

The Seagull



Issue 787 Friday 14th February 2025

Week beginning 24th February is Week 2

All Enquiries: 020 8270 6222
Email: headteacher@jorichardson.org.uk

Website: www.jorichardson.org.uk
X: @JRCS_School

HEADTEACHER'S NEWS

Gold Seagull Winners



Congratulations to Gold Seagull winner Mmachi (pictured above) in Year 10.

Hannah, Adam, Rahma, Ernis, Esther, Mehrin and Ashanti in Year 7 and Paul in Year 9 (pictured below).

Double Gold Seagull winner – Aiana in Year 8 (pictured below).



Zane Year 7 (pictured below) and Tilly Year 8.



Alessia, Chloe, Britta, Francesca, Maksym and Ardit Year 7 (pictured below).



Ramina, Davis and Veda in Year 7 and Dhayaan in Year 8 (pictured below).



Aizen, Olly, Ishaq, Yusuf, Habiba, Blessing, Diana and Destiny in Year (pictured below).

Double Gold Seagull winner Hannah in Year 7 (pictured below).



It is fantastic to see so many of our students achieving their Gold Seagulls this half term. It is so good to see so many students displaying the key character traits that we promote here at JRCS.

Our Year 11 and 13 students have shown real commitment to their learning. With less than 100 days to the exams, it is important that students have started their revision. This half term we have a number of revision workshops for Year 11 students. Please encourage your child to attend.

It was good to speak to so many Year 9 students and parents this week during Year 9 Progress Evening. I hope you found the evening informative. Students will hear about their option choices after the Easter break.

Shortly after half term Year 10 will have exams in their option subjects. These mock exams are important in helping students to prepare and practise for Year 11. Year 13 will also have a cycle of assessments in preparation for the A Level exams in the summer. Please ensure your child is revising at home in preparation for their exams.

We continue to hold high standards in all that we do at JRCS. Next half term we will be working with students around Respect. We will be considering the importance of how we speak to each other. We want to help students understand that positive body language and gestures create an atmosphere of trust, respect

and understanding. Great leaders and communicators can influence others just by simply standing up straight, smiling and making eye contact with those they speak to.

Visitors often comment on the positive and calm atmosphere here at JRCS. When they visit, they are amazed at how polite our students are, how they often greet staff and say hello or hold the door open for visitors and each other. We want to build on this and ensure that our younger students realise why this is important and how they can contribute by considering how they move around the building and how they respond to each other and staff. By doing this we hope to further develop the school's key character trait of "Value, care, for and respect each other". Please talk to your child about this and get them to reflect on what this looks like for them.

May I thank you for your continued support this half term and we look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 24th February at 8.30am.

Have a great half term!

Ms Keane
Headteacher

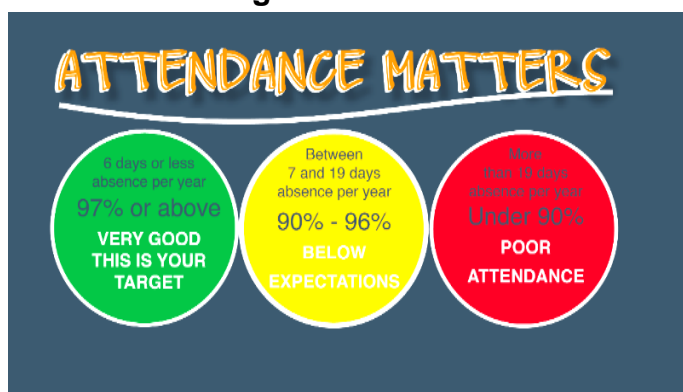
Cambridge success for JRCS former Head Students!

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Zubin, Summer and Theo (all from the class of 2023) on their offers to study at Cambridge University. Zubin is pictured below with the Prime Minister. It is great to see that we are developing leaders for the future here at JRCS!



Miss Draisey
Senior Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead

Students arriving late for School



This term we will be focused on punctuality and patterns of lateness.

We would like parents/carers to be aware that an authorised late will not be granted automatically because you have called in. We will review the reason and number of late marks your child has previously received, and the decision will be made by staff whether a detention is required.

