

# JFAN Connector 24th October 2025

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**Dear Parents and Carers** 

As we come to the end of the first half term, I want to take a moment to thank you all for the incredibly warm welcome I've received since joining the JFAN community. It has been a privilege to step into the role of Principal, and I'm proud to be part of such a vibrant, caring, and ambitious academy. This half term has been full of positive change and progress. We've made a number of improvements across the academy— all made possible by the way our students have embraced new expectations, our staff have worked with dedication and passion, and our partnership with parents has grown. From the parent evenings we've held to the launch of our new Parent Partnership Group, your engagement and support make a difference. Together, we are building a culture rooted in aspiration, respect, and responsibility, and I'm excited about what we will achieve in the months and years ahead. Thank you once again for your continued support.

I wish all of our families a restful and enjoyable autumn term break.

# **Working in Partnership with Parents and Carers**



#### **Parent Partners**

This week, our Parent Partnership Group met for our first meeting. It was a valuable opportunity to begin shaping our shared vision for parent partnership and explore ideas around homework and parents' evenings. Mrs Warwick also responded to a range of thoughtful questions submitted in advance, helping to strengthen the dialogue between home and the academy. Over the half term break Mrs Warwick will take time to reflect on the feedback enabling her to share a summary in the JFAN Connector when we return. Thank you to all who contributed — your voices are helping shape the future of our academy. The next meeting will be on Thursday 11th December, this time with Mince Pies!

#### **Assemblies**

This week, we held a series of inspiring awards assemblies to celebrate the achievements of our incredible students. It was a joy to see so many young people recognised for embodying our core values of **Aspiration**, **Respect**, and **Responsibility**. From those who consistently strive to reach their goals, to those who show kindness and integrity in every interaction, and those who take ownership of their learning and actions — each awardee has made us proud. These assemblies were a powerful reminder of the positive culture we're building together. Thank you to all the Heads of Year and tutors who spent time putting these assemblies together. A special mention goes to S. Azizi (Year 8) who received the Principal Award for the highest points awarded this half term.



1 - Year 7 Reward Assembly

# **Looking Ahead to the New Half Term**

As we prepare to begin the new half term, we're looking forward to welcoming all students back on Monday 3rd November. We kindly remind parents and carers that students should return in full school uniform and be equipped with all necessary items for their lessons. Being prepared is a key part of taking responsibility for their learning. Our first tutor lesson back will be an important opportunity to revisit the importance of our school routines and habits alongside the values that shape our school culture: **Aspiration**, **Respect**, and **Responsibility**. Students will also be encouraged to set personal targets for the term ahead, helping them to focus on their goals and make the most of the opportunities to come. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child start the half term positively and confidently.

#### GCSE information on the website

We are committed to providing an excellent level of service to pupils and parents in the conduct and organisation of both internal and external examinations. You can access our comprehensive KS4 and KS5 Examination Guide on our website here.

#### **Academy restaurant information**

Innovate will be launching a new menu after half term. Full details are on our website here.

We understand that students are most likely to learn and make good progress when there is consistency and continuity in teaching. The Academy recognises the importance of maintaining high-quality learning experiences, even during unforeseen staff absences. By improving the planning and delivery of cover work, and ensuring subject-relevant support is in place, we aim to minimise disruption and keep students engaged and making progress.

Consequently, colleagues are working hard to prepare subject-specific cover work in advance, and, where appropriate, using digital platforms to share resources. As far as is possible, we are also assigning allocated teachers who are expert in their subject/curriculum e.g. German, in addition to using internal staff to support lessons to maintain consistency. The school will also monitor cover frequency and prioritise staff wellbeing to minimise disruption.

# **PE and Sports Co Curricular News**

#### **Handball Coaching**

Annica Farley, a skilled coach from England Handball, has been working with students across Years 7, 8, 9, and 11, this half term and helping them develop their handball skills and fostering a love for the game. Her coaching sessions have been engaging and fun, providing valuable experience for all involved.

Exciting news! Starting after half term, there will be an after school Handball Club every Wednesday from 3:15–4:15 pm. This club is open to all students in Years 7 and 8, offering a great opportunity to improve skills, stay active, and enjoy the sport with friends. Everyone is welcome, whether you're a beginner or an experienced player!

#### **Girls Rugby**

Girls' Rugby Club has now kicked off on Tuesday evenings from 3:15–4:15 pm! The club, led by Miss Piek, is open to all girls, no matter your experience or ability level. It's a fantastic opportunity to learn new skills, stay active, and enjoy the game with friends.

