

Dear Families,

### Collaboration and Professional Development Days (inc Half Term) - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> to Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025

A reminder that students are calendared to study from home tomorrow, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 as part of our Trust Collaboration Day.

- Key Stage 3 will be focusing on their Headshot Biography project which was emailed out earlier this week and can be found in their Year Group Teams.
- Key Stage 4 and 5 will be set work by their teachers in line with their timetabled lessons for that day (Friday, Week B) to consolidate their learning from the year so far.

This date is immediately followed by our Spring Half Term and Professional Development (PD) Day with students expected to return to school on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

### Parents/ Carers Experience Survey

There is still time to complete our Parent/ Carer Experience Survey from our platform provider, Edurio. This survey will allow Edurio to learn more about how they can help our school and the Marches Academy Trust to improve parental engagement and would be keen to hear from you. We encourage all our families to have their say by clicking the link here: [Parent Experience: Survey for Parents and Carers](#). Your time and honesty is much appreciated!

### Year 10 Keeping in Touch Evening – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Our Year 10 Keeping in Touch Evening takes place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025, details on how to book appointments have now been shared. If you have not received the communication regarding this, please contact our Data Manager, Mrs Elkin on: [Bryony.Elkin@sjt.mmat.co.uk](mailto:Bryony.Elkin@sjt.mmat.co.uk)

### Emergency and Disabled Access – Front of School

Could we politely remind all families not to use the front area of school to collect and drop off where students are present. The area is designated for 'Emergency and disabled access' and should only be used as such. Your support is appreciated.

Enjoy the break and we look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February!

*Mr Tim Stonall*  
Headteacher



## Timetable w/c Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Week A

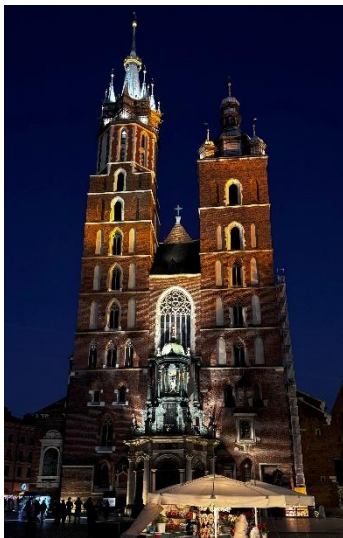
### The Shore and Sixth Form – Mr Davies

It has been wonderful this week to celebrate the successes of our Shore students and how they continue to inspire at SJT. In our end of Half Term assembly, we have celebrated the wonderful achievements across the year group, ranging from those students who have had fantastic attendance, achieved multiple Lesson Grade 1s, and those who go above and beyond in their daily acts of kindness to others. This was topped off by celebrating 41 students with a hot chocolate and snack in the Social Dining area after lunch. Well done to all of our Shore students, enjoy the half term and see you all back in school on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

### Sixth Form

On Monday this week, Year 13 received their Mock Exam results as part of a formalised process, led by Miss Lyons. Alongside receiving the grades, students also had prospective 'offers' from their Firm and Insurance places for university based on their results and offers they have received to date. It was fantastic to be able to celebrate the success of our students so far, but also use the results as a motivation point in the final push in the run up to the summer exams. The students have been impressively motivated in drawing up plans to keep improving and mapping out what the next 9 weeks of school look like in the build up to the exams.

The annual sixth form study tour to Poland took place last week. The students stayed in the beautiful city of Krakow and learnt about its history, and how it was once the largest centre for Jewish population in Europe. However, the Holocaust meant that the 70,000 Jewish population was mostly wiped out. The students were privileged to meet a Holocaust survivor in person and hear her extraordinary story of her family's survival. Rena Rach was smuggled out of the Krakow ghetto and secretly taken in by a Catholic family for the rest of the war. Her father survived the war because he was one of Oscar Schindler's Jews. The visit culminated in a full day tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau.



Year 12 Biologists were practicing their investigative skills last week by trialling different methods of DNA extraction. They used three different methods and a range of fruit and vegetables to find out which was the best. Extracting DNA from strawberries was deemed the quickest and easiest method; kiwi yielded the greatest mass of DNA and onion was voted the smelliest!



Our Gold DofE participants in Year 12 recently completed a training weekend in Cynwyd, nr Corwen North Wales. The main focus of the weekend was first aid in the outdoors. They found that dealing with a casualty outside presented many different challenges than dealing with a first aid incident in a classroom. Thank you to Shane Leavesley for teaching the students how to deal with first aid incidents outside and helping prepare the students for their forthcoming expedition.





## The Harbour – Mr Hawke

This week in assembly, Year 8 and 9 students have observed safer internet day with an assembly on the dangers of sending, receiving, storing, or viewing inappropriately sexual messages exchanged through mobile phone chat apps, particularly where young people are involved. We have also celebrated success by recognising students with 100% attendance, and the highest numbers of "achievement awards" and "lesson grade 1s" since January. Finally, I would like to pay tribute to and thank the overwhelming majority of students who come into school every day, each week, and follow "The SJT Way" with pride and a calm, purposeful commitment. Under "The SJT Way", we ask that students are on time, in full uniform, aim for a lesson grade 1, treat each other, staff, and the site with respect, move around the site calmly and represent the school well in the community. Have a lovely half term!



