



ST IGNATIUS NEWSLETTER

11.09.2026



'Achieving our best by learning together and serving one another with Christ by our side'



Prayer & Wellbeing Garden

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge welcome back to another exciting, productive and successful year ahead.

The staff and pupils have had their heads down since day one and have all been working incredibly hard on setting our high expectations, reminders on our values and what makes St Ignatius so very special.

Over the summer we have had 3 classrooms completely redecorated. Each room has newly painted walls, new carpets and kitchen areas with very stylish cupboards and sinks! They look wonderful. The children deserve the best environment to work in.

We have also recreated one of our corridors and it looks brighter, fresher and warmer. Thanks to the premises team and **Rachel Banfield**, the Estates Manager for ACAT, who spent most of the summer at St Ignatius.

Very exciting news!

The Prayer & Wellbeing Garden is almost complete and it is unrecognisable. There is a huge collection of people to thank for the hours and skills donated to make this for our children.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

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TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

Boys Football Tournament at Eclipse
Leisure Centre @ 1pm - 4pm

WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

School Photographs (All Day)

THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

EYFS Tea with the Teacher @ 2.15pm

FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER

Faith in Action Day (All Day)
Year 5 Swimming

Mrs Davies though has been the driving force from the very start and her skills and talents to see through this vision are commendable. When the garden is completed, we will have a special opening occasion and I am hoping that if calendars align, we may get a visit from **Bishop Richard Moth**.

I hope that you joined our **Tea with the Teacher** sessions to show your commitment to partnership with us.

In the coming weeks, there will be an opportunity to see and hear how you can further support at home with reading, writing and maths. Details to follow.

Next Friday is a **Faith in Action Day**. It will be a day for everyone to improve one area of the school. My Class Dojo message was slightly inaccurate. The children should **wear their school uniform** but if you have green garden bags and if your child has gardening gloves, they are welcome to bring them in.

I attended a mass at my daughters new secondary school on Monday and the headteacher shared this proverb;

***“If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together.”***

Let us go together, through this academic year.

God bless and have a lovely weekend.

Ms Murphy - Headteacher

Attendance

Thank you so much for supporting the school, to support your child. For the smart uniforms, being on time every day and 100% attendance. It really is appreciated and I cannot stress enough the difference it makes to your child.

This week's **highest attendance** was **6N (99.4%)**.

The whole school attendance percentage this week was **97.8%**. Our school target is 98%.

A huge thank you to all parents for a real push on attendance this week and for ensuring your child is in school for as close to 8.30 am as possible.

Ms Murphy - Headteacher

Support with Homework and Independence

In a drive to further improve the outcomes for all pupils, I would like to encourage all parents to consistently help with your child's learning. Reading and writing is a real focus for us as a school this year but in order to achieve better outcomes, the children need to be consistently completing daily reading and completing homework.

Sitting alongside your child and encouraging them is key. I understand how this can sometimes cause friction at home but I am very happy for you to say that I have told everyone that it needs to be completed. Of course, individual cases will be dealt with differently.

Please work with your child to pack their own bag, get their water bottle and carry their belongings. This is a vital skill for them all and will support them as they get older. I am still working on the use of knives and forks at mealtimes, so please can I ask that you support us with this at home.

Ms Murphy - Headteacher

Parent Handbook

Please find attached [here](#) our Parent Handbook 2026-2027.

Ms Murphy - Headteacher

School Photographs - Next Wednesday!

Please be reminded that the school photographer will be in school on **Wednesday 16th September 2026**.

All pupils will have an individual photograph taken. If you would like a sibling photograph, please complete the Google form attached via the link below.

[Sibling Photograph Request](#)

Photographs are for current pupils of St Ignatius School ONLY. Please make sure that your child/children have their jumper/cardigan in school, and are wearing their winter uniform.

If your child has PE on this day, please note they should come into school wearing their full uniform to have their photographs taken, they will then change into their PE kit.

All hair should be kept away from the face and long hair must be tied back with appropriate school hair accessories e.g. plain school colours and NO large and or bright accessories.

School Office

PE Notices

Years 5 & 6 Boys Football

It was wonderful to see so many children taking part in the football trials this week. Mr Clements and myself were very impressed with the standard of football and we found it incredibly hard to select a team. For that reason, we have made the decision to have an established A and B team.

