

# Newsletter

Summer Term 2023 | **Issue 4**



**Headteacher: Mike Yerosimou**



[www.eppingstjohnsschool.org](http://www.eppingstjohnsschool.org)  
[@EppingStJohns](https://twitter.com/EppingStJohns)

### Welcome from the Headteacher: Michael Yerosimou

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Summer Term Newsletter. I can say, hand on heart, that these just keep getting better. The opportunities available to our students; the diligence, resilience and integrity they demonstrate, as well as the dedication of our wonderful staff body is truly humbling.

We look forward to our results days for A-Level and GCSE students in August- but now, I think, is time to reflect on another successful year.

Thank you, as always, for your unwavering support. We simply couldn't do this without you.

Have a wonderful, well-deserved summer break.

Mike Yerosimou, Headteacher



### A Message from our School Governing Body

As we approach the holiday season, I would like to wish you all a well-deserved break with the opportunity for fun, relaxation and rest. Our students have worked very hard this academic year and our Year 11 and 13s have conducted themselves with diligence and maturity throughout the exam season. We hope they all receive the outcomes they are hoping for and look forward to hearing these results later in the summer.

There have been numerous opportunities this academic year for students to showcase themselves, and Epping St. John's School, within the wider community. Local Governing Board Members have supported a number of these events and we are extremely proud of the talent that runs through our school. We are especially delighted when ESJ students are brought together with local Primary School children, be that through Eco-Club; Sporting events; Open and Transition Days or Music Recitals in St. John's Church. We witness first-hand how warm and mature they are with their younger peers. It should never be under-estimated how helpful these occasions can be to Primary school-age children to help them feel less anxious and more comfortable about their transition to the "the big school". So, if your child has played a part at one of these events, please congratulate them on representing themselves and ESJ so well.

We look forward to welcoming you all back in September. If your child is in the lower school, please encourage them to be curious about the enrichment curriculum and find new interests and talents they may not even know they have yet. If your child is returning to start their exam years, please inspire them to return with energy and ambition. This will be a demanding but exciting time for them as they enter their next stage towards young adulthood.

Have a lovely summer!

Mary Burges,  
Chair, Local Governing Board  
Epping St Johns Church of England School.

## Contents

Through the Years.....	p.4-p.6
Whole School News.....	p.7-p.12
A Snippet of Key Stage 3 Learning.....	p.13-p.15
PE Extra-Curricular News and Celebrations.....	p.16-p.18
Bringing Learning to Life.....	p.19-p.21
Learning Away from Home.....	p.22-p.25
Everything ESJ Sixth Form.....	p.26-p.30
ESJ in the Community.....	p.31
Jack Petchey Nominations.....	p.32
Staff Star and Alumni.....	p.33



# Through the Years

## Key Stage 3

### Year 7

This last year has flown by! It feels like it was only yesterday that our Year 7s were sat in the main hall, with their oversized blazers, full of nervous excitement ready to begin their secondary school journey. Our Year 7s have grown to become such an important part of our school.

Despite the nerves, our students have adapted and embraced secondary school. It is amazing to see new friendships forged and old ones strengthened among the students. The Year 7s well and truly immersed themselves into life at secondary school, tackled any problems they have faced and shown dedication and enthusiasm. As Head of Year, I couldn't be prouder of everything that the students have accomplished in their first year at secondary school and cannot wait to see how the students grow and adapt to secondary school even further.



***Miss. Petrou (Head of Year 7)***

### Year 8

Our Year 8 students have continued to grow over this last year. It has been an absolute pleasure to watch these amazing students evolve and mature into the most wonderful young people. Life as a 13-year-old can present many challenges but I am so proud of the way students have faced adversity, tackled issues and become resilient. The potential in this

group never ceases to amaze me! It has been a joy to serve as their Head of Year for the past two years and I look forward watching them as they advance in their secondary school journey.

***Miss Petrou (Head of Year 8)***

### Year 9

Year 9, What a year! Option subjects are chosen and we are fast approaching that year 10 September start. I have every faith in you to do well and continue your journey in KS4 with the motivation and focus you have shown this year.

As you are aware, you have a new HOY moving into year 10, Mr Reeves who is very excited to have you! I am still around so please do take the time to keep me updated in your progress and the year group gossip! Year 9 you have been an amazing year group, all the best on your year 10 journey thank you for having me!

***Mrs. Parr (Head of Year 9)***





## Key Stage 4

### Year 10

Your first taster of GCSE mock exams completed! I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on how you coped during the time. You followed instructions and tackled them with maturity, which shows you're ready for the next chapter.

On Monday 10th July, you will all be immersed in the world of work with your work experience placement, which will give you an insight to possible career paths and the working world. Use this time as a motivational experience and to support your choices in further education.

Take some well-earned rest over the Summer break and hit the ground running in September. The biggest advice I can give you is preparation. Revision timetables are invaluable; creating a routine for revision time throughout the week will support your progress and achievements. Aspiration sessions have already started for you and in year 11, you need to start thinking you are on a period 4 day!

We're in this together year 10, I'm excited for September!

***Mrs. Parr (Head of Year 10)***

### Year 11

It has been one of the busiest last terms that I have been involved in, but one that won't be forgotten anytime soon. Our entire Year 11 cohort have worked tirelessly for 5 years in the build up to what was probably the most draining experience of their lives and they handled it immensely. Their attitude running up to the GCSE exams was testament to how amazing this group of students are, and the way in which they conducted themselves before and during the exams was a credit to all involved. I was informed by one of the chief invigilators after the final exam that this group were by far the best behaved, well-mannered and focused group they have had the pleasure to invigilate. I couldn't have agreed more.

Part one of farewells, so longs and see you next years began on a glorious Friday morning in the Year 11 Leavers' Assembly. This was a perfect opportunity to give our wonderful Year 11s the send-off they fully deserved and one last time to share memories, a few tears and celebrate awards. Whilst it was an emotional time for both staff and students, it couldn't have gone any better and the decorations, music and photo montage created the perfect atmosphere.





Part two was undoubtedly one of the proudest moments of my Head of Year career, Year 11 Prom. It was held at Blake's Golf Club and not even the weather was able to dampen the mood, celebration, joy or occasion. To see our Year 11s arrive with friends and family (and in some rather elaborate vehicles) brought the biggest smile to all staff who attended. The evening was brilliant, and was a perfect way to finalise 5 exceptional years and one I will never forget. Thank you, Year 11.



