



## Spring Newsletter

### A Spring Message From the Head Teacher

We are delighted to share our spring newsletter—so much has happened since Christmas, it's hard to believe we managed to fit everything in. I hope all our students, staff and families can take some time to relax over half term as we already have lots of plans for the weeks before Easter.

Mrs Bradbury



### New Stained Glass Window to Celebrate 150 Year Anniversary

To celebrate St John's 150th Anniversary we have designed a new stained glass window. This will be positioned in the corridor outside the chapel, alongside the stained glass window celebrating the Sisters of Charity, who lived and worked at St John's many years ago.

We first explored this in 2020, but didn't get very far as COVID arrived and the project to celebrate 150 years of St John's was put on hold.

Everyone in school was invited to get involved with the design of the window and join a steering group to help with this. Mrs Fowler, art teacher collated all the ideas from both staff and pupils and passed them onto stained glass artist, Zoe Eady.

Zoe took everyone's ideas away and came up with the design below. The final one has been made and brought into school to be fitted at the end of the month. We hope you like it and look forward to it being in situ for the next 150 years.



Other stories inside include lots of class trips, pupils passing skills on, art projects, enterprise coffee morning, lunchtime club details and lots more. We hope you like it and if any of the pupils want to share some interesting news with school, please email your article and picture to Jackie.Peacock@stjohns.org.uk

ST JOHN'S SPECIALIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Church Street

Phone: 01937 842144

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A SEN Specialist School  
www.stjohns.org.uk

## In and Around School

### Harrop and Girma's Trip to Lotherton Hall

On Thursday 15th December Harrop and Girma went on a trip to Lotherton Hall for the morning. We took part in the Christmas Woodland Walk. It was a very cold but exciting morning which got us all into the Christmas spirit!





## Experience Passing on a Skill to Others—Part D

### How to Use Pro-Create—Article by Steven in Keller Class



This event happened on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 between the times of 9:30am to 10:30am

We all shared the skill of using Pro-create, a drawing and art design app, explaining how it's used efficiently and all of its features.

I shared my skill with the school maintenance workers because they were

inquisitive about the app. This was influenced by the fact that they are both tattoo artist and wanted to explore their options on what they could use to explore their designs, as well as alternative options than one-time use latex (fake skin) and to make their work more portable.



To help them learn we all taught them how to: unlock the device, open the app and how to get a blank canvas. Also we had made an instruction sheet to help them along and as well to help us explain what we were doing on the device's screen, we also let them take a copy of instructions home to keep the lesson fresh in their mind so they don't forget.

The hardest thing about teaching them was trying to explain what the different icons

(buttons) did at the top of the screen.

I found out that there very inquisitive learners and are willing to wait for you to explain something to them, as well as taking in the information and remembering it in extreme detail.



I would enjoy helping Donaldson with pro-create and teaching them new skills with the app.

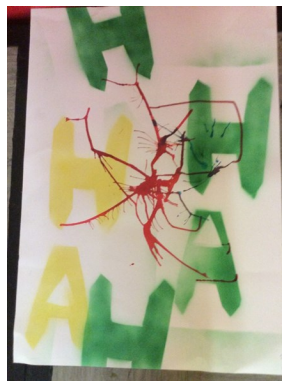
The things that helped me with this are: my confidence in myself as well as my peers, the ability to explain the app, my patience levels and my ability to help my peers if they got confused.



## Sixth Form Art Project

### Banksy Inspired Art/Graffiti Project

Kacey, Luke, Scarlet, Haider, Elly and Sara worked really hard and had fun creating their own tags in a “Banksy” inspired art project. These amazing pictures can now be seen in our Sixth Form area.





## Career's Curriculum

### Trip to Askham Bryan College



Keller, Nightingale and Burnell enjoyed a trip to Askham Bryan College as part of their career's curriculum. They had a tour of the campus and visited the amazing animal park. The feedback from our tour guide was that 'we had amazing pupils and staff who clearly knew their kids'.

Well done everyone. Mrs Pirie.

### Enterprise Coffee Morning

Thank you to all the parents, carers, staff and pupils who came to our "Enterprise" Coffee Morning today. It was a great success, the students (as always) did us proud, lots of smiling faces. We raised £230 from donations for hand made cards, cakes and drinks.

