



Summer Term

St John's Catholic Specialist School Achieves National Autistic Society's Accreditation Award

We are very proud to let you know that following a two year application and preparation process we were successful in achieving the **National Autistic Society's Accreditation Award**.

'The Autism Accreditation Programme is UK's only autism specific quality assurance programme of support and development for all those providing services to autistic people. Achieving accreditation proves that an organisation is committed to understanding autism and setting the standard for autism practice.'

We knew we were evolving as a school, and wanted to ensure we were providing the best experience for all our students. We decided to apply for accreditation through the National Autistic Society to help us identify areas for improvement and seek advice on how to develop further.

This was a lengthy process. The initial task was to audit all that we do in both school and residential settings. This covered areas such as commitment and consultation, understanding the autistic person, enabling the autistic person, and positive outcomes for the autistic person. Following this, we had meetings with our consultant from the NAS, followed by two full days of observations, interviews and information collecting. The resulting report then went to the Accreditation Awards committee for them to make the decision.

Overall, this has helped us to become a more autism focused school with an increased expertise in supporting our autistic young people. This is an ongoing programme and we will continue to learn, and develop.

We are very grateful for the commitment and hard work that went into achieving this award from all of the staff at St John's. Everyone had a part in the journey we undertook, and everyone should celebrate this achievement. We would also like to thank our parents, governors and, of course, the students themselves for their contributions.



Autism Accreditation

Inside This Term's Newsletter

Deaf Awareness week—how we can support a deaf person, School topic—learning about WW2, Trip to Eden Camp, ASDAN news, CEOP Article, Charity Events, Talk 4 Writing project and Lunchtime club news. We hope you enjoy reading about us! Happy Half Term!

Deaf Awareness Week

Looking at how we can Support a Deaf Person

The first week in May was Deaf Awareness Week, to embrace this we focussed on no matter what difficulties you have, try to overcome and find YOUR WAY and celebrate your difference. Build on your strengths.

Mrs Ainsley, Audiologist, spoke to classes about Deaf Awareness and how we can support peers in school who have a hearing loss and did some acoustic and noise work with pupils.

Mrs Fowler, teacher of art and design, arranged for a couple of past pupils, Hollie and Scarlet to come into school. The two ex pupils gave up their work to come and talk to pupils around steps after St John's, as part of Deaf Awareness week. 2-8th May. Hollie works for Cumbria Police and Scarlet is studying at York St John.

They spoke thoughtfully and with such confidence about their experiences to the whole school, and how they have faced and conquered challenges as a deaf person. They answered some great questions from pupils and spoke about their dreams for the future. Both want to work towards owning their own house.

To round the week off, on Friday we had a visit from the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf charity who brought two very special dogs to see us. Thank you.



Deaf Awareness

National BSL Day

Friday, 28th of April, marked one year since British Sign Language (BSL) achieved legal status in England, Wales and Scotland. This date will now be known as National BSL Day.

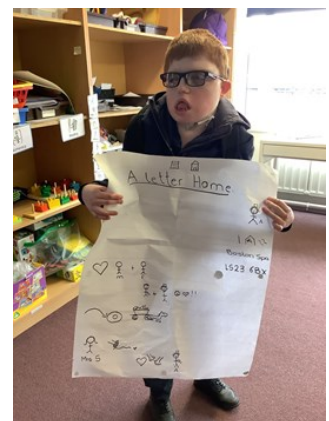


Celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III and Camilla



Exploring the Second World War

Finally, some staff shared stories passed down in their families about what it was like to live through those difficult times. It has been really interesting.



School Trips

Donaldson and Burnell Classes Visit Eden Camp



Next Term—Sports Day 6th July—On the School Field at 1pm

ALL WELCOME, bring a chair, hat, suncream and a water bottle, to keep hydrated, hopefully, the sun will be out and we'll need them! There will also be a raffle to raise funds for more PE equipment. More details to follow shortly.

