and German Speaking Clubs for 5th Formers

Starting on Monday 15th January, after the mock examinations, **our 5th Form students** will resume their set lunch-time appointments in 5 Red to develop their exam speaking skills in preparation for their final G.C.S.E speaking exam. They will practise role-plays, photo-card tasks and improve their conversation skills. Immediate feedback will be given after each performance. They will also continue with their Prep session in 5 Blue on Thursday during week B to improve their examination skills and their grammar knowledge.

Starting on **Friday 12th January**, **German** speaking appointments will also be scheduled for our **5th Formers** at lunch-time with Mrs. Green in 5 Green to practise all their conversation skills, improve their pronunciation and develop their fluency.

Latin G.C.S.E. Clubs for 5th Formers

Starting on **Friday 12th January**, after the mock examinations, Latin **5th Formers** will resume their extra session after school to prepare themselves for the Language and Literature examination papers and develop their examination skills further.

The French, German and Latin Clubs

Every Tuesday, there are language clubs, which are aimed at the **Lower School** pupils to consolidate their language skills at 1.00 p.m. For the **German club**, pupils should make their way to 3 Red classroom and for the **French club**, pupils should meet in 1 Blue. Pupils have an opportunity to ask any questions to strengthen their understanding of the grammar but also to get support, if they struggle with their homework.

This Spring Term, pupils will also have the opportunity to improve their pronunciation and consolidate their singing skills in French and German. They will study the meaning of lyrics of different famous and trendy songs. The Language Choir Club will take place on Monday at 1.00 p.m. in Conference Room 1. Additionally, every second Thursday, starting on 11th January, there will be a **Latin Club** for **3rd** and **4th Formers** at 1.00 p.m. in Conference Room 1 to introduce pupils to the topic of **Classical Civilisation**.

What are we studying in PSHCE?

The lessons in PSHCE (which stand for personal, social, health and citizenship education), are focused on a variety of topics within the PSHCE education. The lessons are structured in age-appropriate ways and tailored to suit the needs of each year group under three categories entitled health and wellbeing, living in the wider world and relationships. These look at personal development, emotional and physical wellbeing, changes through adolescence, relationships with family, friends and community and of course keeping safe.

Since the start of the academic year in September 2023, the topics covered ranged from transition from prep/primary school to senior school, drug education concerning drinking caffeine, antisocial behaviour, age of criminal consent, gangs and keeping safe on the streets. Recently, we have also looked at how social media and culture impacts young people concerning their body image and wellbeing along with mental health conditions and coping strategies and support if required.

During this forthcoming Spring Term, the topics are as follows:

KS3

Relationships: Initially looking at friendships, when '*banter*' becomes bullying, along with what to do if you feel they are bullied or see someone being bullied.

Living in the wider world: citizenship, understanding democracy and government within the UK, along with how laws are made and upheld. They will also be looking at their own rights as children and what is expected of them.

KS4

Relationships: Looking at banter, what banter is acceptable or unacceptable along with exploring when it becomes bullying. The lessons will also include cyber bullying, gaslighting and abuse.

Living in the wider world: Exploring what is covered under the Equality and Diversity Act, to protect people/themselves from discrimination, harassment, and victimization. Other lessons will also include looking at their rights as children.

It is a pleasure to report that the students thus far have been inquisitive, curious, and eager to learn more.

SKI TRIP (FORM 1 Y7/ FORM 2 Y8) (17th – 22nd March)

This event is coordinated by Mrs. Robinson-Farenden, and final payments are due shortly. Please address any concerns or queries you may have to Mrs. Farenden, who will respond promptly.

Details on equipment, flights, pocket money etc. will be sent to you shortly and a meeting with the students is scheduled for the week before departure to outline what is expected of them during this very exciting activity.

I hope these brief details will help to make it easier for you to follow what is happening at our school this term and will also give you advance notice of events that will follow in the Summer Term.

If you have any questions or queries or need help with anything, please do not hesitate to ask a member of the administration team admin@stjohnsprepandsenior.co.uk who will be more than happy to assist you.

Kindest regards,

A. Tardios

Headmaster

St. John's Senior School