



St James Newsletter - June 2022

Celebrating Pride Month



Pride Month is brilliant, but at St James we celebrate LGBT+ identities all year round!

We are really proud to have a diverse and inclusive school community. At St James there are a number of things we do to ensure that our LGBT+ feel comfortable within our community:

- We have an LGBT+ team made up of a number of teachers who can offer support to students with questions and concerns around LGBT+ issues.
- We have guidance for all teachers on supporting students who are LGBT+
- We are part of the 'No Outsiders' programme, which encourages inclusivity in schools and is based around the Equality Act 2010.
- We hold 'No Outsiders' drop-ins on Wednesday during break times, where students can ask questions or just have a chat.
- We discuss LGBT+ identities in our JBACC lessons
- We have a zero-tolerance policy to hate-speech, including the use of the word 'gay' in a negative way. We make it clear that students are free to hold their own views on LGBT+ issues but must always treat each other with respect.

Football sisters smashing it!



Erin and Belle Vosper were part of the successful girls football team who won the Devon Girls County Cup last Sunday! This topped off an amazing half term week where they had played for Exeter City in Swindon on Monday, playing games against, Swindon and Plymouth Argyle. They lost to Swindon U15's 2-0, Beat Swindon U16's 1-0 finishing with a win over Plymouth Argyle U16's 2-1.

A fantastic result, well done!

Taekwondo Champion!



Massive congratulations to Caden Whiting, who competed in the Welsh Taekwondo tournament last month, becoming the Welsh Champion in the Junior Boys Middleweight Division. This kind of achievement takes a huge amount of commitment and determination and Caden is truly an inspiration to us all.

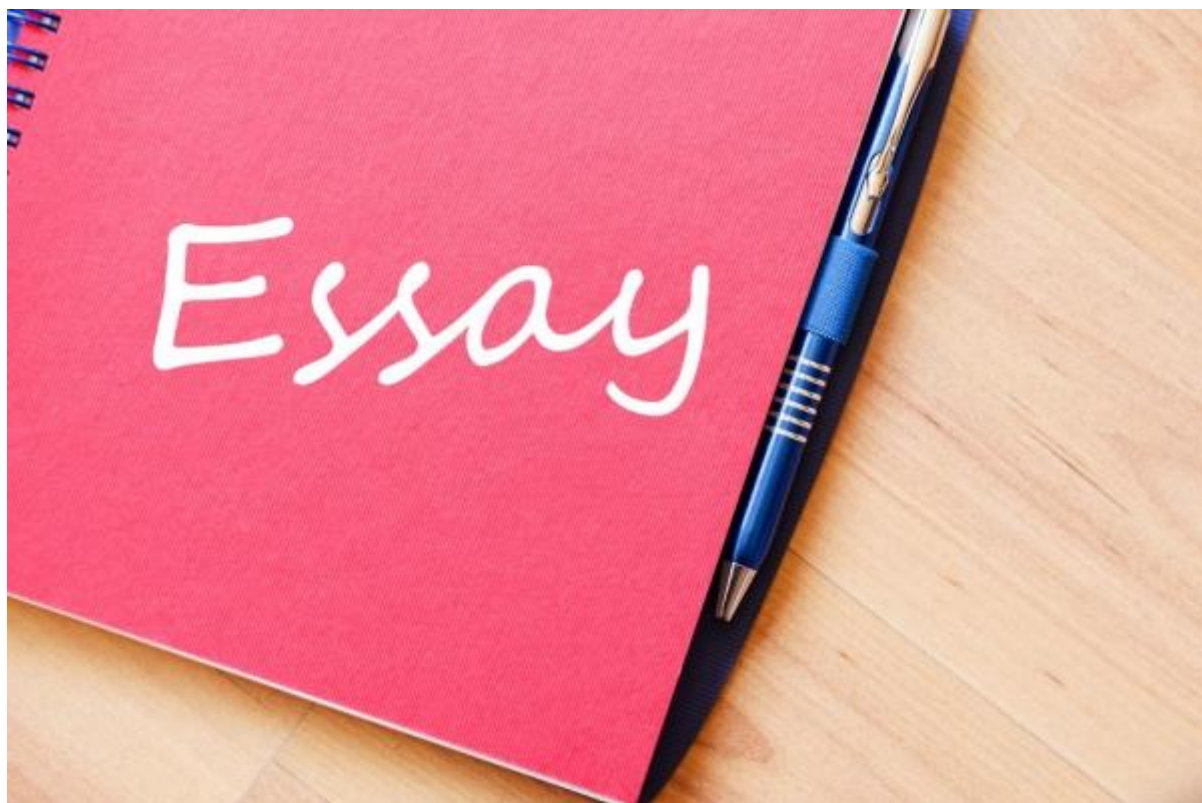
U15 200m Champion!