A late mark will only become authorised on occasional circumstances. If you live far from school, like some of the staff, we expect students to leave home early enough to ensure they arrive in good time. Just daily traffic will not be perceived as a good reason for lateness. Maybe if you are close enough, encourage your child to walk with friends.

Ensuring that your child has uniform, lunches and books prepared the night before is good practice in preparing your child for their future life. Encouraging them to do these things for themselves is also very good for them and encourages them to take some responsibility for themselves.

Arriving late and on a bad note is not good for the remainder of the school day and will possibly impact learning.

We continuously strive to bring out the best in our students and value your continued support.

Mrs O'Keefe
Student Services Manager
Attendance Manager / DDSL

Week Commencing	Week No
24 February 2025	2
03 March 2025	1
10 March 2025	2
17 March 2025	1
24 March 2025	2
31 March 2025	1
21 April 2025	2
28 April 2025	1
05 May 2025	2
12 May 2025	1
19 May 2025	2
02 June 2025	1
09 June 2025	2
16 June 2025	1
23 June 2025	2
30 June 2025	1
07 July 2025	2
14 July 2025	1

Textiles Club



I would like to start by thanking the students who every week come down to DT and give 100% on what they do; your commitment and dedication are impressive and very inspiring.

Over the term we had a few new starters and it has been wonderful to see the girls supporting each other, demonstrating resilience and resourcefulness, sharing tips and ideas. I am extremely proud of all textiles students; they all aspire to be their best and engage with the opportunities and challenges new techniques may bring, and it's lovely to see how confident and resilient they all have become.

Miss Mir
Teacher of Design Technology

BTEC Business Students Host a Successful Winter Celebration

The Sixth Form BTEC Business students truly outdid themselves in December with two exciting events that brought the school together in the spirit of the holiday season. With hard work, creativity, and teamwork, they planned and hosted the Frosty Festivity Winter Fair and the Midnight Blizzard Disco, both of which were a huge hit among students of all ages.

Frosty Festivity Winter Fair



Keane's Canopy was transformed into a winter wonderland for the Frosty Festivity, a magical winter fair filled with festive stalls and fun activities. The BTEC Business students took charge of organising the entire event, which included a variety of stalls offering delicious treats like hot chocolate and baked goods to craft items, all perfect for the holiday season.

Midnight Blizzard Disco



On Monday 16th December, the Year 12 BTEC Business students once again showed their event-planning prowess by hosting the Midnight Blizzard Disco for students in Years 7 and 8. The theme was inspired by the magic of dark winter nights and snowflakes. The Year 7 and 8 students came dressed to impress, sporting their coolest party outfits. The Midnight Blizzard was a fantastic chance for younger students to socialise and celebrate the festive season with their peers.

A Job Well Done

The Frosty Fevity and Midnight Blizzard events have truly showcased the dedication and leadership skills of the Year 12 BTEC students. They were not only successful in bringing festive joy to the school community, but also demonstrated the practical skills they've been learning in their course, from event planning to teamwork and communication. A huge thank you to the BTEC Business students for their hard work and for making this holiday season a little bit brighter for everyone!

Miss St Hill-Duhaney and Team Business

Careers Fair



In January our whole school careers fair was a resounding success! We were fortunate to have a diverse range of exhibitors, including representatives from the NHS, the BBC, the Army, KPMG, Escape Studios, and Brunel University.



Students had the opportunity to engage with professionals from various sectors, gain insights into different career paths, and ask questions about their experiences. The fair provided valuable guidance for students considering their future options, from university applications and apprenticeships to

exploring the exciting possibilities within the creative industries and public service.

The fair also provided a relaxed and informative environment for younger students to explore different sectors and begin to understand the vast array of career paths available to them. This early exposure, particularly for Year 7, 8 and 9, sparked curiosity and broadened their horizons, encouraging them to think about their future aspirations at an early stage.



Ms Vincent
Careers & Pathways Coordinator

'When the Adults Change' - Paul Dix

Paul Dix is the celebrated author of an inspiring book that explores the challenges of supporting teenagers to thrive. Many of us at JRCS have read and enjoyed his thoughts on school systems and trust in his approach to develop whole students. He has started a 'Book Club' which is also for parents/carers alongside education staff to discuss the challenges parents may face with their ever-changing teens!

See here for links to more great events like this:
[EVENTS | WhenTheAdultsChange](#)

Ms Draisey
Senior Mental Health & Wellbeing Lead

New Engineering Club Launching After Half-Term!

