



# Friends of Sir John Talbot's School Newsletter

## Autumn Term 2023

Introducing FOTS **P.1**

The Great SJT Bake Off **P.2**

Christmas Bingo Night **P.3**

SJT Whitchurch 10K **P.4**

Looking Ahead to 2024 **P.5**



## Who are the Friends of the School?

### Officers:

Chair: Gareth Von Dinther

Vice Chair: Charlotte Crowshaw

Secretary: Gail Winstone

Treasurer: David Mottershead

### Trustees:

Tim Stonall

Lucy Jennings

Lauren King

Sarah Hanquier

Caroline Hulse

Candice Gallimore-Johnson

Phillip Johnson

Michelle Crawford

You can contact FOTS directly by e-mail: [SJTFOTS@outlook.com](mailto:SJTFOTS@outlook.com)

## Introducing Friends of Sir John Talbot's School

On behalf of the Friends of the School trustees, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to you as we introduce the inaugural edition of our newsletter. As we embark on this exciting journey, we are eager to keep our school community informed about the latest developments, upcoming events, and the impactful initiatives we have in store.

Founded in the summer of 2023 and officially commencing operations in September of the same year, Friends of Sir John Talbot's School is a charitable organisation that has been established by a dedicated group of families and staff members. Our mission is simple: to provide funds to advance the education, curriculum, enrichment, and overall experiences of the students attending Sir John Talbot's School. The Friends of Sir John Talbot's School group are committed to engaging in fundraising activities with the express purpose of providing our students with enhanced facilities, state-of-the-art equipment, and a wide array of enriching opportunities. Our goal is to support the school in the holistic development of every student, fostering an environment where they can thrive academically, socially, and personally.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the upcoming events and initiatives that we have planned which we hope will bring our school community closer together. Our calendar is filled with activities designed to involve all members of our school community, from students and staff to families and the wider community. Whether it's a fundraising for an in-school event or getting involved in community projects, we are committed to playing an increasingly active role in 2024. You can support our activities by attending our events, volunteering, donating raffle prizes or sharing a new fundraising idea for us to consider.

*Gareth Von Dinther*

Chair of the Friends of the School Management Committee



## The Great SJT Bake Off 2023

*Spooktacular Sweets:  
Stirring up Frights and  
Delights in our School's  
Halloween Bake Off  
Extravaganza!*

We were excited to launch our 'Great SJT Bake Off 2023,' a sensational event that took place on October 16th, 2023. The school's talented bakers were challenged to embrace their culinary creativity with two exciting themes: 'Halloween Horrors' and 'Cupcake Extravaganza.'

### **Halloween Horrors: Unleashing Spooky Creativity**

For the Halloween enthusiasts, the challenge was to conjure up ghoulish cupcakes, haunted cookies, or terrifying tarts that embodied the spirit of Halloween. The results were nothing short of spectacular, with students showcasing their spooky creativity in delectable and eerie treats!

### **Cupcake Extravaganza: A Feast for Cupcake Lovers**

Cupcake aficionados had the chance to shine in the 'Cupcake Extravaganza' where they were encouraged to whip up mini masterpieces that were not only delightful to the taste buds but also a feast for the eyes. The array of cupcakes displayed an impressive range of decorating skills, turning the competition into a visual delight.

The entries were judged on various criteria, including theme interpretation, presentation, creativity, and taste. With 10 outstanding entries, the competition was fierce, and the judges had a difficult decision to make!

After much deliberation, the judges were thrilled to announce the overall winners of the Great SJT Bake Off 2023:

**Winners:** Poppy Williams (Year 7) and Lucy Davies (Year 8)

**Closely followed by:** Maria Shah (Year 7) and Xavier Pye (Year 7)

Winners received an SJT Star Baker Apron and a Gift Card, and our runners up received a Gift Card, generously donated by Obsidian Analytics.

Following the judging, the baked goods became available for purchase by students and staff. Gareth Von Dinther, Gail Winstone, and a group of outstanding Sixth Form students managed to completely sell out of cakes during both break and lunchtime, resulting in an impressive fundraising total of £120. All proceeds generated from the sale of these items will contribute to supporting The Friends of Sir John Talbot's School as it funds various initiatives and activities for the students' benefit.

