

Dear Families,

This week we had the pleasure of welcoming our Year 11 and 13 students from class of 2024 to our annual awards evening. The Sports Hall was transformed from its usual setting to a lovely venue with over 150 guests in attendance. The evening was a lovely way to celebrate the achievement of our GCSE and A Level successes. Along with certificates there were a number of special awards presented to represent all areas of the curriculum and the broad involvement in the local community. Each of these award winners were nominated by staff and thoroughly deserved.

It was a pleasure to introduce Linda Grocott of the Grocott Group, who kindly joined us as our guest speaker. Before presenting students with their prestigious awards, Ms Grocott gave an inspirational talk to students about their future and how she provides opportunities within her company for young people. It was a delight to welcome school leavers along with those who returned to the SJT Sixth Form, and we wish them every success in the future.

For those who were unable to attend, please contact Mrs Elkin to arrange collection of your certificates from school in the New Year: Bryony.Elkin@sjt.mmat.co.uk

Christmas Concert

On Tuesday, we held our annual Christmas Concert in the "Talbot Theatre" which was a wonderful evening full of festive songs. Acts included our Choir, Senior Choir, Junior Band, Senior Band, and a range of talented soloists. All students involved did themselves their families and the school proud, setting a very high standard for us to try and match in future productions! Thank you to Mr Calderbank, Head of Performance, for all his hard work and efforts into making this concert another success. With special thanks to the audience for their interaction and involvement in the final song 'Merry Christmas Everybody'.

Christmas Card Competition - Winner and runners up

The winner of our Christmas Card competition was Verity Hulse, Year 9, second place Oleksandra (Sasha) Boichuk, Year 8, with joint third place Lydia Cooper Yr 8 and Amelia Dulson (Yr 7). The winner of each school in the Trust were also entered into the Trust competition with Verity winning overall. Please view their amazing entries by clicking the link here: [Christmas Card Winner](#).

Winter Trust Newsletter

The Marches Academy Trust's Winter Newsletter is now available to read! This issue looks at our new starters across the Trust. We are working hard to ensure a smooth transition for our children and young people alongside a robust induction for our new staff. Throughout the newsletter you will see examples of this in action from across our Trust. This issue also contains an update from our CEO and the Chair of Trustees along with interesting news and updates from staff and all schools across the Trust. Please have a read at the following link: [Marches Academy Trust's Winter Newsletter](#).

MATTv

Please find link to this Terms MATTv video showcasing our transition and induction programme across our Trust schools: <https://youtu.be/xwb45CGmptg>. Our next edition will be published before the Easter holidays.

Local Governing Board Governor

We are seeking a community governor to join our well established Local Governing Board. For further information on Governance please click on the link here: [Our Governors - Sir John Talbot's](#). If you would like to consider contributing to the work of the Governing Board ensuring high standards of achievement for all children and young people (CYP), please click on the link here: [Vacancy Detail -SCH-TMAT-0087 - SAMpeople Recruit](#)

Year 11 Countdown to Success – Tuesday 7th January 2025

On Tuesday 7th January, our Year 11 students will be off timetable all day to engage in workshops in preparation for their GCSE examinations. 'Countdown to Success' day is the official start to this exciting but tough period in their journey. We have two guest speakers: former head of Sixth Form, Jo Haycocks, who will be delivering a workshop on self-care around exams and Karim Al-Abbas, who is the founder of Enlighten Education and will be giving insightful retrieval advice. Mr Timmis and Mrs Elms will also be delivering sessions on goal setting, mindset, and planning.

Safeguarding Team

Our safeguarding team will be available and monitor emails intermittently over the festive period. If you need to get in touch, please email designatedsafeguardinglead@sjt.mmat.co.uk and someone will get back to you as soon as they can.

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child, please contact Compass on 03456789021 or West Mercia Police on 101 for non-emergency's or 999 if you think it is an emergency.



We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to welcoming our children and young people back to school on Monday 6th January!

Mr Tim Stonall
Headteacher

Timetable w/c Monday 6th January 2025 – Week A

The Shore – Mr Davies

Students in Year 7 have ended their first term with us on a high and go into the Christmas break full of festive cheer. On Wednesday, as part of the Rewards and Enrichment Day, Year 7 experienced a brilliant range of activities and I hope many of you have seen and received many of the things they made through the day, ranging from Christmas decorations to delicious Christmas treats. It was wonderful to see so many of the Year group get involved with the Christmas jumper day on Thursday, showing yet again how much they throw themselves into life at SJT. We wish all our students and families in the Shore a wonderful Christmas and New Year.



Sixth Form

Our Sixth Formers celebrated a fantastic Autumn Term with a magical Christmas Ball on Thursday night. Hosted as a collaboration event between SJT and The Grove, it was brilliant to see students enjoying each other's company and winding down after a period of hard work. Massive thanks must go to the Sixth Form team, especially Miss Lyons, for pulling the event together, and to the students themselves for conducting themselves so well.



The Harbour – Mr Hawke

On Wednesday, two hundred our Year 8 and 9 students visited Jump In in Shrewsbury as part of their rewards trip. Students really enjoyed themselves and were able to release a lot of their energy by showing off their tricks and flips enjoying time with their peers.



Today, we held our end of term Zone Assembly for Years 8 and 9 where we reflected on the term so far and congratulated students on their successes by handing out award certificates for 'Caring about my Achievement', 'Caring about Others' and 'Caring about my Environment'. We praised our form groups for their commitment to learning at SJT:

Attendance: 9GS – 94%	Punctuality: 9CW	Lesson Grade 1s: 9RT - 1327
Attendance: 8KB – 96%	Punctuality: 8DT	Lesson Grade 1s: 8GC - 1690

I would like to wish all our Harbour students a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing them on 6th January to hear all about your festive break.