We are excited to announce the launch of our brand-new Engineering Club, starting after half-term!

This fantastic after-school club is open to students in Years 7, 8, and 9 who have a keen interest in design, problem-solving, and hands-on engineering. The club will run every Thursday afternoon in the DT Department, offering an exciting opportunity to develop practical skills in engineering, design, and construction.

Students will take part in exciting projects, including building bridges, creating mechanical prototypes, and using CAD software to bring their designs to life. This is a brilliant chance to explore real-world engineering challenges, enhance teamwork and problem-solving skills, and have fun while learning!

Spaces are limited to just fifteen students, so make sure you sign up quickly to secure your place.

For more information or to sign up, please visit the DT Department or speak to Mr Goualin or Ms Sanches.

Ms Sanches
Teacher of DT

Cross Country Championships

In February we took twenty three JRCS students to Pages Wood to compete in the Borough Cross Country Championships.

The Year 7 girls were up first with a great effort from all six girls, special mention to Emilia for claiming 2nd placet.

The Year 7 boys went off next on the 2.5k trail, Nathan came through in a solid 4th position and the other boys were not far behind. A great effort from all the Year 7s in their first competition.

The Year 8/9 girls shortly followed the Year 7's, a valiant effort from all five girls who truly showed resilience in their race with Charlotte taking 2nd and Atene not far behind in 4th pride of place however congratulations must go to Teddy who took centre stage in the Year 8/9 boys race, he ran an incredible race and left the rest of the field a good 1 minute behind him, fantastic work Teddy! Paul came in 2nd place with Tomas, Mario and Chidubem not too far behind.

Well Done to all twenty three students a fantastic showcase of JRCS sport.

Miss Menear
Teacher of PE

Children's Mental Health Week & Time 2 Talk 2025

The week beginning 3rd February was Children's Mental Health Week, a time to reflect on the wellbeing of all young people, sponsored by Place2Be. To mark the week students took part in a tutor time session or assembly on this year's theme: Know yourself, Grow yourself. The theme is all about knowing ourselves so that we can recognise the parts we need to grow and develop. We are always learning.

Thursday 6th February was Time 2 Talk Day and in classic JRCS style we asked staff to take part in The JRCS Bake Off. Staff were asked to bake a showstopper cake and bring it in to be judged by our own Mary Berry (Ms Keane). Our winner was Ms Hillsden with her Shout UK (the chosen charity this year) cake, followed by Ms Coulson-West with her perfectly presented giant cupcake!

A huge thank you to Ms Ali, Ms Mahmed and Ms Tang who also created beautiful bakes for all to enjoy!

Here are some photos from the event!



Ms Draisey
Senior Mental Health Lead

“Check (it out).... advancing to Check-Mate!”

JRCS Grand-Master Chess Tournament has been playing out the rounds for the last two weeks and we are getting down to the last eight players. It is still anyone's guess who might be crowned “JRCS Grand-Master 2025”.

Twenty games of competitive chess have already been played out with representatives of all year groups involved. Competitors of all experiences have put their best Pawns forward and strategised to get to the next round.

This week has been intense with three draws going to replay – and one of them still at stalemate..... will it come down to the toss of a coin!!!

Games after half-term will see the Quarter-finals commence and lead to the final. Who will be castled and who will be the last King standing???

Our Quarter-finalists:
Matas D (Yr12) v Harry (Yr10)
Joel (Yr13) v Matas S (Yr12)

Adam (Yr9) v Noah (Yr10)
Wa Kwan (Yr12) v Armandas (Yr13)

Tune in for the next instalment of the “Queen's Gambit of JRCS”

Miss Campbell
Tournament Organiser

Library News

Gift A Book

Thank you to all the members of staff who wrapped up a copy of their favourite book and put it under the Christmas tree in the library.



Hard working students were chosen by members of staff to receive the gifts.

Read for Good

Many thanks to the students in Years 7 & 8 who raised £100 for the charity Read for Good by participating in a Readathon and raising money.

Read for Good is a charity that motivates children to read for pleasure and raises money to buy books for children who are in hospital for a long period of time.

Well done to Michael, Victor, Melissa, Oakley, Catarina, Maksym, Kuba, Kaylee and Eve.