On Line Gaming and Monitoring Usage

Here are three popular games children play online, with the PEGI ratings. Please note the ratings do not take into account the interaction possibilities. However, aspects like chat facilities can be disabled in the parent settings

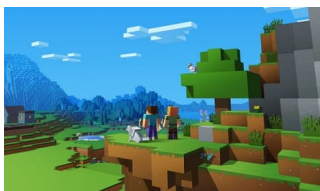
Fortnite



Rated PEGI 12 for frequent mild violence, which means it is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age. Fortnite contains voice and text chat, so be aware that your child may be chatting to strangers and may hear inappropriate language. Ensure your child knows how to report players for any inappropriate behaviour.

In-app purchases can be made and online purchases can be restricted on gaming consoles by using parental or family settings. Requiring a password or PIN be entered before a digital purchase is processed. It is also recommended to use a password or PIN before on mobile and consoles.

Minecraft



Rated as 7+ by PEGI with a further content descriptor of 'violence.' The on line community is fairly child friendly and this game has been highlighted as having educational benefits.

Like Fortnite, in-app purchases can be made and can be blocked via the parental controls.

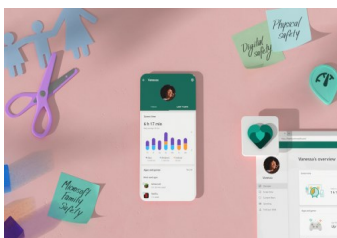
Rocket League



This is rated as 3+ by PEGI. In Rocket League, players use cars to play in football matches and is available for free across a variety of platforms. If your child is under 13, then their account will have chat and purchases disabled (unless you override these settings). For children over 13, you will need to disable/restrict these settings as appropriate. There is the option to play online with others as well as make purchases to enhance your car.

You can set up appropriate parental controls by setting up an account with Epic Games and applying settings on your child's device as well.

Microsoft Family Safety app



If you have an Xbox at home you can access the Microsoft Family Safety mobile app, which gives variety of free features including the ability to set screen time limits to devices, apps and games and Set content filters and block inappropriate apps/games. Additional features such as location sharing are available as part of a paid subscription. To access the app, you will need to enter your mobile number or email address at the link below and Microsoft will send you a download link: <https://www.microsoft.com/enus/microsoft-365/family-safety>

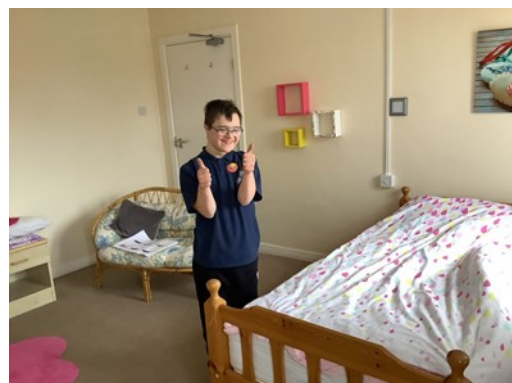
If you would like links to other information about on line safety or a copy of our on line safety newsletter released in January- Email René Lelong the school CEOP (Child Online Exploitation Protection) Ambassador rene.lelong@stjohns.org.uk

More information about internet safety for children can be found here: <https://www.internetmatters.org.uk>

News from Harrop and Girma Classes

ASDAN Qualifications

This half term Harrop and Girma class have been working hard on gaining their ASDAN qualifications. The pupils have learned how to independently use a washing machine and dryer also the purpose of why we use them. Most importantly how to use them safely! They have enjoyed learning the steps on how to make a bed and the pupils worked as a team to do this! Well done Harrop and Girma!



Charity Events

Sunshine and Smiles

On Sunday Lyaal did the Yorkshire Ability Triathlon. He ran 1200m and cycled 2000m. He watched the swimming as he's not keen on pools! He was amazing and got a medal and a T shirt signed by the Brownlee brothers. This was the first of 10 challenges he is doing to raise money for Sunshine and Smiles. We are all very proud of him.



