Lord,
Teach me a new freedom.
Freedom to reject comparison
And to embrace uniqueness.
Freedom to cut ties with greed
And feast on love.
Freedom to abstain from over indulgence
And feast on self-control.
Freedom to leave behind selfish thoughts
And to focus on the needs of others.
Freedom to fend off insecurity
And to embrace grace.
Lord, at this time of Lent,
Thank you for the freedom you bring.
Amen.

**Dates for your Diary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>8 April</td>
<td>Year 7, 9, 10 and 11 Data Snapshot out to parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>8 April</td>
<td>Year 8 Reports out to parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9 April</td>
<td>Year 8 Parent Consultation Afternoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>12 April</td>
<td>Break up for Easter Holidays</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Diocesan Canonical Inspection**

I am unable to give you the feedback from our Diocesan Inspection last Friday. I can inform you that the inspectors were very impressed with the children and the staff. I look forward to being able to share this with you at a future date.

**The St Ralph Sherwin Trust Liturgy Wheel** has started its prayer journey in St Margaret’s Glossop. The Liturgy Wheel will travel around the twenty-three schools of the Trust and will be with us the week beginning 18 November 2019.

Welcome to Ryan Shelton in Year 10 and Alice Sault-Bates in Year 7 who joined our school community this week.
Pope Francis: Document on Human Fraternity

The Holy Father has requested, via the Apostolic Nuncio and the Bishops' Conference, that the attached document, signed jointly by Pope Francis and Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, be disseminated as widely as possible. The Pope and the Grand Imam want the Document to become the object of study and reflection in all schools, universities and institutes of education and formation. The hope is that such an effort might contribute towards inspiring new generations to promote peace and the common good and, in particular, to defend the rights of the oppressed. (The attachment includes a copy of the Nuncio’s letter.)

The document itself can most easily be accessed on the Vatican website, at the following link:


The current title of the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar was officially established in 1961, but has a longer history dating back to the 14th century. It is a prominent title and office within Sunni Islam in Egypt (sometimes also known as the Grand Sheikh). He is considered by some Muslims to be the highest authority in Sunni Islamic thought and Islamic jurisprudence and holds a great influence on followers of the theological Ash'ari and Maturidi traditions worldwide. The Grand Imam Heads the Al-Azhar Mosque, and by extension Al-Azhar University.

Saint John Houghton has a mind to be kind

We would like to recognise Mr Hall, Leah Smedley, Fearne Hearson and Freya Cummings who have been spotted in school for being kind.

Romero House News

Happy Friday everyone. I sincerely hope you have had a great week!

Sunday 24 March was Saint Oscar Romero Feast Day as it was 39 years since his assassination in El Salvador. On Tuesday we celebrated this by having a special Act of Worship in his honour. Thank you to everyone who read something and helped deliver a great Act of Worship. A special thank you must go to Rachel’s aunt - Mrs Kathy Doust who’s brother, Father John Medcalf, worked in the same area as Oscar Romero. Mrs Doust spoke to the students of Romero House about her experiences in El Salvador and the work that Father John Medcalf did with the people in central America. We also had a non-uniform day to celebrate Romero’s feast day.

We had an Annunciation Mass in school on Monday. Well done to those students who took part in the readings and in the choir. The Mass was very reflective and much needed. Like Mrs McCarthy says “You can’t beat a good mass.”

Two more weeks to go until we break up for Easter which means we are still in Lent. Are you managing to keep your promises? Stay away from temptation few a few more days!

I would like to reinforce the quote that Oscar Romero famously said “Aspire not to have more, but to be more.” Think about how this could be relevant you and think about how you can live by Oscar Romero example.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Quenby
School Lottery update

Many thanks to everyone who has signed up for the school lottery so far. It only costs £1 per week and the more people that are signed up, the greater the weekly prize money.

There are currently **88 people** signed up which means every week someone from our school community wins at least **£30.60**. Everyone entered is also in with the chance of winning a weekly **£25k jackpot**.

At the moment the lottery is generating **£50** a week towards **PTA funds** which is great. Please spread the word.

https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/saint-john-houghton-academy

Last week’s winner was: **Kate Kells** winning **£30.60** Well done!

Chaplaincy Department

Rachel would like to thank **Year 8 Team chaplaincy** for providing our Easter Garden.

Please do remember to see our Garden after Easter Sunday!

Date for your diary

Saint John Houghton Lent Liturgy Thursday April 4 2019 at 6.00pm with refreshments in Reception and the Liturgy beginning at 7.00pm. All welcome.
The Saint John Houghton Community would like to thank Mrs McCarthy for encouraging the J&P team to take immediate action to raise money for the disaster following the cyclone in Mozambique. The team would like to pay particular thanks to Rhys Windridge and Mr Carr for their financial support and to the Faith In Action Team for their prayers. All donations still welcome.

Thank you for taking the time to read the Friday Letter. Some of our Year 11 will be doing their Art exam this week. We wish them every success. Thanks to Father John Paul Leonard for celebrating mass on the feast of the Annunciation last Monday. It is great to be able to gather together in prayer and worship.

Wishing you a restful weekend

Best wishes

Mrs McCarthy  Mr Gritton
Headteacher  Executive Headteacher
Saint John Houghton Catholic Voluntary Academy

Lenten Service

“A Mind to be Merciful”

Thursday 04 April 2019

Saint John Houghton Catholic Voluntary Academy
Meet in School Reception
6pm start

All are welcome

An invitation to a time of reflection