

Dear Families,

The SJT Spirit

It has been a pleasure to deliver assemblies to Year 7-11 this week. In the spirit of advent of hope, joy, love, and peace, I challenged our students to reflect on our values as a school. We reflected that during the festive season, the true spirit of Christmas is not about what you get, but what you can give. I hope all students can reflect during the countdown to the holidays. Students were asked to think how they can care for their achievement, others and the community.

Year 11 Keeping in Touch Evening – Thursday 12th December 2024

The first of our two Year 11 Keeping in Touch' Evenings takes place next Thursday, 12th December 2024. We are looking forward to sharing your child's progress with you, as they prepare for their GCSEs. Details on how to book places have now been sent out, if you have not received any communication about this, please contact our Examinations and Data Manager, Mrs Elkin: Bryony.Elkin@sjt.mmat.co.uk.

Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 19th December

SJT are hosting our Christmas Jumper day on Thursday 19th December where we will be raising money for each of our six House charities, this will be the first House charity competition of the year. Students can wear their Christmas jumpers over their normal school uniform for a suggested donation of £1 which will be collected during Academic Mentoring (AM)/ Tutor time by their form tutors.

We want this event to be inclusive and it would be greatly appreciated if families or friends have any good quality clean Christmas jumpers that they wish to donate to school. These would be greatly appreciated. If donations of jumpers could be brought to school no later than Friday 13th December, this would allow any students who do not have a Christmas jumper to be able to pick one up from student support the week leading up to the event. Thank you in advance of your support.

Christmas Lunch – Thursday 19th December

Our school Christmas lunch will take place on Thursday, 19th December 2024. Communications will go out on Monday about how to reserve a Christmas lunch.

Mr Tim Stonall
Headteacher



Timetable w/c Monday 9th December 2024 – Week A

Reverse Advent Calendar

We are still collecting donations for our reverse Advent Calendar for the Whitchurch Trussel Trust Food Bank! Every year staff, students, and families from SJT give generously to this organisation which is a great resource. Unfortunately, more and more people in our local community are relying on food banks and the community of SJT would like to help as much as we can. We fully understand the pressures on every family and would like to stress that this is not mandatory, however, if you can donate an item, we would be extremely grateful. Please bring donations into school before next Friday, 13th December. For information on items that are particularly in demand, please click [here](#).

HAF Christmas/ Winter Programme

The 4All Foundation are collaborating with local schools, voluntary and community organisations providers to run an exciting holiday programme this Winter, Shropshire HAF (Holiday Activities and Food). From 21st December 2024 to 4th January 2025, eligible children and young people are invited to take part in a range of fun activities, happening at across the county. For more information for the Winter HAF, click here: [Holidays and food programme - what's on for winter 2024](#).

Bingo!

We are thrilled to announce that our community Christmas Bingo Night was a huge success, raising an incredible £700! A massive thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event – your generosity is truly appreciated. Your support helps make events like this possible and we could not have done it without you! A special thank you to Taylor Shaw for kindly sponsoring the event, with thanks also to Alderford, MacDonald Hill Valley Hotel Golf and Spa, Red Cow Butchers, Rowlands Fruit and Veg and to all others who generously donated prizes for the raffle.

The Shore – Mr Davies

Alongside the fantastic Pantomime in Market Drayton last week, Year 7 were also treated to an exceptional assembly from the members of 7JJ on the theme of 'Equality'. We were blown away by the confidence of their delivery and the bravery it took to stand up in front of the whole year group as the first of our Form Assemblies. Next week, we're looking forward to hearing from 7NL as they talk about 'Excellence'.

Sixth Form:

Sixth Form students had a fantastic time at York yesterday and had the opportunity to visit either York St John's University or the Railway Museum. We then ventured into the city centre and explored the Christmas markets, shops and the beautiful Shambles!



The Harbour – Mr Hawke

In Harbour assemblies this term, we have often looked at how students can demonstrate "achievement through caring": for self, others and the environment. During advent, "care for others" becomes particularly important as we think about spending time with (and money on!) loved ones. Teamwork is another way we can show our care for others, as demonstrated superbly in tough fixtures against Burton Borough (Y9 Boys' Football), Bishop's Castle (Y8/ 9 Girls' Football) and Wrekin College (Y9 Boys' Rugby) this week. I am looking forward to our annual Christmas Concert on Tuesday 17th December, where we will no doubt see more examples of great teamwork in the performances by our musical ensembles. Finally, I would like to congratulate Y8 footballer Mason on being awarded Telford Utd's "player of the month" for November. Mason was picked for his tenacity and leadership, great assets in any team!



The Quay – Mrs Elms

Mr Stonall has led assemblies this week for both Year 10 and Year 11 on the meaning of Advent. He has reminded and asked our students to reflect on the importance of caring about themselves in terms of well being and achievement. Also, what caring about others means within our school community to show respect for both their peers and staff.

We were impressed with the food technology students during their NEA last week. They had to prepare by conducting research to inform their planning. Plans were then put to the test when they baked their different scones. Some scones turned out to be delicious, some not so much. The next Mary Berry may come from SJT!



Our Under 16 Rugby team had a great trip out to face a very strong Wrekin College showing great SJT spirit!

Student Support Week 12 Focus: Sexuality and Gender

Your sexuality and gender identity are part of who you are. The following Childline information is for parents and carers to support in talking to their child about concerns relating to gender identity and sexuality. [Sexuality and Gender](#)

Our Pastoral and Safeguarding team are situated in Student Services. If a child has any concerns, they MUST report it to a member of staff who will ensure that it is directed to the correct person to deal with it.

Road Safety

It is important that students are reminded of the need to keep safe and be aware of their surroundings when travelling to and from school or being out socially in their communities. With the dark night's drawing in, please ensure that students cycling to school are wearing clothing that ensures they are seen to other road users. They must wear a helmet, and bikes should have lights. For more information on road safety and bikeability training, please click on the link here: [Road safety | Shropshire Council](#)

Taylor Shaw Catering Menu w/c 9th December 2024

Our Autumn Menu and Tariff can be found on our school website in the Family Information section which is located under School Life. Or you can click on the direct link here: [Menu-Autumn-Winter-2024.pdf](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Click [here](#) to view our upcoming events. Events [at a glance](#):

- 12th December – Y11 KiT Evening
- 18th December – Y8/9 Recognition Trip to Jump In Shrewsbury
- 18th December – Y10/11 Recognition Trip to Trafford Centre
- 19th December – Sixth Form Christmas Ball, School Christmas Lunch & House Christmas Jumper Day

Click [here](#) to view our Term Dates.



NEWS

Click [here](#) to view our latest news articles.

Why not also follow us on Facebook [@SirJohnTalbotsSchool](#) for a wealth of content, from student, staff, and school celebrations to competitions. We encourage you to get interactive with our posts!

To hear about news from across the Trust, why not also follow [@MarchesAcademyTrust](#).