**Mr. Croft (Head of Year 11)**



# Whole School News

## Transition Evening

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June, we welcomed future students and parents/carers into the Main Hall, once again, for Transition Evening.

Lots of information was shared by Mr. Yerosimou, Miss. Petrou and Ms. Horner about expectations for September.

Future year 7 students also got to meet their wonderful form tutors, other members of their tutor group, and to learn more about the daily routines and expectations for a successful journey at Epping St. John's.



The stars of the show were our two year 7 students, Eros and Lottie, who spoke articulately and confidently about their first year as an Epping St. John's student.

We look forward to welcoming our new year 7 cohort on September 5<sup>th</sup> 2023.

**Ms. Horner (Assistant Headteacher: Personal Development)**

**Transition Preparation and Transition Day**  
After National Offer Day on Wednesday 1st March we are pleased that, yet again, Epping St. John's has a full cohort for September 2023 with a huge waiting list.

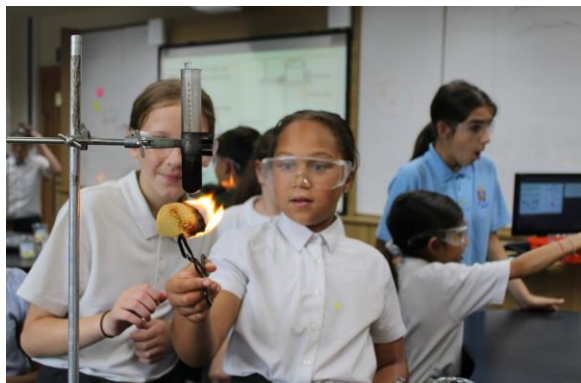
ESJ is a school which has become highly sought after; parents and students are fighting to get in! This is a far cry from a few short years ago.

Ms. Petrou and Ms. Horner have had the pleasure of visiting or speaking with a number of primary schools over the last few months to meet students, watch the students in action and gain all of the vital information we need to make their transition to secondary school a success. Our newest members of ESJ also joined us for Transition Day on June 30<sup>th</sup> where we were able to give new students a feel for what our school is all about. Students were fully immersed into ESJ lessons in Science, DT, Performing Arts and, of course, this culminated in a sporting extravaganza. Students also got to taste an ESJ lunch (chicken pops and fries), which went down a storm!



We will also be running our Summer School on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August, to help students really familiarise themselves with the school building, as well as to meet more staff and make new friends.

As well as our incoming Year 7s, we also welcomed Year 5 students from local schools to experience life at secondary school before embarking on their own transition programme next year. Students spent the day at ESJ and were able to participate in English, Maths, Science, Performing Arts, Languages, History, DT and Geography lessons before taking part in a PE tournament at the end of the day. We are excited to continue our visits to primary schools in the next academic year and to welcome students from primary schools to ESJ.



***Ms. Petrou (Head of Year 7&8) and Ms. Horner (Assistant Headteacher: Personal Development)***

### **A Real-Life Tempest during 'The Tempest'**

After our Christmas show had been 'snowed off' and a visit to see The Play that Goes Wrong' in the West End, were we tempting fate with our open-air production of Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'... surely not? Well after several weeks of rehearsing in the blazing sun, the heavens opened on the first night and the cast were indeed all set to perform in what was the start of a real tempest! However, after the opening scene



of a ship caught in a raging storm, the wet weather in Epping deceased (as if by cue), the sun shone, and by the curtain call a rainbow had even adorned the skyline.



There were notable performances from all ages with commanding performances by our older students in the sixth form; scene stealing laughs from our younger pupils (and newest recruits) to song and movement sequences by the ensemble. Eye catching costumes and a specially constructed set completed our 'best production yet' according to several staff who congratulated the cast and crew at the end of our first night.





The sun decided to make a welcome return for Friday's final night. It was great to see the hard work of all concerned come together in such a unique setting.



Thanks to all those involved or to those who helped out in anyway. Do speak to myself or Mr Johns (Head of Performing Arts) if you would like to be involved in the next production.



On another note, if you are having a clear out this summer and have unusual clothes or props you think would be suitable for our drama students, do contact the school!

**Mr. Hall (Drama Teacher)**

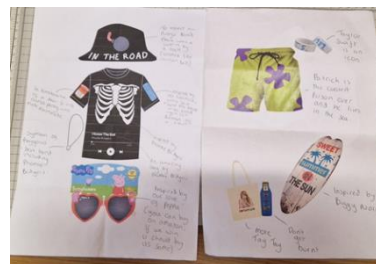
### ESJ House Competitions

As you may well know, in serving our local community, we made the decision to name our 6 houses after important figures who also served our community. Each of our houses is named for a hero from our local

community, who put service above self: Adams, Barker, Hurley, Joyce, Sparks and

Students compete in a range of sporting and other activities, representing these important contributors in our local community. House points are awarded for attendance each week as well as performance in the competitions.

It's been another busy term for the House Competitions as all Houses are battling for the title. As well as the weekly attendance points, there has been a T shirt design competition that produced some excellent designs



Mr Fitten  
@FittenMr  
@EppingStJohns Couldn't leave out this brilliant entry from Yogi in yr 7 Adams who actually made me a t-shirt to wear on my hols!!!!  
#Esjnexttopdesigner



In terms of points for Summer 2, it is close between Hurley and Joyce for the termly cup.

House Points	
ADAMS	610
BARKER	750
HURLEY	930
JOYCE	950
SPARKS	850
WRIGHT	630

For the overall year competition, it looks like Blue ribbons on the cup as Barker have a sizeable lead heading into the last week.

Year to date	Total
ADAMS	4921
BARKER	6104
HURLEY	5115
JOYCE	4843
SPARKS	5231
WRIGHT	5481

**Mr. Fitten (House Competition Co-Ordinator)**

### Eco Conference @ St John's Church

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April the ESJ Eco Team hosted an Earth Day event at St. John's Church. During the course of the day our students met around 160 students from five local primary schools and ran a series of activities and presentations, educating the visiting primary pupils on their local and global environment. The aim of this event was to celebrate our planet and to encourage reflection in the young people of this district on the actions they can take to help protect the planet.

Stations included presentations on the history of the Earth, the plant and wildlife of Epping Forest, the problems our planet faces (pollution, climate change, plastics etc.), and an open discussion about actions



the young people of Epping can take to make a difference.