Be inspired by the incredible success of the Red Roses, England's women's rugby team, who recently won the World Cup! Come along after the half term holidays to give rugby a try — everyone is welcome!

#### **Boys Rugby**

It's been a fantastic half term for our school rugby teams, with plenty of success and impressive performances across all year groups!

Our **Year 11** team are through to the next round of the Essex Cup after a dominant 47–5 win over Chelmer Valley. They now look ahead to their next fixture against King John School in Benfleet on Wednesday 19th November 2025 – good luck, boys!

The **Year 10's** have shown great commitment, with excellent attendance at training and some superb teamwork on the pitch. Led by parent coach Jason Marshall, the team have produced some brilliant, fast-flowing rugby, highlighted by a convincing 57–5 win over Leventhorpe.

The **Year 9s** have enjoyed an outstanding start to their season, remaining unbeaten going into the half term break. Their standout performance came in a memorable victory against Saffron Walden County High School.

Meanwhile, the **Year 8s** continue to grow in confidence and skill. After a narrow defeat to Saffron Walden earlier in the term, they showed great determination to bounce back with a hard-fought 20–15 win against Leventhorpe earlier this week.

Well done to the small group of enthusiastic **year 7** students who have been attending training on a Tuesday evening - keep up the hard work! If you are in year 7 and would like to join training, please come and join us as the club is open to all abilities.

A huge well done to all players for their effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship this half term — an excellent start to the season!

Special mention to Sully C, Jacob W, Jacob M and Josh W who have been assisting with the coaching of the year 7 and 8 players on a Tuesday evening – your support and dedication is much appreciated in the Department.

#### **Girls Hockey**

It's been a brilliant half term of girls' hockey across Years 7–11!

The **Year 7 girls** have made a fantastic start to their first season, showing great teamwork and determination with a 2–0 win over Avanti and a hard-fought 0–0 draw against a strong SWCHS side.

The **Year 8 girls** have also made excellent progress—after a narrow 3–2 loss to SWCHS, they bounced back impressively with three consecutive wins against Hockerill, Avanti, and Stephen Perse. A special mention too for the Year 8 B team, who celebrated their first win of the season with a 2–1 victory over Stephen Perse.

The **Year 9 team** have continued to demonstrate great resilience after two narrow defeats, 1–0 to Stephen Perse and 3–2 to SWCHS. They are now looking forward to their next challenge at the District Tournament after half term.

Despite being a small year group, the **Year 10 girls** have enjoyed success this half term, securing a strong win against Hockerill and drawing with SWCHS, before a narrow 2–1 loss to Stephen Perse.

Finally, in their last season as JFAN hockey players, the **Year 11 girls** have started superbly with back-to-back victories—1–0 against Hockerill and 2–0 against Birchwood.

Thank you to all the girls for your hard work, commitment, and team spirit this half term. We look forward to seeing this continue after the holidays as we prepare for plenty more fixtures, including the District Competition!

#### **Basketball Club**

Basketball Club has been a huge success this half term, with 75 different students from across Years 7 and 10 attending in total on either Tuesday or Wednesday lunchtime sessions. A special shout-out goes to Year 10 students Jacob M, Joshua W, Mikolaj K, and Caleb L, who have generously given up their lunchtime to help coach and officiate during the Year 7 and 8 club on Tuesdays. Your dedication and support have made a big difference!

Basketball Club will continue after half term, so keep an eye out for the next sessions—whether you're a seasoned player or just looking to get into the game, everyone is welcome!

#### **Netball Club**

This half term, the girls at Netball Club have shown fantastic attendance and dedication to their training. They're working hard in preparation for upcoming fixtures against local schools, as well as the district competition after Christmas. A huge well done to all the girls for their effort and commitment—your hard work is truly paying off! Keep up the great work!



2 - Handball



3 - Girls Rugby



4 - Girls Rugby

# Attendance



## **Attendance Update**

Please find below attendance for each year group for the week commencing 15th September. As a reminder we would be expecting each year group to be over 97% each week.

## Weekly Attendance 13th to 17th October

- Y7 97.51%
- Y8 94.72 %
- Y9 91.58 %
- Y10 89.58 %
- Y11 92.36 %

<sup>&</sup>quot;Every time you walk through the door, you open one to success!""Your presence makes our team stronger!"

### **Careers and Post 16**

#### **Post 16 destinations Open Evenings**

Below is a list of upcoming Open Evenings that may be of interest to year 11 families.