The Quay – Mrs Elms

223 Year 10 and 11 students were rewarded with a recognition trip to the Trafford Centre on Wednesday. The trip was a remarkable success with students enjoying the shops, bowling or quiet time in the cinema. The choice of eateries in the food court went down well with our students. Hopefully, they managed to buy a Christmas present for you to say thank you.



Year 11 students have started to fundraise money towards their Leaver's Prom in June 2025 and organised their annual staff vs Year 11 football match for students to attend and watch. Last Friday the staff team continued their unbeaten run with a 2 nil win over the Year 11 team with goals coming from Mr Oaks and Mr Goldsmith. There were over one hundred students in attendance, raising a total of £178.50. Well done all!



We ended the term today with our celebration assemblies for Year 10 and 11 students. It was wonderful to look back at all the successes during the term. Many certificates were presented for our 'Achievement through Caring' awards. Well done to all of our students for a busy term. We wish everyone a lovely, restful break and look forward to welcoming them back in 2025.

Our U16 Girls' Football team were knocked out of the County Cup by a superior Thomas Telford 6-2 on Tuesday. Goals coming from Charley B and Ava H, who was voted Player of the match.

On Wednesday 8th January, our after school revision sessions begin and will run all the way up until the start of the exams.

Christmas Concert



Awards Evening



Carol Singing

Students from the choir attended the Bradbury Day Care Centre and Greenfields Care home yesterday, with Mr Calderbank, to perform Christmas carols for the residents. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and received lovely feedback from the staff, whilst getting the residents involved in a cheerful singalong "The choir students that attended Bradbury, were amazing."



Taylor Shaw Christmas Lunch and Newsletter

On Thursday, our catering team held their annual Christmas Dinner for our students. We would like to thank Taylor Shaw Catering, for cooking over 450 lovely Christmas dinners, adding to the festivities this week!



Please click [here](#) to visit the Taylor Shaw Christmas Newsletter.

12 Days of Christmas Attendance Challenge

Since the 4th December, we have been running our 12 Days of Christmas Challenge. A huge well done to all of our daily winners (there have been too many to mention!) but a special mention to Patrick S (Y7), Marnie H (Y8), Flynn B (Y9), Chris J (Y10) and Maddie B (Y11) who won the raffle for 100% attendance between 4th - 19th December. Well done everyone!

Reverse Advent Calendar Delivery

Following on from our Reverse Advent Calendar, Year 10s helped to load and deliver all the generous donations made to the Whitchurch Trussel Trust Foodbank. The volunteers were blown away by the amount of food and Christmas goodies donated. Thank you again, to everyone who donated to this fantastic charity.



Christmas Jumper Day House Winner

Thank you to everyone who wore their Christmas Jumpers on Thursday and donated to their House Charities. We raised a total of £188.32 and our results are as follows:
 First place – Blakemere - £38 – MIND Charity
 Second place – Ossmere - £36.61 – Dementia UK
 Third place – Redbrook - £33 – Macmillan Cancer
 Fourth place – Alderford - £31.60 – Trussel Trust Foodbank
 Fifth place – Brown Moss - £26.90 – Cancer Research UK
 Sixth place – Whixall Moss - £22.21 – Teenage Cancer



Christmas Door Winners



End of Term Enrichment Day for all students

On Wednesday, the Year 8 and 9 students who did not wish to attend the Jump In recognition trip, participated in Christmas crafts, where they made origami, Christmas decorations, tealight holders and baked gingerbread men. In the afternoon they finished their day with a Christmas film. Students who were not eligible for the recognition trip, were invited to a series of workshops including a motivational speaker who spoke about how your friends can influence your decisions and how to be courageous in your goals. They also took part in a self-esteem workshop as well as spending time looking at career pathways.

Christmas tubs

Greene King pub chain are running a 'Tub2Pub'. This is a recycling campaign to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support: <https://www.tub2pub.co.uk/tub2pub/>. Please could you save any plastic sweet, chocolate, or biscuit tubs you may have over Christmas period and bring them into school by the 24th January, for the Eco Council to collect them and raise money for this amazing charity while cutting down on plastic waste at the same time.

Recruitment

We currently have the following vacancy available in school if you or any of your family members are interested in these, please click on the links for full details including how to apply:
[Student Support and Wellbeing Lead](#) Closing date Monday 6th January 2025

SERCO are collaborating with the local community to recruit candidates for several positions that will be available at the new Swimming Centre within Whitchurch, which is planned to open in March/ April 2025. Please see below a list of positions (casual, permanent & part time) which are available. If you feel any are exciting to you, please click [here](#) to scan the QR Code.
 *Trainee Lifeguards and Lifeguards *Trainee Swimming Teachers and Swimming Teachers *Fitness Instructors *Group Exercise Instructors *Membership Advisors *Customer Service Advisors *Cleaners *Duty Officer *Facility Manager.

Student Support Week 14 Focus: Online Gaming

Online games can be a great way for children and young people to keep busy and stay in touch with friends and family, but it's important that they play safely. The following NSPCC information is for parents and carers to support in talking to their child about the risks relating to [online gaming](#).

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.

Taylor Shaw Catering Menu w/c 6th January 2025

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](#):

- 20th December – End of Autumn Term
- 6th January – Spring Term commences
- 7th January – Y11 Countdown to Success
- w/c 13th January – Week 1 of 2 Mock Exams Y12 & 13
- w/c 20th January – Week 2 of 2 Mock Exams Y12 & 13

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](#).



Sir John Talbot's School, Prees Road, Whitchurch, SY13 2BY
 01948 660600
admin@sjt.mmat.co.uk
sirjohntalbots.co.uk



@SirJohnTalbotsSchool