It was a hugely successful day where the young people of Epping came together to inspire each other to be the change-makers of tomorrow.



Reverend Olivia Maxfield-Coote told us afterwards that ESJ students "displayed a wealth of knowledge which they shared in a confident and engaging way. They worked very hard and were a joy to host."

**Mr. Johns (Eco-Team Lead)**

### Music Recital @ St. John's Church

On the 27th of June, select students that had been participating in musical clubs, attended St John's Church to share music with St. Andrew's and North Weald primary schools.

All three schools sent choirs, and ESJ also had a variety of musicians on display. This lunchtime recital was a lovely, relaxed event for our students to showcase their talents

and share the beauty of music with those following in their footsteps.



**Mr. Johns (Head of Performing Arts)**

### Summer FunFest

On Thursday 6th July we hosted our annual ESJ Summer FunFest.

As a reward for the diligence, resilience and integrity shown this year, we organised free inflatables for students to enjoy with their peers, including a bouncy castle, a huge assault course and a gladiator style competition!



Additionally, Year 12 Business students, supported by Ms. Mahmood, organised stalls such as glitter face painting, build your own waffle dessert and the most popular, Sponge the Teacher (shout out to Mr. Sandhu, Mr. Omilli and Miss. Hennessy for being brave enough!).

It was a lovely day for staff and students to come together to celebrate another successful year.

**Ms. Clarke (Assistant Headteacher: Quality of Education KS3/4)**

### The Coronation of King Charles III

On the week leading up to the King's Coronation, form tutors led a range of different activities in form time for students on all aspects of this historic event.

Students learned about all the official stages of the coronation ceremony and what would happen to crown the King. They took a closer look at the King's Coronation official logo and what all the individual parts of the design represented.



On Friday 5th of May, students took part in a special assembly led by Rev. Batson, live from St. John's Church via TEAMs.

Students also celebrated the Coronation by devouring some special yummy treats and themed food provided by the school canteen. The chocolate cup cakes with a chocolate crown were a particular favourite!

**Ms. Montgomery (Assistant Headteacher: Pastoral and Safeguarding)**



## Student Leadership Team 2023-2024

We are proud to announce our newly appointed 2023-2024 Student Leadership members! We wish the best of luck to our student leaders as they take on their new roles in the ESJ community! We look forward to our new Year and Form Reps being appointed next term to join this wonderful team.

Head Students	Deputy Head Students
Kieren Smith	Holly Wooton
Sophia Marie	Tyrron Elliott-Smith
Heads of Student Council	Deputy Head of Student Council
Erin Cooney	Lottie Bateman
Lara Wheeler	Keira Marie
Keira Hearn	Tom Padian
Heads of Teaching and Learning	Deputy Heads of Teaching and Learning
Kyle Robertson	Alex Aronica
Sophie Adley	Caitlin Kelly
Sophie Gallagher	
Heads of Wellbeing	Deputy Heads of Wellbeing
Chloe Gillon	Lily Beecroft
Chloe Middleton-Brown	Jasmine Adigun
Jessica Walsh	Sam Foster
Heads of Enrichment	Deputy Heads of Enrichment
Jay Smith	Isabelle Lavery
Tiffany Page	Amelie Hunt
India Woods	Jess Dawson
Heads of Speakers Programme and Christian Ethos	Heads of Community & Environment
Emily Bonfield	Maria Yordanova
Sophie Radcliffe	Molly Rose King

HEADS OF YEAR	
<b>Year 7</b>	Isadora Adams
Holly Edwards/Chrisner Josian	Ruby Knowles
<b>Year 8</b>	Ella Gosling
India Woods	Mia Brine
	Vida Dosti
<b>Year 9</b>	Billy Warner
Adam Schlanker	Kara Cox
<b>Year 10</b>	Shauna McMahon
Tiffany Page	Billy Hair
	Mia Brine

**Mrs. Christofi (Deputy Headteacher)**

## Careers Week

The week before work experience saw the Year 10s taking part in numerous careers-based activities. This kicked off on the Tuesday with employability skills activities run by our teachers. This involved problem solving, communication and team building sessions. Wednesday saw external providers delivering sessions on post-16 options such as T-Levels, vocational courses at college, the importance of work-life balance with a kick boxing session and apprenticeships. On Thursday, students produced a CV ready for future use as well as listening to incredible speakers such as a forensic firearms officer from the

Metropolitan Police, a BBC TV and film producer and a local construction company who advised students on routes into their industries. Alongside this we had 6 external people who gave the year 10 students mock interview opportunities.

Finally, on Friday we had Mr Beezy, a motivational speaker, who delivered an assembly and workshops with smaller groups of students. The students enjoyed the week's activities and many of the staff too.



If any parents/carers could support with promoting careers to our Key Stage 4 and 5 students, please do contact me:

[madden@bmatesj.org.uk](mailto:madden@bmatesj.org.uk)

**Mrs. Madden (Head of Year 13 and Careers Lead)**

# A Snippet of KS3 Curriculum

**Each term, we will provide an insight into the KS3 curriculum for a range of subjects**

## **Performing Arts**

In music lessons this term, students continued to develop their keyboard skills, while also learning about the elements of music, chords and chord progressions, the Blues, Holst's Planet Suite and some basic composition. Some classes also explored African drumming and digital music production.

In year 7 drama, students experimented with performing Shakespeare, which supported them to access 'The Tempest' in English and links to their study of 'Macbeth' next year. Year 8 drama students looked at some basic dance skills and then applied these to the development of physical theatre sequences. In year 9, students continued to hone their dramatic performance and analytical skills in readiness for some of them to progress into GCSE Drama next year.

We are happy to share that performing arts lessons will increase next academic year so that years 7-9 will have one lesson of either music or drama every week, effectively doubling their contact time with the subject.

We are thrilled to offer the children of our community increased exposure to the arts, which is vital for the development of empathetic and creative young people.

The Community Music Centre that has started at ESJ this term will also continue next year, giving our students access to affordable music tuition to learn piano, singing, guitar or drums. We will be offering a scholarship of one-term of free access to

these lessons to our new year 7s through a generous donation from Epping Rotary

## ***Mr Johns (Head of Performing Arts)***

## **Science**

In year seven, we have been considering eating and heating! Over the summer term year sevens have started with chemistry and have been looking at how solids, liquids and gases behave in different states. Students have been putting their investigative skills to the test in observing what happens to the three states under different temperatures. In biology, they have deepened their knowledge on ecology; looking at how animals in different food chains interact and how we as humans can limit our interference to our biodiversity.