The A team will train on a Monday from 12pm - 12.30pm and the B team on a Wednesday from 12pm - 12.30pm. I am very hopeful that both teams will have leagues that we will enter. Below are the dates for the tournaments:

- Boys A team tournament - Egham Leisure Centre - **Tuesday 15th September** (letters sent)
- Boys B team tournament - Egham Leisure Centre - **Tuesday 13th October** (letters to be sent on Monday)



Years 5 & 6 Girls Football

Equally, we were delighted that so many girls wanted to try out for the girls football team. As such we have split the girls into an A and B team.

The A team will train every Thursday from 12pm - 12.30pm. I will work out a time for the B team to train closer to their tournament. Below are the dates for the tournaments:

- Girls A team tournament - Egham Leisure Centre - **Tuesday 29th September** (letters to be sent on Monday)
- Girls B team tournament - Egham Leisure Centre - **Tuesday 9th February** (letters to be sent closer to the time)



Upcoming Trials

- **Friday 18th September** - Years 5 & 6 boys and girls hockey at 12pm on the court. Please wear your trainers and bring your gum shield if you have one.
- **Tuesday 22nd September** - Years 5 & 6 girls netball at 12pm on the netball court. Please wear your trainers.

Please note that for now we will be asking parents to transport your child to any competition or league match that they are selected for as we don't currently have a mini bus driver.

Miss Grady - PE Lead

Headteacher Awards

Each week our pupils are recognised for following our school values. This week's value was **Respectful Rowan**. During our Celebration Assembly today the following children were awarded a Headteacher Award:

Year 1:

- 1D - Gabriel V
- 1G - Atharv G

Year 2:

- 2C - Tom W
- 2D - Molly M

Year 3:

- 3V - Elysa-Blu B
- 3CF - Kayan B

Year 4:

- 4P - Izabela L
- 4AP - Ayda J

Year 5:

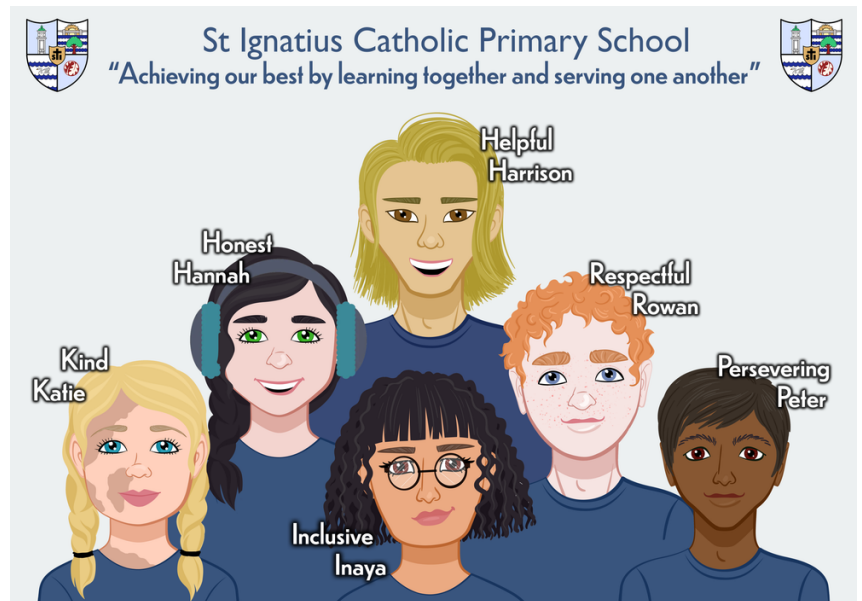
- 5W - Pari M
- 5G - James H

Year 6:

- 6N - Diego T-S
- 6S - Kensi W

I am so very proud of each and every one of you!

Ms Murphy - Headteacher



Wake Up Wednesdays

Character.AI lets users create and chat with AI-powered characters that can behave like friends, mentors, fictional favourites, or romantic partners. While these conversations can feel engaging and supportive, their convincing human-like responses can blur important boundaries. Young people may encounter inappropriate content, misinformation and privacy risks, or begin forming an unhealthy emotional attachment to an AI companion.

For parents and educators, understanding these risks can make conversations about AI companionship more constructive. This #WakeUpWednesday guide explores warning signs such as secretive or excessive use and withdrawal from real-world activities, while offering practical advice on checking age restrictions, protecting personal information, questioning chatbot advice, and responding appropriately when safeguarding concerns arise.

