# ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS 

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

## LAST WEEK'S EVENTS

On Tuesday, 19 of our Year 11 students visited Our Lady and St Bede's School for a Philosophy and Ethics Conference, led by philosopher Peter Vardy. Students participated in two debates, the first on whether there is a moral obligation to breed human genetic excellent and the second on whether quality of life is more important that sanctity of life. The students were a real credit to themselves and to St John's, showing real engagement and confidence in sharing their thoughts in a debate with
 250 other students.

On Thursday, GCSE and A Level History students were lucky enough to be able to listen to a talk from Holocaust survivor, Ruth Posner BEM. Ruth's speech was both tragic and inspiring and helped us to truly commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, as well as extending students' knowledge and understanding of The Holocaust and genocide.

Also on Thursday, we held our first audition session for this year's school production, Addams Family the Musical. 75 students came along to sign-up to being part of this year's musical and learn the songs for next week's auditions. Any students who missed out on Thursday's session but would still like to audition should see Mrs Rose before Thursday.

Here at St John's, we pride ourselves on the exciting range of enrichment opportunities we offer our students, and it is wonderful to see them getting involved in so many this week. The Philosophy and Ethics Conference, auditions for this year's school production and the Holocaust Memorial talk all showcase the wealth of experiences available to our students, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff who go above and beyond to provide such opportunities to extend our students' learning beyond the classroom. With this in mind, we are delighted to launch our new initiative, 'I Heard a Whisper', which will allow us to celebrate those members of staff who go out of their way to help and support our students. Please see the flyer to see how you as parents can get involved.
2 Hcolal.Whar Has a member of staff at St John's gone above and beyond in their role or gone out of their way to help or support?

## Please email

iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk to notify us of the staff who you think deserve a special shout out and a sweet treat.
Each week we will share a selection and celebrate those members of staff.

## January / February

## COMING UP THIS WEEK صلص

Monday 30- Our next Pre-Loved Uniform Shop will be taking place in the Bistro from 3.15-5pm, with access to school via Sixth Form. A range of good condition uniform items will be available free of charge, available to any parents or carers of St John's students.

- Wednesday 1- Due to the publicised NEU teaching union strikes on this day, St John's will only be open to Year 7 students, Sixth Form students, and all students who are entitled to free school meals. Students will be following their normal timetabled lessons, where possible, with all classes supervised. Year 7 should be at their congregation area for 8.50am and then will be starting the day with an assembly in the Main Hall. Sixth Form students will gather in the Lecture Theatre for their assembly. Students, who are entitled to free school meals from Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 , will congregate in the Dining Room at 8.50am. All other students who are not in school will be doing remote learning at home, accessing online lessons where available. We thank you for your support with this.
- Thursday 2- Auditions for Addams Family the Musical will be taking place in the Main Hall from $3-4.30 \mathrm{pm}$. Students should see Mrs Rose if they did not sign up last week.

On Wednesday 22 March, the Performing Arts Faculty will be hosting its inaugural Performing Arts Competition. This is an opportunity for our students to showcase their talents and for us to celebrate excellence in Music, Drama and Dance. We would like to offer prize money for the top three performers on the evening and are looking for local companies to sponsor this. If you, or your company, would be willing to sponsor a prize for the competition, please get in touch with rbell@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk and, in return, your company logo or advert will be displayed in our programme. More details regarding the event and how students can be involved will follow shortly.


## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday 13 February- Year 9 Options Evening, 4-6pm. Details to follow
- Monday 20 February- Half Term. School reopens on Monday 27
- Monday 27 February- Year 11 mock exams begin
- Thursday 16 March- Year 7 Progress Eve
] Thursday 23 March- Year 11 Progress Eve
- Thursday 30 March- Year 10 Progress Eve
- Friday 31 March- Last Day of Term before Easter break (school reopens Monday 17)
$\square$ Thursday 27 April- Year 8 Progress Eve


## [] LRC BOOK OF THE WEEK

Holocaust Memorial Day
To mark Holocaust
Memorial Day and
the liberation of Auschwitz, here is a poignant booklist that should hopefully help explain and inform teenage readers about the events surrounding the Holocaust. https://www.booktrust.org.uk /booklists/h/
holocaust-memorial-day/