Year 10 student Jacob competed at the Devon Schools Athletic Championships on Saturday 11th June at Exeter Arena. He competed in the 200m against the best students across the County. Jacob sprinted away from the competition to become Devon 200m U15 champion 2022. He finished in an amazing time of 23.12seconds, which for his age group is in the top 10 in the Country!

Jacob qualified through to the South West Championships which took place on Saturday 18th June. He finished 4th and we could not be more proud of him. Well done Jacob!

HPQ Success



Over the past two terms, a group of year 9 students have been working on the Higher Project Qualification. As a national qualification worth half a GCSE, the Higher Project qualification gives students the opportunity to research and write about an area of interest while developing a range of academic skills in research analysis and synthesis, essay and report writing, presentation skills and referencing. The students worked incredibly hard on their projects in their own time, alongside managing their curriculum and enrichment commitments. It was a joy to hear about students' progress during their final presentations. They showed real passion and enthusiasm for their chosen topics which ranged from Transgender Identity to Feminism to the Rocky Horror Picture show.

Congratulations to Oscar Ganley, Eli Marsh, Isaac Morse, Alex Dyke, Leo Dyke, Erin Berryman-Walton and Paris Lee. You should be incredibly proud of your achievements.

Student Report - Year 9 University Tour



Last week, 30 Year 9 students were taken to Exeter University for a campus tour and a 'My Perfect Degree' workshop. During the visit, the students were educated about university life and the range of university courses available. Students were split into two groups and were each toured around the campus by two University students. Following that, the students were taken into a lecture room to experience the workshop and learn more about life at University.

What we learnt.

- Students learnt about resources available around the campus such as the health centre and the sports facilities.
- Students learnt about University accommodation, such as the difference between catered and uncatered accommodation.
- Students also learnt about the large range of courses and modules available to them, including examples such as international spa management and astronomy.

The trip was all in all an excellent experience and fully educated students about University life. All students thoroughly enjoyed the trip.

By Peter Cummings & Mohamed Saidi.

School Parliament



At St James we really value our students' opinions and ideas. In order to help our students learn about Democracy, and how they will be able to influence their wider communities throughout their lives, we have developed a system that resembles our local and national democratic systems. In the first week of the Autumn term all students are able to vote for their tutor group MPs. These students meet with the rest of their year group's MPs and student leaders throughout the year at year council meetings. Some of the MPs will represent the views and ideas of their whole year group at the St James School Parliament, who then send representatives to meet with Miss Skinner and the Senior Leadership Team. Being an MP is a wonderful opportunity to develop leadership skills and communication skills, whilst making a positive contribution to the school community.

Student Report - Electronic Music Enrichment

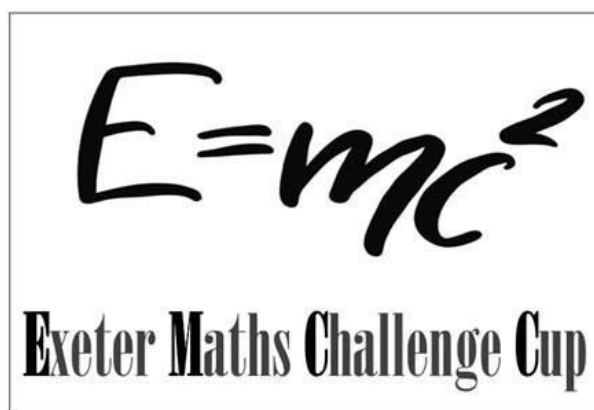


In our electronic music production elective, students ages 13-16 create music using a software called Mixcraft. Mixcraft has a lot of different sounds, loops and instruments for pupils to explore. The elective leader, Ollie Millin, is a professional musician and has previously been in a duo creating electronic music.