Herts and Essex High School 11th November

Bishops Stortford High School 5th November

Hockerill College 22nd November

Birchwood High School Date to be confirmed

### **Enrichment**



At our Academy, we believe that co-curricular activities are an essential part of a well-rounded education. They offer a range of benefits that support our students in developing aspiration, showing respect, and building a strong sense of responsibility. Through participating in these activities, students are encouraged to:

Aspire to reach their full potential by exploring new interests and talents

- Show respect by working collaboratively with peers and staff in a positive and inclusive environment
- Take responsibility for their own personal growth and learning beyond the classroom

Co-curricular involvement also helps to:

- Enhance academic performance
- · Boost self-esteem and emotional well-being
- Provide meaningful social opportunities
- Develop essential life and leadership skills
- Strengthen applications for sixth form, college, or university

We are proud to offer a wide and diverse range of clubs this term, and we hope your child will take full advantage of these opportunities—to aspire confidently, act with respect, and grow with responsibility.

The full timetable is available on our website <u>here</u>.

## **Head Students**

 After a formal election this Tuesday we are proud to announce our Head students for this year will be Zara R and Lily S and our Senior students will be Fern H, Phoenix P and Mary B. We are very proud of all the students who took part in the election this week and we congratulate them all.



### Student Council

Welcome Our New Student Leadership Team.

We're proud to announce that our newly appointed **Student Leadership Team** has now received their badges and begun their journey as role models within our academy community. These students were selected by members of their form groups following our nomination and election process. Next half term they will begin collaborating and sharing ideas for school improvement projects — all of which they will identify and lead themselves. Next half term, they'll be working closely with **Mrs Warwick, our Principal**, to shape their plans and begin making a real impact. We're excited to see how their leadership will help strengthen our school culture and inspire others. We have included our Year 9 and 10 team photograph. We will publish the Year 7/8 team next half term as we need a few photos permissions.

Congratulations to all our student leaders — we're confident they'll rise to the challenge and make us proud.



5 - Year 9 and Year 10 Student Council

#### **House Points**

#### **House points**

Weekly house points

56 Banstead

54 Caius

28 Frankland

34 Morden

44 Saxie

48 Thompson

# Dates for the diary coming up...



Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October - Half Term

Thursday 6th November Year 7 SEND Coffee morning

Monday the 10th to Saturday the 22nd November Platform 25

Thursday 27th November Year 8 Parents Evening

Friday 28th November INSET Day - Academy closed to pupils

Friday 19th December - End of Autumn Term



an exhibition of artwork from Anglian Learning secondary schools and sixthforms 10 - 22 November 2025

Michaelhouse Café, Trinity St, Cambridge, CB2 1SU Featuring artwork from: Bassingbourn Village College Bottisham Village College

Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport Linton Village College

The Netherhall School

The Oakes College Cambridge Sawston Village College





### **JFAN PTA**



### The Role and Importance of the PTA

State schools are currently facing considerable budget constraints due to ongoing government funding shortfalls. These financial pressures have unfortunately resulted in consequences such as staff reductions, a narrower range of subject choices, and significant cuts to extracurricular activities. While there have been some funding increases in recent years, many schools continue to experience real-terms cuts since 2010, with the most deprived areas and secondary schools being particularly affected. Against this challenging backdrop, it is important to recognise how rare it is for a high school to have a thriving Parent Teacher Association (PTA). JFAN is truly

privileged to have maintained an active PTA for over a decade, benefiting students, staff, and the wider school community, raising between £5-10K per year.

#### **How the PTA Has Supported JFAN**

Over the past two years, the PTA has made a tangible difference to school life through a variety of projects and initiatives, including:

- Refurbishment of the school library
- Refurbishment of the Medical Room
- Provision of music equipment
- Upgrading the dance studio with new flooring and mirrors
- Funding for counselling and therapy sessions
- Piano tuning
- Arranging transport for careers events
- Donations towards each school prom

#### Join the PTA: Volunteer Opportunities

In order to continue this vital work, we need to recruit new members. We are keen to welcome enthusiastic parents and carers to join our expanding team, with opportunities available in the following areas:

- PTA Secretary (job share)
- Social Media & Marketing Support
- Fundraising & Grants Support

If these roles do not appeal, there are also opportunities to take on one-off projects, including:

- Winter Ball 2026 for parents, carers, and the teaching community (with much of the groundwork already completed)
- Uniform pop-up shops at JFAN and the Farmers Market (held monthly)
- Fundraiser Golf Day Spring 2026
- Christmas Market 2026 (Young Enterprise) December 2026
- Year 7 School Disco

You can also lend a helping hand at our regular events, such as school BBQs, Quiz Nights, and serving refreshments at the annual Drama production.