World Book Day Thursday 6th March

WBD is fast approaching. Students will be encouraged to participate in a number of events including working alongside a published author.

Miss Sumsion

Librarian and Reading Champion • English

“Monjola’s Insights”

Why is the condition of the healthcare industry of the most powerful country in the world, currently a cause for concern?



Importantly, as citizens of one its closest allies, we should keep a watchful eye on the condition of US politics. For one, this is major to be able to anticipate any ripple effects that their politics and current affairs may have on Britain, but also it is invaluable to have

a rounded understanding of key policy areas across the globe. In this article, I would like to draw focus onto the state of the healthcare system in arguably the most powerful country in the world, simply because it seems to be functioning amid a wave of some of the most alarming opposition.

The healthcare insurance industry is frequently recognised as a loathed actuality of American life, so the public’s celebratory attitude to the death of a front runner in the business seemed shocking yet coherent with the unpleasantness connecting Americans with their healthcare system. The branded “brazen and targeted” shooting of UnitedHealthcare CEO, Brian Thompson, took place on 4th December 2024, as the health insurance executive was journeying to an investor day conference hosted by his company in Manhattan. The current suspect (apprehended amidst a manhunt) is a former Ivy League student and valedictorian and thought to be anti-capitalist; having exerted violence in opposition to the healthcare industry. The unconfirmed conclusions of the targeted nature of the Thompson shooting, have been furthered by the discovery of marked shell casings at the crime scene, depicting the words “deny”, “depose”, and “defend”. The words on the casings have been interpreted to reference ways of the health insurance companies to avoid paying patient claims. Such speculation is complicit in shaping our understanding of a more complete picture of this unofficial political violence, and its role in what is currently happening in the United States.

Online response to the shooting was formed of conflicting emotional discourse and comments, signposting clear, longstanding disparities in the absence of the America’s non universal healthcare. Many politicians and industry officials expressed their disturbance and concern for Thompson’s death. Minnesota leaders were among those who expressed great shock and sympathy in respect of the fatality, including Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey who posted that Thompson was “a great man”, and Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar, calling it a “horrifying act of violence.”. President of AHIP, an insurance organisation, regarded the victim as a “refreshingly candid colleague and leader”.

Such reactions however were not synonymous with online claims of harrowing circumstances created by healthcare insurance firms, one being, “Can’t find the room to care over my daughter’s \$60,000 cancer treatment.” Thoughts and prayers.”, These posts shared the same attitude as commenters of jokes playing on the phrase, “thoughts and prayers” and instead creating “thoughts and prior authorisations” – mocking the amount of claims rejected by UnitedHealthcare and other insurance companies. Despite UnitedHealth Group disclosing that they had received several supportive messages from “patients, consumers, healthcare professionals and government officials”, many of the online personal anger included that of UnitedHealthcare customers and insurance service consumers. Also present in the online discussion were bold expressions of no pity, and even celebration in the wake of the shooting.

The variety of posts evidences the imbalances in the healthcare system, while also highlighting a fully developed frustration for this in the mass. Such intense emotion has manifested into an environment where severe violence is not shocking, accepted and potentially even championed if it contributes to the breakdown of or damage to the healthcare insurance sector. Allowing us to only imagine the extent of the industry’s impact on ordinary people to warrant such unrelenting bitterness; and consider all the potential situations that resulted from it which were not described to us in social media posts. Klein Investigations company leader, Philip Klein explained that “There is a lot of anger in the US right now, companies need to wake up and realise that their executives could be hunted down anywhere.” This acknowledgment surely underlines the violent effort to tackle corporate greed among the American public, and the very real threat to corporate leaders as well as insurers, pharma, and hospitals. This is a notable era of American violence and its place in the commercial sector. I now question will such public anger towards capitalist-based systems be maintained in the US, and remain only there?

Monjola

To find out how we process your personal data, visit the following link: [Privacy Notice for Parents and Pupils](#)



Gym Closed For Refurbishment

17th February 2025 until 24th February 2025



Speak to a member of the team today for more details

Tel: 0208 7241500

Email: enquiries@castle-green.org.uk

Web: www.castle-green.org.uk


Castle
Green


THE JO RICHARDSON
SUCCESS FOR ALL
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
ACHIEVE