



Have faith... believe you can

Chaplain

SJB has a Lay Chaplain, Ms Rachael Hornby (01483 545019), who runs and organises the spiritual life events at school. Students and staff may drop in at any time and chat in confidence about anything that concerns them.

Ms Hornby is also at the end of the telephone or email for parents to contact at any time if they so wish.

The prayer life of the school is of fundamental importance and every day begins with a time of prayer and reflection as a tutor group, a year group or the whole school. During the course of the year there are liturgical celebrations for the whole school. These include a whole school mass at the beginning of the school year in September, the New Year Mass in January and Mass of Thanksgiving before the public examinations begin; the Advent Liturgy at Christmas and a Lenten liturgy just before Easter are a particular highlight of both terms. Also, we celebrate our patronal feast day of St John the Baptist on the Friday before 24 June with our much loved SJB Day. All monies raised on this crazy fundraising day go towards the students going to help the pilgrims in Lourdes each year.

The school chapel is a focal point for prayer and is used by individuals and groups. All Year 7 students have an Introduction to the Chapel session, very early in the school year followed by form time once a year for Year 8 and Year 9. Mass is celebrated in the chapel every Friday morning before school at 8.15am and all students, staff and parents are welcome to attend.

Each year all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 take part in an Away Day which takes place off the school premises. Students in Years 10 and 11 and the Sixth Form students are offered the opportunity of going on a residential retreat at St Cassian's Centre, Kintbury. All these activities provide time for deeper personal reflection and are highly valued by students, parents and staff.

The Sixth Form spiritual leaders run an event they aptly named LIFE once a term for sixth form students and staff to attend at St Dunstan's Church. They have a different focus for each group each term and always involve fun and food with time to pray and reflect.

Each week SJB has a theme and students and staff alike concentrate on a deeper understanding of the theme either in form time or assemblies.