Miss Partington - Year 4 Class Teacher & PSHE Lead

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership and governance. He works internationally supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance and [insert NC courses I have written].



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.09.2026

A collage of four photographs. The top-left photo shows two young children sitting on a white window sill, each holding a large educational book. The top-right photo shows a child in a dark blue shirt and black shorts using a stick vacuum cleaner on a stone patio. The bottom-left photo shows a young child in a red Arsenal football kit holding a small black and white dog. The bottom-right photo shows a child in a dark blue shirt and black shorts using a stick vacuum cleaner on a stone patio.

- Congratulations to **Otylie Y** (2C) for passing her Level 4 Swimming
- Congratulations to **Ignatius Y** (Hedgehogs) for passing his Discovery Ducklings Level 1 Swimming
- Congratulations to **Lana M** (6N) and **Molly M** (2D) for helping last weekend in the prayer garden
- Congratulations to **Theo G-M** (1D) - Well done to Theo who was awarded with the 'Player of the Session' trophy after his football training on Saturday

Autumn Term Menu

MENU WEEK 2

SERVED W/C: 14th September, 5th October

Cucina IFG

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Main Meal

OPTION 1

OPTION 2

Margherita pizza & oven baked wedges

Pea-powered vegetable pie & new potatoes

Cheesy cauliflower pasta bake

Lentil & sweet potato dahl with vegetable rice

Vegetable sausages, chips & tomato ketchup

Tomato, spinach & salmon pasta

Chicken & vegetable pie with new potatoes

Roast turkey breast, roast potatoes & gravy

Lemon & herb chicken with chickpeas & vegetable rice

Fish & chips with tomato ketchup

Broccoli

Peas

Carrots & cauliflower

Selection from the salad bar

Peas

Penne pasta with a creamy cheese sauce

Penne pasta with house tomato sauce

Creamy pesto penne pasta

Penne pasta with a creamy cheese sauce

Penne pasta with house tomato sauce

Ham Cheese Tuna mayo

Ham Cheese Tuna mayo

Ham Cheese Tuna mayo

Ham Cheese Tuna mayo

Cheese Tuna mayo

Watermelon wedge

Oaty apple crumble & custard

Chocolate mousse

Carrot cake with orange glaze

Raspberry jelly & mandarins

Available Every Day - Crunchy Colourful Salad Bar & Jacket Potatoes with Cheese, Beans, Tuna Mayonnaise & Cheese & Beans

KEY

Wholegrain

Vegetarian

Nutritionist's Choice

Vegan

Key Term Dates

Date	Event
Tuesday 15 th September	Boys Football Tournament - Egham Leisure Centre @ 1pm
Wednesday 16 th September	School Photographs
Thursday 17 th September	EYFS Tea with the Teacher (parents invited)
Friday 18 th September	Faith in Action Day
Friday 18 th September	Year 5 Swimming
Friday 25 th September	PTA Break the Rules Day
Friday 25 th September	Year 5 Swimming
Tuesday 29 th September	Girls A Team Football - Egham Leisure Centre @ 1pm
Wednesday 30 th September	Open Morning for Prospective Parents @ 9.30am
Friday 2 nd October	Year 5 Swimming
Thursday 8 th October	PTA Autumn Disco
Friday 9 th October	Year 5 Swimming
Friday 9 th October	Year 6 Harvest Festival Assembly (parents invited)
Monday 12 th October	Year 6 PGL Trip (all week)
Thursday 15 th October	PTA AGM @ 7pm (parents invited)
Friday 16 th October	Year 5 Swimming
Monday 19 th October	Open Morning for Prospective Parents @ 9.30am
Tuesday 20 th October	Parents' Evening @ 3.30pm - 7pm
Tuesday 20 th October	EYFS Welcome Assembly (parents invited)

Wednesday 21 st October	Parents' Evening @ 3.30pm - 6pm
Thursday 22 nd October	Half Term & PSD Funweeks

External Notices

Please be advised that whilst we share external advertisements, St Ignatius does not personally endorse/recommend any of these companies.





Salesian School
Chertsey

Open Events

Admissions to Year 7 in 2027

Open Morning

- Wednesday 16th September, Wednesday 23rd September, Tuesday 29th September
- Start time 8:45am finishing at 10am
- ***Please note that tour bookings are not required***

Open Evening

- Thursday 1st October 5pm to 7:30pm



Scan for
more school
info!

Admissions to Year 12 in 2027

College Open Evening

- Thursday 10th September from 5 to 7:30pm



Scan for
more sixth
form info!

