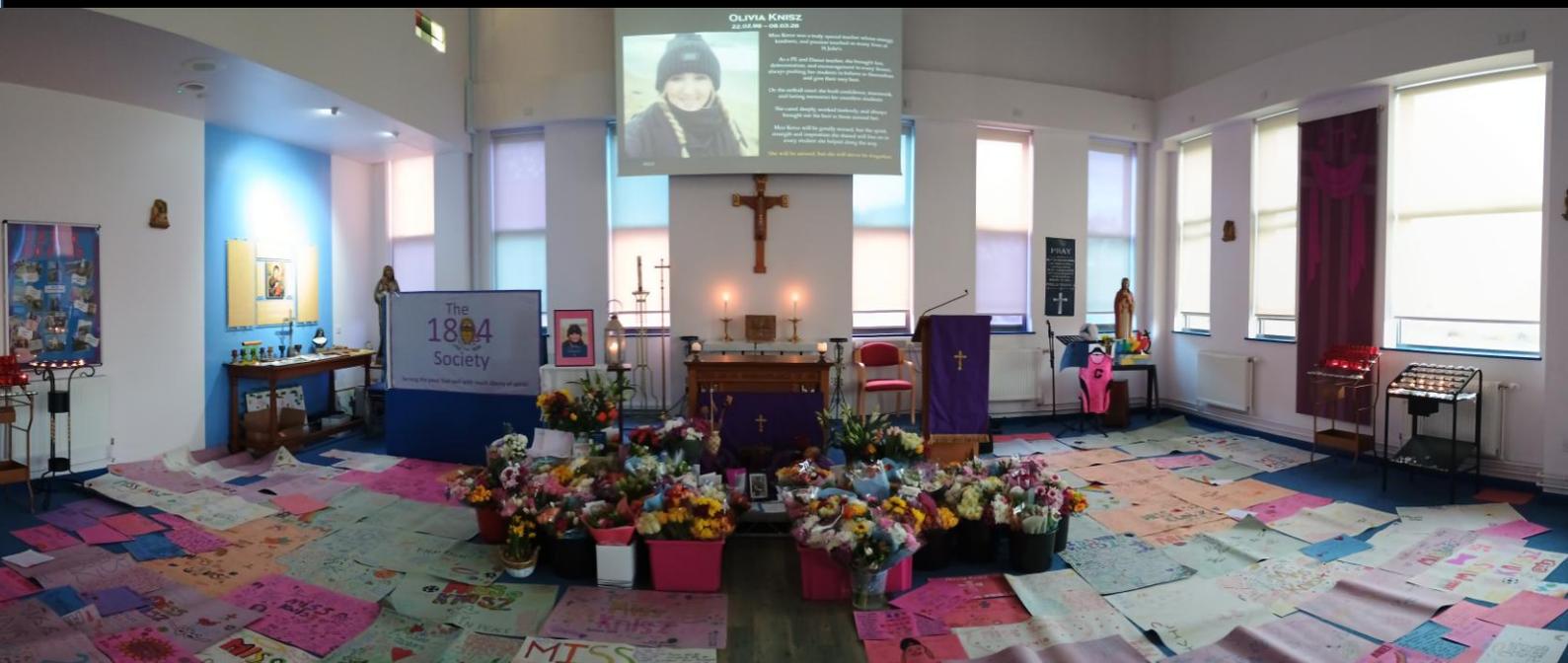




MISS OLIVIA KNISZ
22.02.98 – 08.03.26

She will be missed, but she will never be forgotten.



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you in response to the communication shared on Monday, after what has been an emotional week for our school community following the sudden passing of our dearly beloved colleague, Miss Knisz.

Over these past few days, our girls have shown remarkable dignity, kindness, care and compassion. On Monday morning, when we shared this sad news, their response was deeply moving. It was important to us that students did not hear this through other channels, and by 9:30am we had spoken to all 1,000 girls, followed by an extended form period and a quiet space for students to sit with their thoughts and feelings. Their maturity and sensitivity during this time have been a true credit to them.

Since then, we have aimed to keep day-to-day school life as calm and settled as possible, providing continuity for the girls while recognising the profound impact that the loss of Miss Knisz has had on so many. Our Chapel has now become a peaceful and beautiful tribute space, a place where students can visit, reflect, pray, or simply remember a teacher who touched the lives of countless children and adults with her warmth, dedication and grace.

This unexpected loss has been deeply felt, but the outpouring of love, support and kindness from parents, carers and the wider community has brought us great comfort. Your emails, messages and gestures of support have strengthened us, and we are incredibly grateful, and in response to this have opened an online book of condolence that has already received tributes from across the country and further afield. If you would like to leave a tribute [you can do so here](#).