The money will be split between School Council, Ellington, Nightingale and Donaldson classes, to spend on resources of their choice.



## Career's Curriculum

### Keller Pupil's VIP Guided Tour of Ginetta Cars

Lucky Keller pupils were treated to a VIP guided tour of Ginetta Cars in Garforth as part of their careers programme.

Jamie Robinson took on the role of host and led our pupils on a journey of discovery through the various stages of manufacture of the famous Ginetta racing cars. We saw how the majority of the car's components are made on site, how the car is built in stages, from the 3d printing of elements, the engine construction, and testing, to the final stages of construction and painting.

The pupils were amazed at how many roles there were at the company and how many of these were very technical; the sheer size and scale of the operation was truly inspiring.

On return to school, Josh gave a presentation to other students about their visit. Now they all want a return visit and a go on the racing simulator – as do we!

Thanks to Alex for arranging, Jamie for the wonderful informative tour, and Chloe for the delicious baking and hospitality.





## Lunch Time Clubs News

### Lunchtime Clubs—January to February

#### Monday —Friendship Club

Come and join Mrs Pirie and Nurse Kate in the sitting room near Art, to chat about anything you want. We can discuss issues linked to mental health or your worries? You might want to practice a skills like communication and listening?

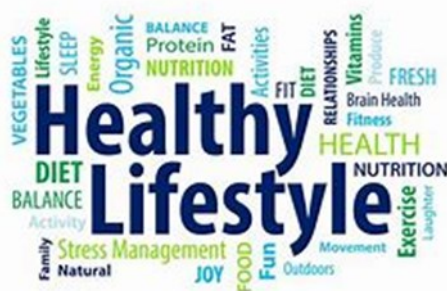
#### Wednesday—New Hockey Club

In the Gym with Mrs Barber and Mr Roberts—What a fabulous turnout for this new club!

#### Friday-Board Game Club

Central Hall with Miss Johnson

Come along and see what you think ... stickers/ticks and stamps to collect. New Clubs will start after half term



#### Next Term

One of the clubs next term will be Knit and Chatter—Run by Miss Dyer, if anyone has any spare wool, please could you send it into school. Thanks!

### Jolly Hockey Sticks



## Special Days Out

### Ellington Trip to York Castle Museum

Ellington visited the York Castle Museum to be immersed in the Victorian street *Kirkgate*. We learnt about the history of the museum, as it was the York Prison for many years as well as exploring the other exhibitions on offer too!



### Donaldson Trip to Abbey House Museum

Donaldson students had a wonderful time visiting Abbey House Museum. Students walked down Victorian streets, looking in shop windows and looking at the many artefacts on display. We were able to learn more about what life was like for rich and poor Victorians.





# Residential Care News

## Excursions and Activities

It's been another busy term in the life of a residential students.

Back in December, we enjoyed a trip to Stockeld Park, a local large outdoor themed playground, with lots of magical Xmas themed events set within beautiful woodland.

In January we have mostly been shopping! We've been to the White Rose Shopping Centre, IKEA and McDonalds, as well as helping with the regular weekly food shop at Tesco's or Morrisons. The supermarket trip has been especially important as some of our students are using a budget to shop for their own food and then using our Learning Kitchen to plan and cook their own meals.

We've also visited the local swimming pool for a bit of exercise, as well as working out in the school multi gym, playing table tennis and pool.



In Ripon, students have continued to be encouraged to take part in food preparation.



We celebrated the start of the Chinese New Year with Chinese food, games of bingo and a quiz about Chinese New Year. 2023 is the Year of the rabbit.



### CEOP's Blog: Safer Internet Day 7th February



On Tuesday 7th February it was Safer Internet Day, the theme this year was **"Making Space for Conversations About Life On Line."**

As usual with these initiatives, awareness is not just limited to one day. There are lots of resources on line to do long term project work on the subject. In fact, as is typical of the internet, there are so many resources and links it can be difficult to manage things and know where to start! Rene Lelong, our CEOP Education Ambassador, picked out a few and sent them to staff for information.



[Educational Resources - UK Safer Internet Centre](https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023/educational-resources) <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023/educational-resources> - is the main link and takes you to all the other links too.

