



From the  
Headmaster

## A colourful welcome to 2025 from Year 4

Staff and boys alike have enjoyed a strong start to the term, both in the classroom and in the broad range of extra-curricular clubs on offer. Working towards personal goals, seeking new challenges, and developing skills and knowledge are characteristics all St John's boys are encouraged to embrace.

In this edition of The Lamb we welcome new members of staff and celebrate boys who have been embracing new challenges. Year 8 boys acted out scenes from Great Expectations in English and enjoyed working as food technologists in science. Junior boys presented wonderful projects inspired by Roman civilisation. Meanwhile Reception were excited to take their first steps in ICT.

A significant number of boys from Years 5 to 8 battled freezing conditions as they competed in the York House cross country competition. Although there are lots of tired boys, it is great to be back into the swing of term. I wish you all a restful weekend.

*T Jenkins*





## Welcome to our new staff



### **Mrs Brownsell**

I'm thrilled to introduce myself as the new Executive Assistant to the Head and Bursar. I'm excited to be part of this wonderful school community, where I'll be supporting the Head and Bursar to ensure everything runs smoothly. Outside of work, you'll likely find me experimenting with new recipes in the kitchen, enjoying a competitive board or card game with family and friends, exercising at the gym or unwinding at the cinema. I'm looking forward to getting to know you all and contributing to the School's success in every way I can.

### **Mr Hopwood**

I wouldn't exactly call my first week at St Johns, "in at the deep end", but it has been extremely busy. As I am sure you will know, I was incredibly lucky to take part in the preparations for the Carol Service last term. It was a fantastic evening, showcasing the enormous talent that we have here at St John's and allowing me to feel a part of the school community from the outset. Please keep an eye out for events happening in the Department over the next two terms, and for a new and exciting ensemble project I am working on. I look forward to working with you all.



### **Miss Masterson**

I am delighted to join St John's School. Since graduating with an Early Years degree, I have gained several years of experience in primary schools, providing support in Nursery and Reception. I have enjoyed my first week here at St John's. The children, parents and my new colleagues have been incredibly welcoming. It has been lovely getting to know the boys and seeing such exceptional manners around the School. I look forward to meeting you all soon.





## Welcome to new staff continued



### Ms Ouahyb

I am delighted to have joined St John's as a teacher of French and Year 6 Form tutor. I am excited to be part of this quite remarkable school. The nurturing and friendly environment here is very special. Previously, I taught French and Spanish at Heathfield School, in Berkshire. I have a degree in French and Spanish from the University of Cergy-Pontoise, France. Outside of school, I am a passionate travel photographer, and enjoy running, dancing and the world of films. I look forward to getting to know everyone.

## Science Quiz Club Semi-Final

This week a team of top St John's scientists represented the School in the Science Quiz Club Semi-Final challenge. The four boys from Years 5 and 6 answered some really difficult science questions and managed to achieve 22nd place out of over fifty schools. Well done boys!





# Great Expectations in Year 8

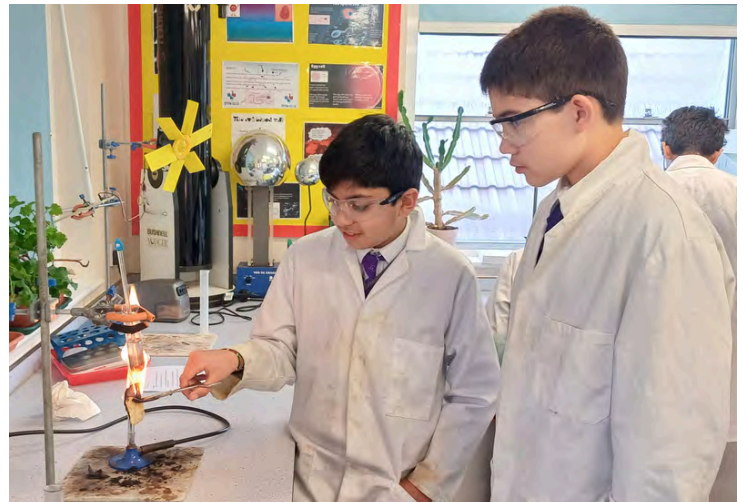
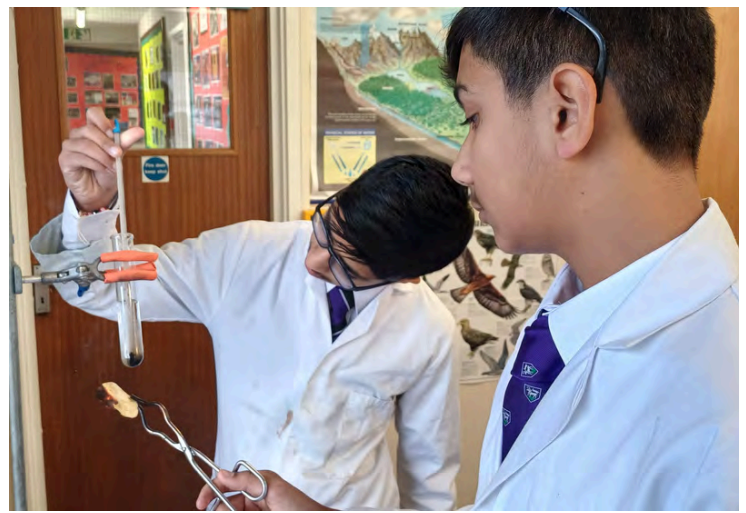
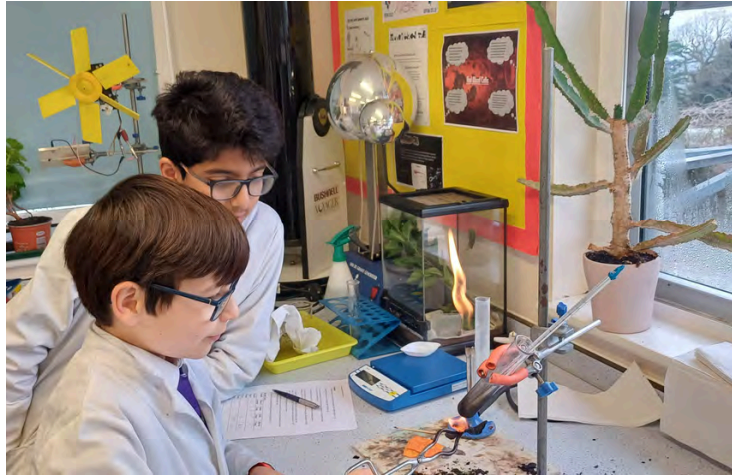
Year 8 dramatised the opening scene from 'Great Expectations' in their English lesson this week. The boys enjoyed getting into character and experimenting with nineteenth century dialect. Some of the scenarios were very dramatic!