In year eight, the order for the term has been bread, rocks and space! Starting in biology looking at how unicellular organisms such as bacteria and fungi are used in food production, students had to draw on their knowledge of microscopes in year seven to really appreciate how the advancements in microscopy have prompted these scientific discoveries. Following on from this we had a look at different types of rocks, the role of magma in forming them, and how they are used in building. Finally, we ventured into space to examine how our solar system fits together, how celestial bodies move and interact, and how forces that they learnt in year seven can explain these interactions. The study of space culminated in a fun outdoor rocket experiment, where students had to create enough pressure in a water bottle to launch it into 'space'.



In year nine, the focus was drugs, mixtures and electrocution! Students were treated to an electrifying series of lessons on static and current electricity, with topics to stretch their imagination such as explaining how solar-powered electromagnets are used in extra-terrestrial travel. From here, back to earth with medicines. Students revisited topics of health from year eight by examining different ways of treating and preventing diseases, from definitive methods such as drugs and vaccines to more abstract methods like the placebo effect. Finally, we finished the year strong by putting students through a series of separation techniques designed to reinforce the practical skills they will find so essential in GCSE.

***Mr. Ivermee (Key Stage 3 Co-ordinator Science)***

**RE**

In year 7 this term, we studied: Hinduism. This scheme of work was an exciting and fascinating journey that explored the rich history and mythology of Hinduism. Through the study of Hindu Gods, including the Trimurti, and Hindu Mythology, including the epic story of Rama and Sita,

students were able to gain a deeper understanding of the complex beliefs and practices of this ancient religion. The scheme also explored the 4 Ashramas, or stages of life, and how they relate to Hindu spirituality and philosophy. By the end of the scheme, students were able to have a deep appreciation for the beauty and complexity of Hinduism, and a greater understanding of the role of religion in shaping our ideas about the world and our place in it.

In Year 8, we studied: Understanding Racism. This scheme of work was an thought-provoking journey that explored the complex issues of prejudice, discrimination, and equality. Through the inspiring stories of Christians and Muslims who have fought for equality, such as Stormzy, Martin Luther King, Malcom X, and Prophet Muhammad, students learned about the power of activism and how it made a real difference in the world. The lessons encouraged critical thinking and debates, as students grappled with the difficult questions surrounding the representation of good and bad people in history. By the end of the scheme, students had a deeper understanding of the impact of racism and discrimination, and were equipped with the tools to make a positive change in their own lives and communities.

In year 9, we studied: Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice. This was another exciting and thought-provoking journey that explored the complex issues of human rights, equality, gender, discrimination, and positive discrimination. Through the study of Christian and Muslim views on these themes, students developed a deeper understanding of the role of religion in shaping our ideas about social justice. The scheme encouraged critical thinking and debate, as students discussed difficult questions surrounding issues such as the



Illegal Migration Act in the UK, and the transformation of British law. We also explored the place of gender equality and debates around the implications of positive discrimination. By the end of the scheme, students had the chance to explore their own views on such complex issues; practiced verbal and written skills in debating; and felt inspired to be future advocates of positive change in society.

***Miss. Zare (Head of RE and Christian Ethos)***

### **History**

This term, year 7 students have reflected on power and how it changed over the Medieval era due to events such as Plague and the changing role of the monarchy and Parliament.

In addition, students have considered social issues and the impact of religion. It is important to consider how England developed as a nation and consider reasons why we were not always 'living well together'. This refers both to health as well as how we related to other countries.

Over this term, year 8 have focused on social and industrial change in relation to the Industrial Revolution, both the causes and processes that brought this about, as well as the consequences.

Topics that have linked directly to this that students also studied are the Enlightenment and Slavery. These are a key part of British History and enable students to understand the negative aspects of British History as well as the positive. This is important as it enables students to consider the rights of all people and the equality that we should continue to fight for, for all people in society.

It has been a packed term for y9. The theme for this term has been Globalisation. To enable students to reflect on this, we have studied USA and the world in the 1920s, what led to, and the impact of, the Great Depression and its role in world conflict.

In addition, we consider the consequences of WW2 by reviewing The Cold War; role of a Superpower, causes and issues of the Cold War; as well as the impact of personalities involved.

Students have built on this and its role in creating tension in the Middle East; the creation of Israel, growth of Palestinian resistance/terrorism and other Arab states.

I think it is safe to say, our key stage 3 students have been given a thorough lesson in why studying the past can have such an impact on our future!

***Ms. Wheelhouse (Head of History)***

# PE Extra-Curricular News and Celebrations

## Football District Champions!

Our truly talented Year 7 girls kicked off this term with a win for the District Football competition, crowning them Champions for West Essex! We are extremely proud of the girls and cannot wait to see where they go in the future!



## Panathlon

This term we have had two Panathlon events: Bowling and Multi-skills.



The Tenpin Bowling was super exciting for our students, who went to the Romford Funscape. The event consisted of 1 game of bowling, with points awarded for both the team and the individuals themselves, who looked to score strikes, gain as many points as possible and also perform any trick shots – we certainly saw a good few spin-balls!



The Multi-skills event was also great fun. Our hearts were warmed as we watched our students perform and could see the improvement in their physical ability compared to the start of the year. Activities for this event included target throwing, curling, standing long-jump and bowling. The team came 2nd, so a huge congratulations to them!



## Sports Leaders

Our Superstar Sports Leaders have been really busy this term, firstly with an athletics festival here at ESJ for Key Stage 2 Students.



Each sports leader delivered an activity, such as relay, long-jump, javelin and hurdles. They then took part themselves in a relay, which all thoroughly enjoyed!

For the first time since COVID, students were also taken to Epping Primary to deliver their 3 Tees Cricket event to both Year 1s and 2s.



It was so lovely to see the caring nature of the sports leaders and this was one of the best events, where their skills and abilities really shone through! They also supported with Epping Primary's sports day, where again they showcased their leadership roles.



They were excellent role models with our transition days for both Year 5 and 6, taking on a variety of roles, including coaches, team managers, referees, runners etc. They did an absolutely smashing job with helping us out with 210 primary students attending, we really couldn't have done it without them!