#### **Business and Community Support**

We are always on the lookout for parents with businesses who would like to support the work of the PTA and connect with the parent community. If you or someone you know can offer services such as marketing, advertising, printing, trades (e.g., landscaping, painting & decorating), or social media expertise, we would love to hear from you.

#### Save the Dates

- AGM Tuesday 11th November, 19:00 at The Coach & Horses, Newport
- Next School Fundraiser for students, BBQ day Friday 12th December at JFAN, 09:00– 15:00

A full calendar of PTA events will be shared in due course.

#### **Contact Information**

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Kerinda or Kaymarie via the school email: jfaadmin@joycefrankland.org









# **Lost Property**

If your child/ren have lost any property, items of uniform or equipment please check the photographs to see if you recognise anything. Items will be stored in student reception ready for collection.



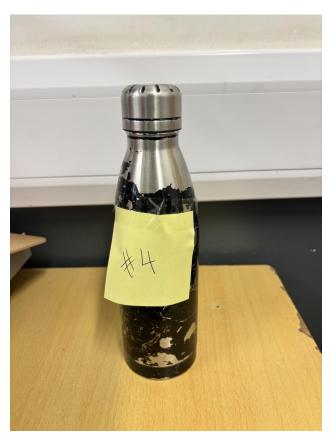




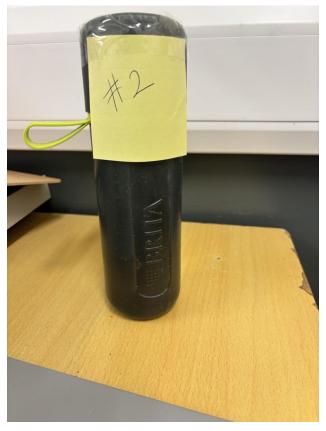


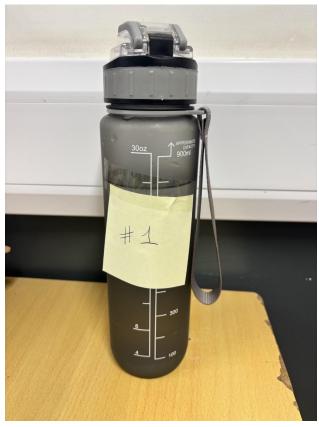
















# **Safeguarding Team**



Role:

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Deputy DSL(s)

Named safeguarding governor

Chair of Governors

Trust Safeguarding Lead

School Online Safety Lead

School Prevent Lead

Name and contact details:

Lee Gamble <a href="mailto:lgamble@joycefrankland.org">lgamble@joycefrankland.org</a>

Dan Langley <u>dlangley@joycefrankland.org</u>

Emma Brockwell <u>ebrockwell@joycefrankland.org</u>

Margaret Sherwin

**Nigel Poad** 

Camilla Saunders

Lee Gamble

Dan Langley

Designated teacher for Children in Care and children previously in care (CiC) Lee Gamble

Senior Mental Health Lead Emma Brockwell and Dan Langley



6 - Whisper

Whisper is our online reporting tool which supports our existing safeguarding practices and allows us to take effective action quickly. Students can report concerns for welfare, bullying or if they just need someone to talk to about a problem in school or at home and can be made anonymously if they wish.

The link is here Whisper

#### **Donations**

#### Can you help?

At times we are developing areas of the academy or are working on small projects that would benefit from particular items but can't always afford these from our schools budget. When these items are identified we will be putting in small notice in the JFAN Connector just in case any of our families may be getting rid of these items from home or would like to donate. Thank you for your consideration.

Reading Books - please keep donating any books that are suitable for our students and are in good condition; we can never have too many books! We would really like some more Guinness book of Records books.

IKEA Cube Storage Units (Kallax - the ones with the square sections you can put boxes in, any size or colour) - we are developing a few areas at the academy where these would be really useful.

## **Vacancies**



Details for all the current Academy and Anglian Learning vacancies can be found on our website <a href="here">here</a>

# Contact Us



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Visit us on our website at www.joycefrankland.org

Please follow our social media pages. <u>Facebook</u>, <u>JFAN Performing Arts</u> and our <u>Linkedin</u> page.