Mixcraft is an easy software for creating music, with a library full of different styles of music. There are also loops, sounds and beats from various different instruments. We also use midi boards; electric boards that look a little bit like mini keyboards, which people can use to create their tracks/loops and sounds using different instruments that can be selected on the software. The musical pieces the students have created span many genres, from jazz all the way to upbeat pop. You can really see the reflection of them in their music, what they like, what they don't like, their thoughts, their feelings and how they see things. This experience has also been educational for all of the students, they have learnt how to use different techniques and developed their skills in using music software. Some of the pupils came knowing a lot about electronic music production and some came knowing only the basics or nothing at all. However, everyone has created amazing music and has learnt a lot of techniques and skills during the course. Ollie is always happy to help, including giving hints and tips to help pupils progress. He also helps students individually and makes each and every one of us create music to the best of our ability.

Ollie said that he has "always wanted to teach" so when this offer came along, he immediately took it. He is passionate about this subject and helping to improve students' knowledge in a way that they can understand. Ollie said that his favourite thing is seeing people progress throughout the weeks and "seeing how diverse everyone's style is".

Are you ready for a Maths challenge?



This term St James will be starting a brand new Maths competition called the Exeter Mathematics Challenge Cup or... E=MC2 !!

With four of the top students from Year 7 and 8 from across the city coming together to test their wits, who will claim the prize of being the best of the best?!?

You'll need to wait till the next newsletter to find out!

Teaching and Learning - Spotlight on Coaching at St James

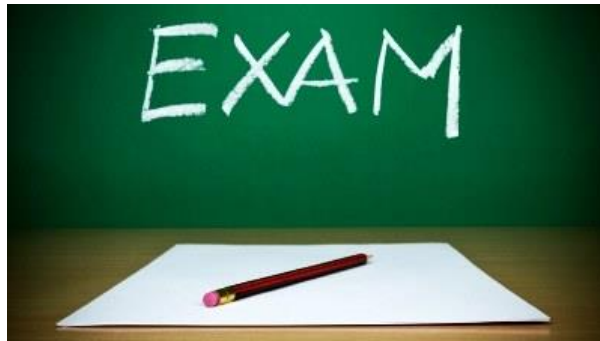
Improving Teaching and Learning is at the heart of everything we do at St James, and this is a great opportunity to inform you of how we ensure that our teachers receive regular feedback about their teaching and how to make incremental changes to improve their practice. At St James, each teacher has a coach who works alongside them and visits one of their lessons on a weekly basis. In the lesson visit, the coach will be looking out for the wonderful ways in which our teachers teach the students in their class, ready to feed back to them. They will also consider what small change the teacher could make that would have a significant impact on students' learning. This might be as small as where the teacher stands in the room or how the teacher uses the visualiser to explore a student's piece of work with the class or how the teacher uses storytelling and analogies to improve their explanations.

The coach and coachee meet after the lesson visit to explore this in more detail and to watch a video of their area for development (known as an action step) being modelled. With the support of the coach, the coachee then practises the action step without the presence of the students and keeps practising until they are ready to put it into practice with their classes. During the following week, the coach pops into the lesson to see how the teacher is getting on. We change the focus every half term, from themes like the quality of our explanations, to how we give effective feedback to how we ensure our expectations are high.

In addition to this, our Senior Team visit lessons regularly and award staff with 'positive shout-outs'. These are short, positive messages that arrive by email. It is great when the visit happens just at the same time as the teacher is practising their action step! In most weeks, there are 80-100 lessons visits at St James!

Jo Payne, Assistant Head - Teaching and Learning

GCSE Exams



We are nearing the end of our exam season and we are incredibly proud of how well our students have conducted themselves during this busy and pressured time. Students in Years 10 and 11 have behaved impeccably; listening attentively in their pre-exam talks, lining up silently before their exams, and working diligently in their lesson time. We could not be more proud of them, and wish them every success for their results this summer.

Invitation to our Summer Showcase



Our summer Showcase is on Wednesday 13th of July. Doors open at 6.30pm and performances start at 7pm. Refreshments will be available. We hope you can make it!

Parents of St James



Would you like to become more involved with us at St James? Every term, the PSJ group meet for one hour to discuss the school issues that are most important to you, our parents and carers. Each meeting we have three agenda items and attendees are invited to share their thoughts, ideas and suggestions for improvement. Recently, agenda items have included the school day, home work expectations and online learning amongst other things. Your voice is incredibly important to us, and an integral part of what drives change and improvement at St James. If you would like to come along to the next meeting, please complete this [online form](#). The date for the next meeting is Thursday 7th July, at 6pm in the school library.