The Year 5 Transition was a first for our Year 8s to have a go at being a sports leader and wow, did they impress! We are incredibly

proud of all of them and know they're going to be a super strong cohort of leaders next year!

This year, the School Sports Partnership also hosted a celebration evening for the



primary schools within the partnership and also our sports leaders.

Huge congratulations to Regan Shields and James Sack for winning Sports Leaders of the Year! Their dedication to the events, leadership skills and fine attention to detail has been paramount and has really shone through at all events. They also help out with clubs in their own time, which has been excellent!





## Girls' Rugby

A massive thank you to the coaches over at Epping Upper Clapton Rugby Club (EUCRC) for delivering a fully inclusive and highly engaging rugby session which covered so many skills in a taster session for our girls, over at their club!



We are looking forward to seeing more and more girls join their club and the successes they will bring.

## Miss. Hennessy (Teacher of PE)

### District Athletics

On a scorching Friday, ESJ came to compete in the District Athletics school competition at Chelmsford City Athletics Ground!

With 12+ other local schools, ESJ stepped up to the occasion and pupils from Year 7-10 competed in not only their best events, but also in other events to try and secure as many points as we could!



Medals were won, sports injuries received, tired legs endured, but a great effort all round from our pupils, as well as our Sixth form helper, Jay, who was a massive

support. We are looking forward to next year already!

## Mr. Glass (Head of Year 12 and Teacher of PE)

### Sports Day

To finish off the year, we held our Sports Day on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July.

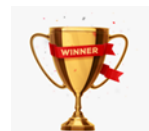
Morning events consisted of the usual suspects: capture the flag, rounders, table tennis, boccia and volleyball (to name just a few!) The afternoon then kicked off the traditional track athletics events, including the popular 100m sprint and relays (including a staff team!).

The event was wonderful; not only the students participating in the events but also those who excitedly cheered on their form and house mates, and really got into the competitive spirit- even when we were rained off and drenched!

Huge thanks to our PTA for providing refreshments on the day.

### Winners:

Year 7: Joyce  
Year 8: Adams  
Year 9: Wright



## Mr. Smith (Senior Lead Practitioner and Head of PE)



# Bringing Learning to Life

## New Views

Throughout this academic year, students from year 10 and 12 have been participating in the National Theatre's New Views program, a developmental project to train the next generation of playwrights.

Working with a professional playwright from the National, our students drafted their own original plays which presented their 'new views' on subjects close to them. Their work covered a broad variety of topics from biting political satires, reflections on the challenges of the last few years, changes in abortion rights in the United States and more.

Out of thousands of plays submitted from around the country, our students were commended for their original voices and one play, written by Head Girl, Sophia Marie, was longlisted for the final competition.

On the 6th of July, along with students from all over the country, the group was invited to the National Theatre to see rehearsed readings of the winning and shortlisted plays. This is the first time ESJ has taken part in this project and our hope is to continue this in future years to give our students this professional career opportunity

## Mr. Johns (Head of Performing Arts)

### Theatre Trip Goes Terribly Wrong!

A play with not the best of acting talent and a crew that is less than adequate – what could possibly go wrong? – well, 'The Play That Goes Wrong' – all a perfect ruse in this very well produced and crafted farce. Our own drama club were 'introduced' to The Comley Drama Society, who are all set

to stage a classic 1920s whodunnit – Murder at Haversham Manor.



Image: Courtesy of Mischief

From the get go these budding thespians battle against the odds to get to the final curtain call with hilarious results. We could not stop laughing at their antics and mishaps and one Yr9 (who will remain anonymous!) probably delivered the best heckle in audience history to the exasperated inspector- all invited and all part of the fun of course!

Definitely put this play on your bucket list for the summer.

Thanks to Mr Johns for organising the trip and Ms. Morland for helping us out for a lovely afternoon at The Duchess Theatre, the West End.

## Mr. Hall (Drama Teacher)

## The Brilliant Club

This term, The Brilliant Club students graduated, all with First Class honours (never seen before by this particular PhD Tutor!) This was testament to the hard work they displayed throughout the course.

Prior to their weekly session, each student would eagerly approach me to remind me to allocate them a room for their Brilliant Club session or to read the work they'd spent hours crafting. Having never read anything from the 'horror-comedy' genre, I can say with certainty that our students have converted me! They made me cringe, laugh and shudder simultaneously!

The Brilliant Club ended for this academic year with their graduation ceremony held at King's College, London. Students from years 7-10 attended with Ms. Parr, Miss. Petrou and I, who proudly watched them collect their certificates.

They had a tour of a second prestigious university and heard talks from current university students who sparked their interest in Astronomy and Medicine. They learnt not just about student life, but also financing a degree and the application process. I can already see a few doctors emerging from our group of 'brilliant' students!

**Ms. Clarke (Assistant Headteacher: Quality of Education KS3/4)**

## Home-Learning Projects

The final project for the year was a very fitting commemoration of King Charles III's coronation- a historic event in our lifetime.

Students were asked to commemorate the occasion in 3 ways across a range of curriculum areas, giving them the autonomy to be as creative and expressive as they'd like.



The outcomes for these wonderful projects were beautifully displayed in an exhibition open to parents/carers in the final week of school.



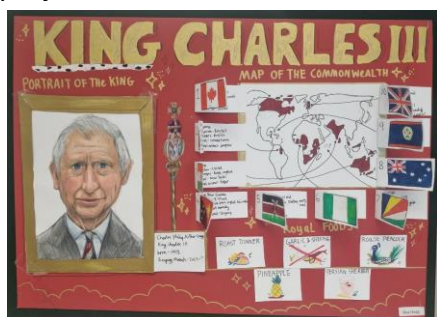
It was lovely to have lots of parents/carers come into school to admire the work of their own children but also praising the endeavours of other children.



We are really hoping that Mrs. Burges' tag of @RoyalFamily on Twitter is noticed by His Majesty, King Charles III!



A huge shout-out to Mrs. Beard and Lily B in year 10 for their wonderful efforts in curating and presenting these wonderful projects.



**Ms. Horner (Assistant Headteacher: Personal Development)**

### GCSE and A-Level Art Exhibitions

Ms. Morland, ably assisted by Mrs. Beard, put on not one but two gorgeous art exhibitions to display the fruits of our Art candidates' labour: blood, sweat and tears (or is that acrylics, water and chalks?!)