Please be assured that we are working closely with several external agencies to ensure that every student feels supported, cared for and held through this time of grief. On Tuesday 18th March, we will be welcoming Joan Brennan, an experienced Bereavement Specialist from the Bobby Colleran Trust, who will work with individual students and small groups throughout the day. In addition, our pastoral team, mental-health specialist, and partners from CAMHS and YPAS will continue to provide in-house support. Students will be guided in school about how they can access this support should they wish to.

How we will continue to support students

The following support will remain in place:

- Pastoral and Safeguarding staff available for students who need to talk
- Quiet spaces for reflection or time out from lessons
- Parish priests have attended school each day to provide support and a listening ear for students
- Opportunities for prayer and remembrance, including time with our Chaplain
- Staff guidance to help teachers support children sensitively in class
- If you feel your child may need additional support, please contact our Safeguarding team safeguarding@stjulies.org.uk, who can help signpost further services.

How You Can Support Your Child at Home

Children may ask questions or revisit the topic several times. The following guidance may help:

- Provide clear age-appropriate explanations
- Reassure them that a range of feelings is normal
- Encourage them to talk about how they feel, but don't force conversations
- Maintain routines to give a sense of stability
- Let them know that the school is a safe place for them to express their emotions

Support for Families

If any parent or carer feels they need support at this time, the following services are available:

- **Mrs Wallace, School Chaplain** – prayer, reflection, and support
- **GP or NHS 111** – for mental health or wellbeing concerns
- **Cruse Bereavement Support (0808 808 1677)** – specialist guidance for families
- **Samaritans (116 123)** – confidential emotional support 24/7

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for your patience, kindness and understanding. Your compassion has been felt deeply by staff and students alike. I know that Miss Knisz's family are incredibly grateful for the love that has been shown to them; it has brought them real comfort during this heartbreaking time.

I would like to end with a short reflection on a colleague, friend and teacher who meant so much to so many:

"Miss Knisz brought compassion and kindness at the highest possible standard. She had a gift for listening deeply, understanding fully, and supporting families with patience and dignity. Her care for others was never forced; she simply saw people, really saw them, and always responded with empathy and strength. We give thanks for the gift of her life and for the joy, love and inspiration she shared with us."

Our Chapel, filled with messages, prayers and tokens of remembrance, offers just a small glimpse of the love felt for an exceptional woman who gave so much of herself to others. She will be greatly missed.

Thank you for your understanding, sensitivity, and support at this very sad time.

With love and prayers,

Kate McCourt
Headteacher



St. Julie's Catholic High School

Weekly Newsletter

Week beginning 16th March

Forthcoming Dates for your Diary

25th March
175 Years
Celebration Mass at
the Cathedral

26th March
Notre Dame Awards
Evening



A Warm Welcome To Our New Students!

On Wednesday evening we enjoyed a highlight of our school calendar when students who have gained a place in September joined together to meet each other for the first time at our Year 6 Welcome Event. Parents assembled in the school Sports Hall for a presentation from our Leadership Team whilst students gathered in the Dorothy Stang Theatre for some fun icebreakers and the all-important learning of the school song, a recital of which was beamed into the Sports Hall for parents to enjoy! You can [see photos here](#).



Drama Students Perform at VAWG Conference

This week we were honoured to be asked to perform our festival winning piece 'Wrong Place, Wrong Time' at the Violence Against Women and Girls Conference held in Anfield. Despite the emotional challenges faced by the students in school this week they gave their all in a breathtakingly powerful performance that left the audience stunned. Well done to all of our wonderful performers.



Students Swim for Garston at Wirral Meet

Congratulations to Grace, Sophia and Lexi who represented Garston Swimming Club at the Wirral Met Spring Meet last weekend. Astonishingly all three of the gifted swimmers are in the same form at St. Julie's! They were certainly kept busy at the meet, with Lexi swimming in three events, Sophia in eight and Grace in a remarkable ten! Well done to all of them for swimming for the pride of 8T!

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Year 7 Liverpool Schoolgirls Through to National Final!

The U12 Liverpool Schoolgirls team have taken victory against Bolton to progress to the national final of the ESFA U12 Girls District National Cup. The side features several players from St Julie's, and both Anya and Sophie started the difficult game. The hosts opted for a heavy grass pitch and pressed their home advantage hard while the Liverpool players continued to adapt to the conditions. The Bolton players had the better chances in the first half but failed to capitalise, with the first goal scored by Liverpool very late in the first half. Having now found the measure of the pitch the visiting side dominated the second half adding another goal to secure a solid 0-2 victory. Congratulations to Anya, Sophie, Honey and Blossom for a very successful away fixture. We are looking forward to seeing them contest the final and lift some silverware! Trial applications are now open for next year's squad and the deadline for [completing the application form](#) is 23rd May.