## Meet our Year 8 food technologists

This week Year 8 have been working as food technologists. They undertook experiments to find out how much energy there was in a particular food by burning it. As they burnt the food, it heated water. They measured how hot the water became and found that crisps burnt very well, giving off lots of heat because of all the calories in them!





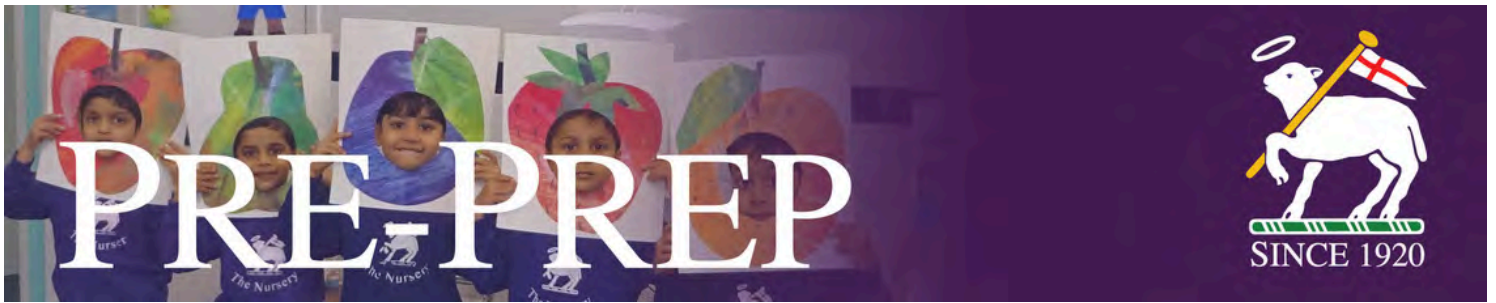
After our festive break, we returned to stunning wintery scenes up on the hill.



In Assembly, Reverend Fields encouraged us to be curious about the world and showed us his father's naval navigation tool, which is called a sextant.



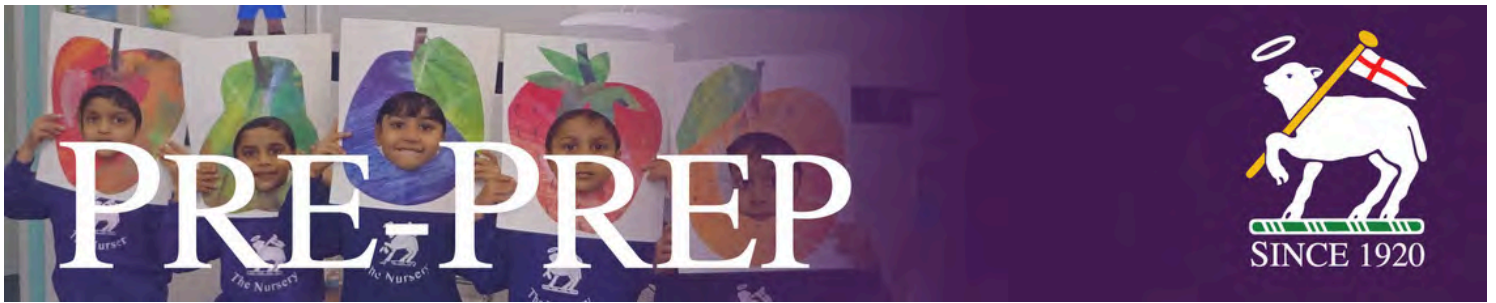
It's good to have an expert on hand when your valve gets stuck