It was incredible to see the range and scope of artistic styles and materials being used by students; showcasing a broad range of skills and interests: from clay to acrylics to

making your own paper and using it to fashion a corset

Visitors to the exhibitions were blown away by the talent and creativity of our students.



**Ms. Morland (Head of Art)**

### Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge

The Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge journey was finally completed at the West Sussex Regional Finals held on the 11th May 2023. Our very own, Billy Warner represented ESJ graciously at the event, enjoying every moment. The atmosphere was intense, nail-biting but ever so vibrant and Billy held his head high and delivered his speech. The nerves perhaps were a little daunting, but nevertheless, he did himself and ESJ proud. Support from his family and our special Chair and Governor guests; Mary Burges and Mike Coggins, definitely stood-out with their undeniable encouragement and motivation for Billy. Ms Burges stated "It was a fabulous evening; Mike and I both really enjoyed it! Billy did himself proud".



**Miss Khalid (KS3 English and Literacy Coordinator)**

# Learning Away from Home

## From History to Futuroscope- France Trip

The best way to learn a language is to go to the country where it is spoken, they say. Thirty of our year 10 students took the recommendation to the letter and embarked on a week-long trip to France to develop both their linguistic skills and cultural knowledge. Staying in the picturesque area of the Vienne – in the town of Poitiers more precisely, the students seized every opportunity they had to immerse themselves in the French culture, from making French friends at every stop to buying *bérets*, eating a *baguette* and sitting at the terrace of a café. *C'est la vie!* - one could even say.

After a day of travel, the group enjoyed a day full of technological adventures at the Futuroscope theme park where most of the rides involve 3Ds or 4Ds special effects. Surviving a tornado, becoming invisible, becoming a super hero, travelling across the area in Formula 1 cars, or even dancing with robots, our students did it all. This rich day of excitement, laughter and pure joy continued till the late hours of the day when we got treated to a spectacular night laser show on the water. For probably the first time in a long time, all of us were speechless!



On the third day, we jumped back to the mid-1500s and visited the splendid *Château de Chambord* and its world famous *jardins à la française*, where symmetry is key. Built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century as a Royal residence for King Francis I and used till Louis XIV, the Château filled us with wonder with its 440 rooms, double staircases, never ending balconies and most importantly, splendour. A trip to the supermarket concluded the history themed day. It was great to see our students putting their French skills to use and being – without any single exception – successful.



The fun and history boxes being checked, we still needed to tick the ones for food and living *à la française*. And this is just what we did on the last day. The family run Chocolaterie Berton was a great experience for our students who managed to understand all about the process of making chocolate in French, with as little translation as possible.

Such an achievement deserved an adequate reward: tasting of multiple types of chocolate. In the afternoon, after a short stroll as a group in the scenic town of Poitiers with its 11th century churches, the students got to enjoy “l’art de vivre français” by discovering every corner of the town centre

with some of their peers before going shopping.



Throughout this week in France, students made a plethora of memories and got a new understanding of what “French” is all about as a temporary French resident!

Au revoir!

### ***Mr. Lombard (Head of French)***

#### **When You Need That Extra Motivation!**

On Wednesday 28th June, accompanied by Ms. Hummerstone and Mrs. Springate, a group of students were fortunate enough to attend a Motivational Conference at the Marriott Hotel in Waltham Abbey

This conference was organised and funded by YES (Youth Employment Strategy) Partnership, a voluntary organisation assisting young people to access the pathway to employment, and Epping Forest’s largest emergency food agency 3Food4U.

At the conference, students took part in various workshops and had the opportunity to delve deeper into the world of work and raise their career aspirations.

Professional guest speakers were in attendance, sharing their insights and experiences, which made the day not only an informative and enjoyable event for students, but helped them to connect their new learning to the real world.

Students behaved impeccably and were commended throughout the day by professionals for the way they conducted themselves. We even made it into the Epping Forest Guardian!



### ***Ms. Hummerstone (Assistant DSL and Inclusion Officer)***

#### **Biomes and Bunkbeds - a coach trip to the Cornish coast line and more...**

This trip was organised to allow those with a more scientific inclining to experience learning in a different environment – the amazing ‘Eden Project’ Biomes, Outdoor Gardens and an Invisible Worlds exhibition- all at Cornwall’s Eden Project.

After a long journey on the coach and a few dicey moments navigating the narrow Cornish lanes, we were rewarded with the magnificent setting of Treyaron Bay.

After sorting out the rooms in the (surprisingly simple but comfortable) hostel, we aimed straight for the beach to play football on the expansive sands, dip our toes in the sea and toast marshmallows around the fire pit.





Eden Project is an 'educational charity and social enterprise. (Their) global mission is to create a movement that builds relationships between people and the natural world to demonstrate the power of working together for the benefit of all living things.'



The following day, after a hearty breakfast, we headed for the Eden Project with its Biomes, Outdoor Gardens and an Invisible Worlds exhibition. We climbed up into jungle canopies, passed by magnificent waterfalls and created shelters as part of team building exercise.



A night of bowling was organised for something to end our day and test our competitive spirit!



Our last day was a potter around Padstow and an ice cream in the harbour (and not forgetting to buy a silly hat!) before heading home.

Thanks to Ms. Javed for organising a great trip and to the rest of the staff who supported (Ms. Mistry, Ms. Mahmood, Mr. Perrot)

### ***Mr. Hall (School Trip Enthusiast!)***

#### **Cornwall Trip**

Day one: After journeying to our destination, Newquay, we hopped off of the coach with lots of excited year 's and 8s. We eagerly dropped our bags off and changed into our swimming costumes. Making our way outside, we were greeted with rows upon rows of wetsuits. Struggling, we hoisted up our wetsuits and collected our surfboards/body boards. Trudging down to the beach with our equipment, we were finally met with the sea itself and she looked angry. And so, our lessons began... Crash came the waves as we transitioned from practicing on sand to sea. Many tried and many failed but the students did not give up! Some students kept to the safety of

their bellies whilst others courageously attempted to stand on their surfboards.



Day two: a new beach, Porthtowan, where the students met a new group of trainers that were raring to go. The trainers were fantastic and enthusiastic, which inspired students. This time we had many that managed to get up onto their feet and surf the waves. Following our lunch break, students warmed themselves up by doing the macarena along with the trainers. After a successful lunch and dance break, we made our way down to the waves again. We even received feedback that our group was the best they trained this year! Later, we stuffed our faces with some yummy Domino's pizza and off we went to Fistral beach for a relaxing evening.