**"Pupils flourish at this
exceptional school"**

- Ofsted 2024



**"Students articulate a strong sense of community which
they explicitly link to the school's Catholic character".**

- Diocese Report 2026

School Enquiries:

01932 582520 | admissions@salesian.surrey.sch.uk

College Enquiries:

01932 578681 | collegeadmissions@salesian.surrey.sch.uk



WITH GOD
AS OUR SHELTER

ST BERNARD'S CATHOLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL

**We kindly invite you to attend our Open Evening on
Wednesday 23rd September 2026**

*'At St Bernard's School, students are educated in a nurturing community
where each person is loved and valued.'*

Our Open Evening is for those interested in Year 7 entry in September 2027. The evening will give you the opportunity to experience a pupil led tour and observe what it is like to be a pupil at our outstanding school.

Access to the Open Evening will be by ticket only; please book one ticket per attendee. There will be three sessions to choose from; you will only need to attend one session.

There will be Headteacher's presentations throughout the evening.

Curriculum Information will be available on the school website.

Click on the link below to book your tickets:-

[St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School - Open Evening](#)

There is no parking on site so please plan your journey. Please arrive no earlier than 15 mins before your session.

We look forward to welcoming you to St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School.



**GUMLEY HOUSE
SCHOOL FCJ**

OPEN EVENTS

for Admissions in September 2027

MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Morning (9am - 11am) and
Evening (5pm - 8pm)

THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2026

Morning (9am - 11am)



**A Catholic Academy
of Academic and Personal Excellence**

Pinks ACRO ★ FUNDRAISING TEAM ★ COLOUR RUN



RUN. GET COLOURED. MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



SUNDAY
13TH SEPTEMBER 2026



STRODES COLLEGE FIELD
EGHAM, TW20 9DR



12.30PM
REGISTRATION

1.00PM
START TIME

EARLY BIRD TICKETS

(BOOK ONLINE IN ADVANCE)



ADULT

£9.00



CHILD

£7.50

⌚ **EARLY BIRD TICKETS SALE END 6TH SEPTEMBER 2026**

ON THE DAY TICKETS



ADULT

£12.00



CHILD

£10.00



**WEAR WHITE &
GET COLOURED!**



**FUNDRAISING
STALL
AVAILABLE!**

**BOOK EARLY BIRD
TICKETS NOW!**



**FUN FOR ALL
THE FAMILY!**

**SCAN ME TO BOOK
EARLY BIRD TICKETS
VIA EVENTBRITE**

FOLLOW US ON **FACEBOOK** | **INSTAGRAM**



**RAISING FUNDS FOR THE
PINKS ACRO SQUAD**

FOR FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY
AS WELL AS PERFORMING AT **DISNEYLAND, PARIS!**





JA SPORTS
COACHING

Spelthorne Sports FC | Saturday Morning

FOOTBALL

**FIRST SESSION
FREE**

9AM -10AM
AGES 3.5 - 6 YEARS



MORE INFORMATION
WWW.JASPORTS.CO.UK

Safeguarding

Governors and staff of St Ignatius share an objective to help keep children safe by:

- Providing a safe environment for them to learn
- Identifying children who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, and taking appropriate action.

Please read through the safeguarding guidance documents on this page, which include those designed for children. Please contact the Designated Safeguarding Leads below should you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child.

You can do this by calling the school directly, or emailing: dsl@st-ignatius.surrey.sch.uk

You can also find out more about how we teach safety to children on our [Safety Curriculum](#) page, in the Curriculum section of the website.

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (DSL):

Mrs E O'Neill - Deputy Headteacher

DEPUTY DSL:

Ms H Murphy - Headteacher

Miss T Frew - Assistant Headteacher

Mrs I Barkworth - SENDCo

Mrs L Whittington - KS2 Lead

Miss Z Palmer - KS1 Lead

Any concerns can be discussed with a DSL. If you have any concerns that involve the Headteacher, please contact the **Ascension Catholic Academy Trust** via email at admin@ascensioncat.org or by telephone on 0208 325 4630. The LGB details are being updated.

You can read our **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy** [here](#).

Contact Us

St Ignatius Catholic Primary School
Green Street, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 6QG

Telephone: 01932 785396

Email: admin@st-ignatius.surrey.sch.uk

Website: www.st-ignatius.surrey.sch.uk

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[@stignatiussun](#)