Rene has also put together an Online Safety Newsletter which will be sent out alongside this terms Newsletter. It has lots of information about how to help keep students safe on the internet and useful links to obtain further information on different topics.

If you would like any support or guidance over any particular issues, or if you have any questions please email [rene.lelong@stjohns.org.uk](mailto:rene.lelong@stjohns.org.uk)

### Wetherby Silver Bands Concert Coming to School

Clear your diaries!

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March, the fantastic Wetherby Silver Band will be performing at St John's. They'll be playing a variety of music, including music performed at the Yorkshire Area contest.

What's more, any funds raised will be shared with the school to help us continue to provide inspiring learning experiences for our pupils.



Further details to be released after the half term break. Thank you, Mr Frith—Music Teacher

### School Bantam Hen Eggs

School have four Silkite bantams and they have just started to lay. If you would like any eggs we are asking for a voluntary donation of £2 per half dozen, just pop into the office.





## Special Days

### Staff Well-Being Day

A well-being day was arranged to give back to the staff who work ever so hard everyday at St John's. When we talk about well-being it is very important that we consider that people have different ideas about what this means for them. It's simply not the same for everyone. We hoped we would be able to tick a box for each staff member.

The team enjoyed a lovely breakfast of fruit and pastries, juices and hot beverages. Thank you to Chef Paul and team. Then they chose the different activities that they wanted to take part in for the rest of the day, separated with a nutritious lunch.

The activities included thrive, pilates, ready steady cook and much more. We would particularly like to thank Ann Bradbury, Nicola Slorach, Sarah Nicholls, Kate Pirie, Kate Reade, Kate Adams and Emma Fowler for help with the courses and co-ordination of the day. Nicola your well-being walk design was a big hit!

The day was finished with a beautiful service by Father David Murray. Everyone went home with an envelope with nice comments that their colleagues could choose to write about them throughout the day.

Thank you team

Rachel Blackburn—Head of Care



## What's on in 2023

### Open Day For Perspective Pupils Thursday 9th March 1–3 pm

Due to the high number of enquiries we receive about St John's being a suitable school for new pupils, we have arranged an open afternoon for prospective parents.

There will be the opportunity to speak to staff, find out more about our audiology, speech and language therapy and have a tour of the school, as well as being able to meet other parents who have shown an interest in St John's.

All welcome, please telephone the office to book a place.

### Please Let the Office Know if.....

Please may we remind parents/carers to **let the office know as soon possible** if you know your child will be absent from school for any reason. This includes upcoming medical appointments. **Please call the office on 01937 842144**, you can leave a message on the answer machine if it's outside school hours. Or email [Admin@stjohns.org.uk](mailto:Admin@stjohns.org.uk). You can also text TeachersToParents on 07786 207779. This helps us to make sure we have the right teaching staff and learning support assistants throughout school.

Please help us to help you. Thanks.

### General Dates for your diary

10th February	-School closes for half term holiday
20th February	-School reopens
11th March	-Annual Parents Afternoon 12 to 3pm
31st March	-School closes 12.30pm for Easter Holidays
17th April	-School reopens
1st May	-School closed for Bank holiday
26th May	-School closes for half term holiday
5th June	-School reopens
23rd June	-School closed for STAFF TRAINING DAY
21st July	-School closes 12.30pm for Summer Holidays
24th July	-School closed for TRAINING DAY
1st September	-School closed for STAFF TRAINING DAY



**Why choose St John's Catholic Specialist School?**

- Residential and day places for ages 4-19
- Specialist Teachers of the Deaf
- In house audiology
- We offer
- In house speech and language therapy
- A highly successful Sixth Form
- An autism-friendly environment

St John's has been helping children realise and achieve their full potential for more than 150 years. Our specialist learning spaces support children who are hearing impaired, on the autistic spectrum or have complex sensory or communication challenges.

**JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN AFTERNOON:**  
**Thursday March 9th 2023, 1pm-3pm**

Ofsted rate our residential support as 'outstanding'. Come along and visit us, we'd love to meet you.

**FIND OUT MORE:** [info@stjohns.org.uk](mailto:info@stjohns.org.uk) 01937 842144 [www.stjohns.org.uk](http://www.stjohns.org.uk)

**GOLD** OFSTED RATING



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