Day three: this was an interesting one... Students were very excited to go to the theme park, Flambards, so excited in fact, that we had a few unsettled tummies. Students spent the day wandering the park and enjoying the different attractions that the park had to offer (the staff did too) There was even an interesting waxwork museum, where we seemed to travel back in time to the blitz! Many ice creams and many sweets were consumed at Flambards. I think it's safe to say we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Day four: Porthtowan again. Students spent the day surfing and body boarding and at this point they were absolutely smashing it! All staff were extremely proud of the

students as were the students of themselves. It was especially great to hear how much the staff enjoyed training our students because of their polite, willing and resilient attitudes. Following a very tiring yet exhilarating day, we got back for dinner and students were not quite ready to go out again. Instead, they spent the evening in the common room playing games and socialising before going to bed.



Day five: our final day... Well it's safe to say we didn't get lucky with the weather. Luckily, we were surfing at the beach behind the hotel again (Fistral beach) so whilst some students surfed/body boarded despite the rainy conditions, others stayed back at the hotel for some games and a relax before we were due to head home. Before leaving, we had a lovely delivery of fresh and hot classic Cornish pasties to enjoy on the way home in the comfort of our coach. We made our stop on the way home and students were very pleased to be greeted by KFC and Burger King etc. Our lovely year 7's and 8's couldn't wait to finally arrive home and see everyone (and of course their own beds)

Lastly, we want to thank all the staff and students that attended the trip and hope you had a wonderful time, making some great memories!

***Miss Adams (School Trip Enthusiast!)***





## Everything ESJ Sixth Form



### Overview

With the grueling exam season finally over, it was time to look to the future- starting with farewells and hellos to incoming students

### Year 13 Leavers' Celebrations

The Year 13 students had a wonderful Leavers' Day on Tuesday 14th July. It is always a happy day celebrating their time here and looking forward to the next chapter of their lives.

Their morning started with their Leavers Assembly hosted by the Sixth Form Team. Our excellent Leavers' video was made by Tom Padian in Year 10 who did a fantastic job.



Our Year 13s have formed such strong friendships and I spoke with them about the importance of maintaining contact in the future. It is easy to lose touch with people as we move to new cities, countries and take on new challenges in our lives.



In the evening, students arrived at Mulberry House looking wonderful and they enjoyed a barbeque buffet and danced the night away. Having spent some time apart since exams have finished, all students were so happy to be reunited for one final night of celebration. We were so proud of how they conducted themselves and will miss this year group immensely.



Epping St. John's is undoubtedly a better place because Year 13 have been here and this afternoon, the day after the night before, the walls feel slightly hollow and the common room slightly quieter now they are gone.





So many in the year group have given selflessly of their time to serve the school and its community as Senior Leadership Team, mentors to younger students and just fantastic role models to our younger years. My thanks go to them all for being such wonderful ambassadors.

I sincerely hope that Year 13 Leavers will stay in touch as alumni of the school, that they will come back and share with us how their lives develop; our students are always welcome here-home. They will always be part of our Sixth Form family.

Well done Year 13, you all looked incredible and I hope you had a fantastic night! Here's to the next chapter of your lives.

***Mrs. Christofi (Deputy Headteacher: Sixth Form)***

### Induction Day

On Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> June, we held our Sixth Form induction programme to help introduce students into Sixth Form life.

We welcomed over 140 students from Epping St. John's and 15 other different schools.



Our current Year 12 students did an excellent job, leading on the presentation about our Sixth Form and their experiences as current and new students, joining our school.

During the day, students had taster lessons for their course selections and they were set Summer bridging work so they can hit the ground running in September.



We hope you all enjoyed your day with us, have a well-deserved summer break.

We look forward to seeing you all on results day on the 24<sup>th</sup> August. We will be enrolling our current ESJ students from 8.30am and welcoming new students from 10.30am.

***Mrs. Christofi (Deputy Headteacher: Sixth Form)***

### A-Level Spanish Study Day

On May 27<sup>th</sup> the MFL department had the pleasure of organizing a Study Day with Y12 and Y13 Spanish students.

Madrilenian historian and artist, Antonio Iglesias, visited our school from Spain. Together with Ms Mascherin, he engaged students with talks and multiple activities to navigate the post-Franco dictatorship period in Spain.



Year 12 Spanish students explored the different changes in society during the prolific artistic period of La Movida. They analysed the influences of this historical time on the director Pedro Almodovar's cinema and his internationally acclaimed and Oscar winning film, Volver.

It was a fun and different school day for the Sixth Form Spanish cohort that enhanced their knowledge, supported their study skills and hopefully inspired them for the future!



In particular, Year 13 students received valuable feedback on their written assignments and focused on essay writing skills ahead of their Paper 2 A-Level exam.

***Ms. Mascherin (Assistant Headteacher: Quality of Education KS5)***

### **Aim High and Super-Curricular in 6<sup>th</sup> Form**

In the Sixth Form, we have been working with a large group of high achieving students on their wider reading and super-curricular research in the light of applying for Russell Group Universities, competitive degrees and apprenticeships and Oxbridge.

Recently, Mr Wilson has joined the group taking care of students applying for Science and Maths based subjects and Ms Mascherin will continue overseeing those interested in Humanities. Needless to say, the input and guidance coming from our A-Level subject specialist teachers is also invaluable!

Students are researching topics that vary from: the impacts of AI to the opposition to vaccines in current times; the conflict between North and South Korea to sustainable architecture; how to build a hedge fund to social policies issues in France; Quantum Physics to the focus on emotional

and psychological trauma in the creative media.



The Sixth Form team works tirelessly to support all students with UCAS and University applications to ensure they have the best post-18 opportunities.

To that end, Aim High will be extended to all students in Sixth Form in the next academic year with a big push on super-curricular research in students' preferred subjects. We are looking forward to discovering new exciting topics of research!

### **Cambridge-Technical PE Students**

Our Cambridge Technical (C-Tech) Sport and Physical Activity students in KS5 have been super fortunate to work with Mr. Johnson over at Epping Primary on a weekly basis in their PE lessons.

This has been a brilliant opportunity for the students to work with younger pupils and develop their coaching skills as part of their course.

In addition to this, they have been supporting our PE lessons with year 7s, further expanding on their experiences. For the year 6 induction day, they absolutely smashed their planning and running of the Handball Tournament – not only did they deliver to the Year 6s, but also took oversight of our Year 9 and 10 Sports Leaders! They are a credit to the 6<sup>th</sup> Form!