As part of their Religious Education (RE) unit of work 'Food, Festivals and Faith', 8R took part in an act of 'selfless service' and made and served sandwiches as part of an experiential 'Sikh Langer' lesson in RE. The Sikh langer is a community kitchen found in gurdwaras (Sikh temples) where free meals are served to all visitors, regardless of their background or religion. It embodies the principles of equality, selfless service, and community spirit. In a traditional Langer Hall guests sit on the floor to show that all are equal, so 8R decided to do the same when enjoying the sandwiches made by their classmates!



## The Quay – Mrs Elms

Yesterday, Ms Chiverton-Stanway took twenty of our Year 10 students who are interested in a future career in construction to visit South Cheshire College Crewe Campus. They had a fantastic time exploring the campus and getting hands on with the construction simulator. The experience was both engaging and educational, giving our students a valuable insight into the industry. We truly appreciate the time and effort put into making the visit so enjoyable - our students learned a lot and left feeling inspired about making their choices post 16! We are looking forward to future opportunities to collaborate.

We have ended this half term with a busy week. Students in Year 10 and Year 11 have received an assembly about standards required for their mock examinations and the 1% marginal gains they can be making each day to make a difference towards their final grade. We ended the assembly with celebrating sporting and musical achievements, star students, students who have attended the most revision sessions and the next GCSEPod half term challenge.

Year 11 PE students went to Ellesmere College on Monday for their PE moderation day. They worked alongside students from the Marches School and took part in sports such as netball, badminton, rugby, football and even swimming. Students both performed and behaved exceptionally well throughout the day and were a credit to SJT.

The second set of mock examinations start on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February for Year 10 and 11 students, they have been provided with their timetable. Students are encouraged to use the pomodoro revision technique where they dedicate 25-minute sessions with no distractions on retrieving their knowledge. We recommend using flash cards, mind maps and quizzes for revision. GCSEPod, Educake, Seneca, Quizlet and Sparx are all good platforms to aid revision.

We are extremely proud of Lauren in Year 11 who has been nominated for an award at the Shropshire Schools Sports Association John Beswick International Awards Evening for her representation for England Golf. We wish her the best of luck!



## 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, in the school car park, or being out socially in their communities. Students are asked to be aware of the potential dangers when crossing the roads and not to be engaged on their phones.

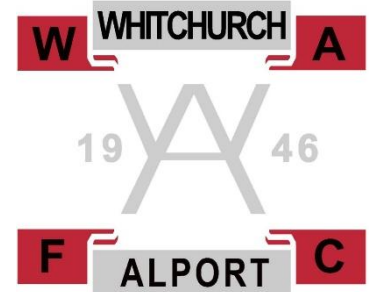
Please ensure that students cycling to school are wearing clothing that ensures they are seen to other road users. They **must** wear a helmet, and bikes should have lights. Students should not have headphones on whilst riding a bike, as this affects their ability to hear other road users. For more information on road safety and bikeability training, please click on the link here: [Road safety | Shropshire Council](#).



## Whitchurch Alport Opportunities

Whitchurch Alport Football Club are currently looking for coaches and a new management team for their U14s. If you have a love and passion for football, or you want to put your skills and knowledge to good use by helping run the current under 13's Football Team, then please contact [charliecrowhaw@aol.com](mailto:charliecrowhaw@aol.com).

Whitchurch Alport would also like to announce a new U14s team for the 2025/26 season. This is an exciting opportunity for any current U13 players. To register your interest, or for more information, please contact [charliecrowshaw@aol.com](mailto:charliecrowshaw@aol.com).



## Taylor Shaw Newsletter (School Caterers)

The Taylor Shaw February 2025 Edition Newsletter is here. To view this month's newsletter, please click here: [Taylor Shaw Newsletter – February 2025](#)

## Alderfest Discounted Tickets

Alderfest returns this year at Alderford Lake on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025. The fantastic family-friendly festival has an incredible lineup headlined by Ella Henderson and promises to be a weekend full of amazing live music, great food, and a brilliant community atmosphere. To help make this event more accessible for families, Alderford Lake are offering an exclusive 20% discount for families and staff. Please use the discount code SCHOOL20 at checkout on their website, to receive 20% off all tickets.



## Student Support Week 20 Focus: Respecting Diversity (Prejudicial Language)

Diversity is about embracing our unique identities. This is not only about what you can see on the outside but the core of who we are and what makes us unique. Diversity can encompass many things including gender identity, race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, disability, sexual orientation and race. Many of these are protected, which makes it illegal to discriminate against a person based on these characteristics (under the Equalities Act 2010).

Read the following [Safe4Me](#) article to find out more about 'diversity', the law and how to respond to discriminative and prejudice behaviour.

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.

## Our Curriculum

At SJT, our curriculum is at the heart of our school vision and built upon the foundations of our values: excellence, integrity, empathy, creativity, and equality. We encourage our students to have awareness of their journey of learning in each subject with learning journeys so they can navigate through the curriculum alongside their teachers. For more information, please click on the link here: [Our Curriculum - Sir John Talbot's](#)

## Taylor Shaw Catering Menu w/c 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- 14<sup>th</sup> February – Collaboration Day – school closed to students
- 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February – Spring Half Term
- 24<sup>th</sup> February – Professional Development Day – school closed to students
- W/c 25<sup>th</sup> February – Year 11 Second set Mock Exams week 1/2
- 27<sup>th</sup> February – Year 10 Keeping in Touch Evening
- W/c 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Year 11 Second set Mock Exams week 2/2

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

## NEWS

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

Why not also follow us on Facebook for a wealth of content, from student, staff, and school celebrations to competitions. [SirJohnTalbotsSchool](#)

To hear about news from across the Trust, click here [MarchesAcademyTrust](#).