Walk 100 Miles Challenge in May for Cancer Research

Mandy, Office Manager, is walking 100 miles in May to raise money for Cancer Research. As many of you know, this is a charity close to her heart, she is doing really well and recently sent this message round school: "Thank you to everyone who has donated to Cancer Research either via the link on my just giving page or in person. My target started at £150 but thanks to everyone's support I have now reached a brilliant amount of £470.

So far I have walked 81 miles since the beginning of May and have another 19 to go before next Tuesday which should be easily achievable! I had a lovely family walk through Esholt woods yesterday with a half time break at the original Woolpack Inn in Esholt (sunshine definitely helps with motivation!)

Thank you again to everyone who has supported me I really do appreciate it. I will let you know when I reach my goal but I think I might also continue with the walking! Mandy



Race for Life



Teacher, Miss Hegarty is also walking 100 miles in May and did the pretty muddy, as you can see from the photo, she did get *pretty* muddy!

https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/alannahs-race-for-life-28608?urn=751824377&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mcamp&utm_cam-paign=N23LRWDE21&utm_content=N23LRWDE21007&utm_team=R4L%20-%20IN%20-%202023%20-%20Well%20Done



Sixth Form News and Talk 4 Writing Project

Caterpillars and Butterflies

Sixth Form ordered some caterpillars and nurtured them into butterflies. Here you can see them being released into the wild by Scarlet, Luke and Kacey



Motivational Art

Luke made a great “Motivational Quote Canvas” with quotes he liked that make you feel good. It’s now looking good on display in the Sixth form.



Talk 4 Writing Project

Leadership Project and BATOD Article



Mrs Slorach, Mr Frith and Miss Fox have begun a Talk 4 Writing leadership project down in London. The project is around how SEND schools can incorporate the principles of Talk 4 Writing to develop a student’s internal voice and ability to write more fluently. Our participation in the project is having a significant impact upon how we teach writing and is supporting teachers to ensure writing is an integral part of how we develop the student’s communication skills. If you would like to know more about how Talk 4 Writing principles are being used in school take a look at the attached BATOD article written by Mrs Bradbury and Mrs Slorach.

And Finally...

Lunch Time Clubs

The clubs last half term were rounders and music. **Rounders** was on Wednesday lunch time led by Mrs Pirie on the school field. **Music** was "piano skills" on Friday lunch time in the music room, with Mr Frith. We only did two clubs this half term due to the number of bank holidays.

After half term the clubs available will be **Tennis club** with Miss Barber on Wednesday, **Walking club** with Miss Jeffery on Thursday and **Chicken club** with Jackie on Friday. All welcome.



School Dinners Menu Update and Nut Allergy Reminder

The catering team have updated the lunch menus and these will come into effect from Monday 5th June (after half term). They run on a three week basis and each menu is on a different tab. Mandy has sent the new menus out to pupils who have school lunches, they are also available from the school office or on the school website, for your information.

Our kitchen was recently inspected by the Food Standards Agency and I am pleased to say we received a 5* rating. Well done to Chef Paul, Jane and Lynne.

Please note that because of students with nut allergies, we make every attempt to be as 'nut free' in school as possible. Please do not include products containing nuts in your child's packed lunch or snacks.



Healthy Schools



Dates for your diary

26th May	-School closes for half term holiday
5th June	-School reopens
23rd June	-School closed for STAFF TRAINING DAY
6th July	- Sports Day 1pm ALL WELCOME
21st July	-School closes 12.30pm for Summer Holidays
24th July	-School closed for TRAINING DAY
1st September	-School closed for STAFF TRAINING DAY
4th September	-School reopens

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Church Street
Boston Spa

Phone: 01937 842144
Fax: 01937 541471

www.stjohns.org.uk