***Mr Smith (Senior Lead Practitioner and Head of PE)***

### **This is Samaya and Tilly Signing Out!**

As head students of Epping St. John's, we feel unbelievably grateful for all the opportunities that our school has given us.

First of all, the opportunity to take on such important roles, helping to feel a part of something bigger not just in the school, but in Epping community as a whole, with the student leadership team.

We truly value the school's relationship with the church, and the ability to be involved in Reverend Lee's ambitious projects has been a privilege and we are excited to pass on this commitment to the new head students. We are so proud to see the journey our school has taken in the past 7 years, watching the progress it has made and mirroring our own personal growth.

The bonds we have built with our teachers along this journey created an encouraging and accepting environment, which allowed us to find out our own interests and realise who we want to be, in Tilly's case, another Miss. Clarke!

We now consider our school a place where we can be completely and utterly ourselves; where we can fail and achieve with a family of support behind us. Now we can take on these lessons and keep on 'winning' as Mrs. Christofi would say. We both feel incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful sixth form team. Mrs. Christofi, Mr. Glass, Mr. White and Mrs. Madden have been the driving force of our positive experience, with their genuine kindness and ability to push us through the toughest of challenges over these past 2 years. Ms. Mascherin's Aim High group has helped to cultivate a love for our studies, and her caring personality has been infectious in the sixth form.



We will miss everyone and intend to continue to visit back during our breaks, probably needing help with all our uni assignments as well!!

This school is special to not only so many students but so many families, including ours, with our siblings attending and continuing the connection to Epping St. John's. It will truly be extremely sad to leave what has been our home for 7 years but we are grateful for the memories that we have created along the way and pass on our leadership baton to the two new Head Students with pride.

Thank you, Epping St. John's

***Samaya and Tilly, Head Students 2022-2023***

### **Come Fly with Us!**

On the 17th May 2023, the Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC) gave us the opportunity to fly a Grob Tutor, assisted by a RAF pilot. Having said this, we were able to take control for the majority of the flight, including being able to take lead on manoeuvres such as loop the loops, barrel rolls and stall turns.



This is one of the many activities that the RAAC allow us to experience, and children aged 12-18 are more than welcome to join.

The RAFAC provide training in many areas, such as first aid, completely free of charge. The social skills you develop along the way can be used in both the military and civilian life!

As the RAFAC is a military Youth Organisation, drill, dress and discipline are strongly enforced, however, this is not something to be scared of, we just aspire to make the cadets the best forms of themselves, resulting in them gaining valuable life skills, respect for others and determination to follow their passions.



On the 2nd July we have a stall at the town show held in Stonards Field, as well as an open evening on the 5th September, held at our own Squadron in Epping High Street.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to email

[17EdwardsH@bmatesj.org.uk](mailto:17EdwardsH@bmatesj.org.uk) or

[17FosterE@bmatesj.org.uk](mailto:17FosterE@bmatesj.org.uk) and we will be more than happy to assist. If you wish to

contact our squadron directly, please email [oc.414@rafac.mod.gov.uk](mailto:oc.414@rafac.mod.gov.uk).

We would love to see as many new cadets as possible!

***Holly and Ellie***

## ESJ in the Community

Our students are making waves in the community- wonderful ambassadors of ESJ, and local citizens who make us exceptionally proud; from leading in the community to representing in various sports at county, regional and even national level.

Daisy Johnson had a blast at the East England Finals in April! It was a tough gig for the Old Loughtonians U12s Hockey Team, but they played hard, stayed committed and ended up 10th, despite the awful weather! There were some really close games in there as well.



It was another successful day for Ben Tucker at the EYAL track event at St. Alban's in May, when he represented Harlow Athletic Club in the U13B 1500m and smashed his PB by another 5 seconds in 5:13!

Huge congratulations to Palmer Parish who was crowned U16 English Champion at the National Freestyle Championships in June! What an achievement!



### ESJ's Community Garden

Work has begun on our wonderful Community Garden- with lots of gardening tools being dragged back and forth across the field to prepare the grounds, which are currently very overgrown!

An exciting new location on school site has been discovered, leading to an unexpected redesign. A small crop is currently being grown to test logistics ahead of upscaling next year, which is the goal for us if we wish to serve the wider community. The first orders, using generous charity funds have been placed, in preparation for upscaling in September.

Students will be promoting the farm as well as running it, so be sure to follow the twitter account in September for updates on progress. We are looking forward to reaping what we have sown and, more importantly, sharing the harvest with our Epping community

**Mr. Wilson (KS5 Science and Maths)**

# Jack Petchey Foundation Nominations

The Jack Petchey Foundation was set up by Sir Jack Petchey CBE to inspire and celebrate young people. Since 1999, over £143 million has been invested in programmes to benefit young people aged 11-25 across London and Essex.



I am delighted to share with you that the 2023 Jack Petchey Achievement Awards Presentation Evening for Epping Forest Schools & Clubs took place at Sir James Hawkey Hall on Monday 10th July.

The Jack Petchey Foundation truly made it a momentous occasion. They showed their commitment to uplift young people and create spaces for them to showcase themselves. We had the pleasure to watch performances to truly make it a celebration to remember!



We are extremely proud that we were represented as a school by the pupils who publicly received their Student Award and Mr. Ahmed for receiving the Leader Award

and winning a generous fund of over £2,200.00 to spend at ESJ.



Thank you to the parents and carers who attended to support their child in receiving the award. No doubt they all felt as proud as we did- I'm pretty sure I saw a tear in a couple of parents' eyes.

We look forward to finding out where the money gets spent!

***Miss Zare (Head of RE and Christian Ethos, and Jack Petchey Lead)***





## Staff Star at ESJ



*Staff Star is an all-year round initiative.*

*Parents/carers and students are able to send a thank you message to teachers and staff members who have made a difference in their day or week.*

Please nominate here: <https://www.eppingstjohnsschool.org/539/staff-star>

"Thank you Miss \*\*\*\*  
for supporting my son  
and giving him  
confidence to..."

"Mr \*\*\*\* science lessons are  
the best because he helps us  
carry out mind-blowing  
experiments"



**Attention former Epping St. John's students. We are in the process of creating a network for alumni students. Please complete the form on this link to register your interest. [Click here](#)**