# Excitement as Reception start ICT lessons

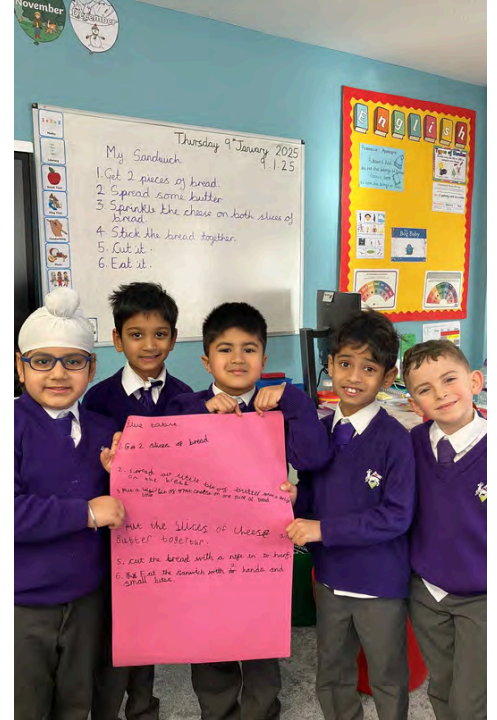
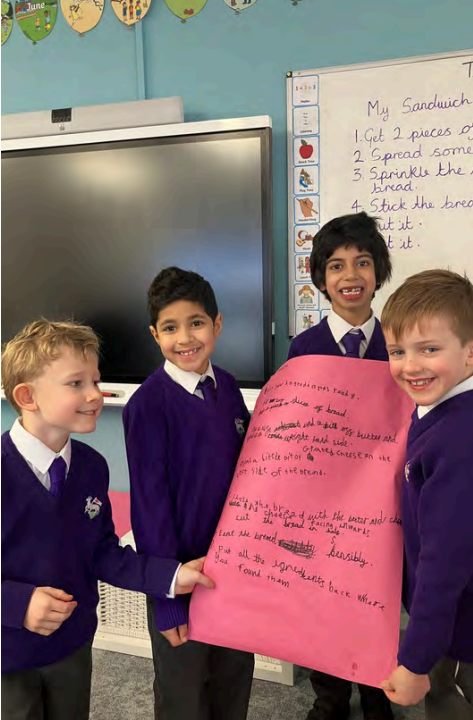
The beginning of the Spring term means it's time for the start of our ICT lessons in Reception! The boys are learning basic skills each week and also having lots of fun using the paint projects. In this week's lesson we learnt to log in. We also decorated and labelled a car.





# Writing clear instructions in Year 2

Year 2 have begun their new literacy text 'The Bog Baby'. In preparation for future exploration of this text, we looked at what must be included when writing a set of instructions. In our first lesson we learnt the importance of being specific, as when each class teacher followed the boys' instructions on how to make a cheese sandwich, it did not go quite as the boys had anticipated!

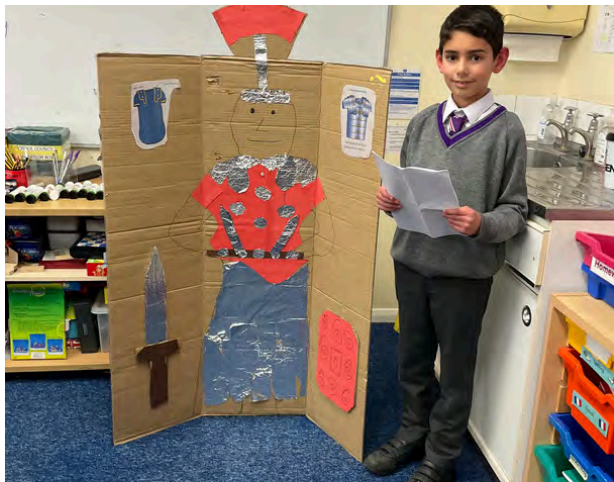






# Year 4 have been exploring Roman life

Our Year 4 boys embarked on a fascinating journey through time during the Christmas holidays, conducting in-depth research on Roman civilization. From the disciplined Roman army to gruesome tales of gladiator battles, the boys explored various aspects of Roman life. Their presentations were captivating and showcased impressive research skills. Well done to all the boys for their enthusiasm and hard work.





# Welcoming the Year of the Wood Snake

Year 5 have been learning about the colourful celebrations of Chinese New Year. They have been making 3D dragon masks in preparation for an assembly.





## York House cross country

Our distance runners from Years 5 to 8 took part in the York House cross country this week. The event is always a superb challenge, and the boys pushed themselves despite the cold weather and training break over the holidays. Micha was our top runner on the day but all boys should be congratulated for pushing themselves against an extremely tough field of runners.