We look forward to more delicious and creative events in the future. Stay tuned for details on another bake sale in January 2024!



# Christmas Bingo Night

*Eyes down! Celebrating our inaugural Christmas Bingo Night!*



We are thrilled to share the wonderful success of our Christmas Bingo Night, held on December 4th, 2023. The evening was filled with festive cheer and truly showcased the strength of our school community. Over 100 players, including staff, students, and families, joined in the fun, wearing their Christmas jumpers and hats to add an extra dash of festive spirit to the event.

The evening showcased five lively bingo games and an exciting raffle. Our caller for the evening was Friends of the School Vice Chair Charlotte Crowshaw, whose festive spirit and enthusiasm added an extra layer of fun to the proceedings. The highlight, however, was not just the bingo itself but the incredible generosity of our local businesses and community members who contributed to the event's success. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Blackhursts Garage, Colour Supplies, Obsidian Analytics, Ocado, and Chester Breakout Escape Rooms for their generous donations. Their support, along with private contributions, ensured a fantastic array of prizes were on offer for our players.

As an unexpected surprise for our players, Dominos contributed to the festive ambiance by generously donating pizza, garlic bread, and fries for everyone to enjoy during the intermission. Needless to say, this was a great hit with players!

Gareth Von Dinther, Chair of Friends of the School, emphasised the importance of events like these in involving and celebrating our students' families, who are integral members of our school community. The success of the Christmas Bingo Night goes beyond just fundraising; it reinforces the sense of community that makes our school special.

The Christmas Bingo Night not only brought fun and entertainment but also served as a powerful fundraising event. Through the combined efforts of our community, we are proud to announce that we successfully raised an impressive £1000 for our charitable goals!

We want to express our deepest appreciation to everyone who came to play, donated, and supported the Christmas Bingo Night.

More community events to come in 2024!



# Sir John Talbot's School Whitchurch 10K 2024

## Ways that you can get involved in the 2024 10K:

If running isn't your thing, don't worry, there are other ways of getting involved:

### Marshals:

Road marshals ensure participant safety by keeping roads closed during the race, directing traffic, guiding runners along the route, and providing assistance. Their crucial role ensures a smooth and secure race experience.

### Sponsorship:

Support the 10K while elevating your brand visibility! Contribute to raising funds through one of our sponsorship packages, and enjoy prominent exposure on promotional material and amongst runners and crowds!

### Contact Us:

If you have any questions, or are interested in being a road marshal or in becoming a sponsor, please contact us at:

[sjt10k@gmail.com](mailto:sjt10k@gmail.com)

The Friends of Sir John Talbot's School are thrilled to announce their role as the new organising committee for the 2024 Sir John Talbot's School Whitchurch 10K! Hayley Alldridge, Director of Marketing and Communications at the Marches Academy Trust, and the driving force behind the 10K in previous years, has decided to step down from her position as the Race Director, and has entrusted the responsibility to the Friends of Sir John Talbot's School.

We express our gratitude to Hayley and her team for establishing the remarkable tradition of the Sir John Talbot's School Whitchurch 10k. With enthusiasm and dedication, we are committed to preserving and building upon the legacy they have created, and we look forward to developing the 10K to ensure its continued success and impact within the community.

The Friends of Sir John Talbot's School encourage families to sign up to run the 10K using the following link:

<https://whitchurch10k.niftyentries.com/Whitchurch-10K-2024>

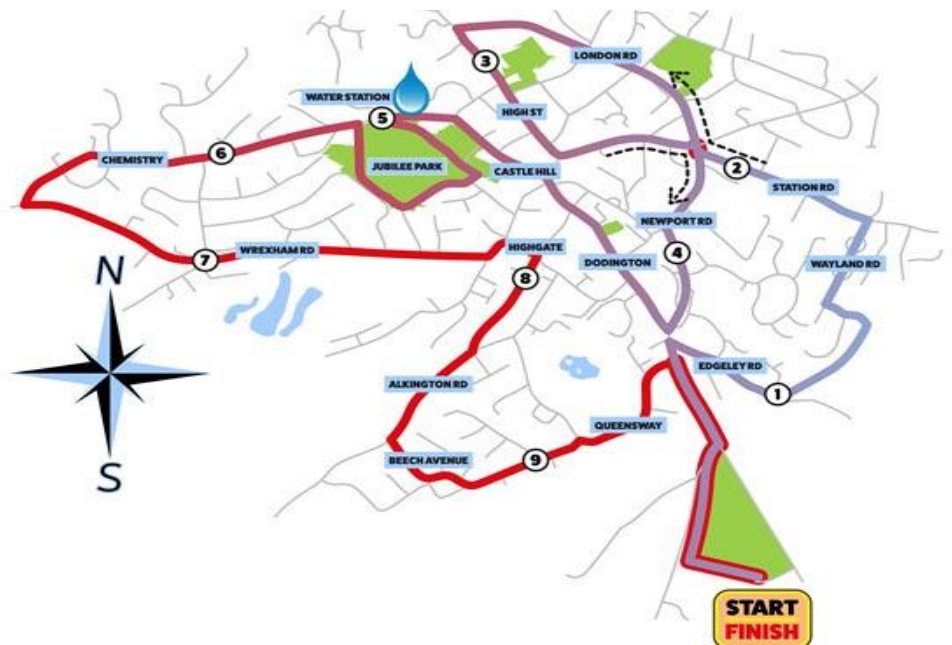
**Date:** Sunday 7th April 2024

**Venue:** Sir John Talbot's School, Whitchurch, Shropshire

**Registration Time:** 8:00am – 9:30am Warm up: 9:40am Start time: 10:00am

**The event:** This is a 10k road race with full UKA accreditation

**Registration Information:** All entries can be made online at [Nifty Events](#); your race number and timing chip will need to be collected at registration which is open from 8:00am – 9:30am on race day (7th April 2024). UKA Affiliated runners £19, Non-Affiliated runners £21





# Looking Ahead to 2024

## Upcoming Events in Spring term:



As we bid farewell to a busy Autumn term, the Friends of Sir John Talbot's School are thrilled to share our exciting plans for the upcoming Spring term! We've had a busy start to the academic year, and there's plenty more in store to enhance the school experience for our students and families.

**January Bake Sale:** Kicking off the term with sweetness, we're hosting another bake sale in January. Students will have the opportunity to satisfy their sweet tooth with a variety of delicious cakes and treats. We're also calling on the talented bakers among our parents to contribute homemade treats for this event. Let's make this bake sale a truly scrumptious success and smash the amount of funds raised at October event!

**January Coffee Morning for Families:** Join us in February for our first Coffee Morning. It's the perfect opportunity for families to come together informally, enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and have a chat about the school. This casual gathering promises to be a great way to connect with fellow parents and staff members, and strengthen our school community bonds.

**Year 8 March Spring Disco:** March will see the arrival of our Spring Disco, an event that will be filled with music, laughter, and unforgettable memories. It's a fantastic chance for our Year 8 students to let loose and celebrate their time at Sir John Talbot's School.

**Bag2School:** Have you been thinking about having a clear out? Now is a great time as we're currently working with Bags 2 School who specialise in the reuse and recycling of good quality second hand clothing. Keep your eyes peeled for further information, including how to sign up for a bag and when to drop your bag off at school. The Friends of Sir John Talbot's School will receive a donation for the total weight collected, so please sort out your wardrobes!

**Easyfundraising:** Did you know that we're registered with easyfundraising and you could help us to raise funds for the school at no extra cost to yourself? This is a great opportunity to raise much needed funds for the school! When you shop online, with over 7,500 of your favourite brands, including John Lewis & Partners, Amazon, eBay, you will raise FREE donations for Friends of Sir John Talbot's School. If you're not already signed up, it only takes a few minutes, then you can begin using the easyfundraising website or app straightaway. Visit our easyfundraising page to get started:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends-of-sir-john-talbots-school/?utm\\_campaign=pmc&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_content=raisingforaschool-email1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends-of-sir-john-talbots-school/?utm_campaign=pmc&utm_source=email&utm_medium=social&utm_content=raisingforaschool-email1)