From Lab to life: celebrating British Science Week

This week, St Julie's celebrated British Science Week! We were thrilled to welcome our inspiring

guest speakers, both proud St Julie's alumni: one a dedicated nurse and the other a passionate marine biologist. They shared their journeys and gave students a real insight into the wide and exciting world of their careers. Science is everywhere - from healthcare and environmental research to technology and beyond -and our former students continue to shine in these fields. Year on year, many of our pupils go on to study science-related degrees, and we're proud to see them making a real impact in their chosen careers. Studying science at St Julie's Sixth Form opens doors to a wide range of careers, and with strong labour market demand for STEM skills, our students are well-positioned to access rewarding, future-proof careers and competitive university courses. Don't forget to check out [the interview with this year's Secret Scientist](#) to hear more inspiring stories from people working in fascinating scientific fields. To read an article from Brunel University on why more teenagers are choosing Science careers, [click here](#) or [here](#) to watch a short video which highlights the broad range of scientific careers beyond traditional roles like doctors or lab workers. The short animation emphasises fields such as geochemistry, data science, and quantum computing, showcasing how science fosters problem-solving, innovation, global collaboration, and job satisfaction while being accessible to everyone regardless of background.

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MFL

- **Reflection tasks: Specific exam style-tasks (Photo card/ 40 word/ translation/ grammar & vocabulary recall).**
- **Weekly exam practice writing tasks and mark schemes provided with written feedback.**
- **Pupils have all been provided with a revision guide with exam style questions.**
- **Revision sessions weekly: Foundation Thursday lesson 5, Higher after-school.**

Recommended approaches:

Topic break down:
 - Use QLA to review which paper you need support with (Listening, reading, writing, speaking).
 - Review QLA & the specification to assist with specific vocabulary, grammar and SSCs (Sound Symbol Correspondence).
 - GCSE Spanish Specification 2024 Issue 2

Short but frequent revision sessions:
 - Try to complete a revision/exam question task per day (e.g. listening/ reading/ grammar/ translation/writing). Little and often approaches to revision are more beneficial than long but not regular sessions.
 - All exam style questions and exemplar model answers are available via Active Hub. Please complete these and your teacher will mark them.
[ActiveHub](#)

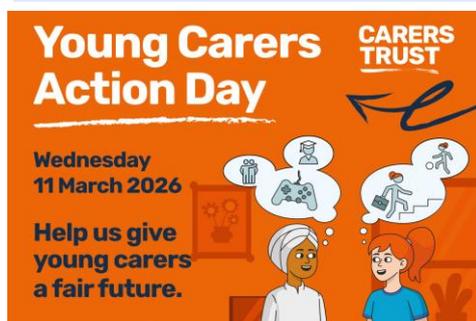
Useful Websites:

[GCSE Spanish - Edexcel \(for exams from 2026\) - BBC Bitesize](#)
[Edexcel GCSE Spanish Flashcards | Quizlet](#)

Paper 1 - Speaking	Paper 2 - Listening	Paper 3 - Reading	Paper 4 - Writing
Read aloud: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See past paper examples. • Review SSCs Role play: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past Papers • End of unit - Active Hub Photo card: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review thematic contexts • Reflection tasks (in class) • Past papers • End of unit active hub. Conversation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare questions via models. • Use examples from End of unit - Active hub. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past papers • Active hub - text-book and homework tasks. • Use the transcripts to review any unknown vocabulary. 	Reading comprehension: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete past papers. • Review vocabulary and thematic contexts. Translation Spanish into English: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review vocabulary and grammar (see specification). • Complete past examples and of Active Hub tasks. • Translate extra reading passages. 	Foundation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo card: In class weekly practice. • 40 word: In class weekly Practice and review models. • 90 word: Weekly homework task. Bespoke feedback with mark scheme. • Translation Spanish into English: Review vocabulary and grammar. Complete past papers & Active hub. • Higher: 130/150 word: Review models and complete past papers. Use the specification to increase complexity.

Subject Revision Focus Slides

Every week we're sharing a different subject focus with our Year 11 students. This week we're looking at Spanish.



Young Carers' Action Day

On Wednesday 11th March we marked Young Carers' Action Day, an annual national event organised by Carers Trust to raise awareness of the vital role young carers play and to call for action so they have the same opportunities as their peers to learn, grow and thrive. A Young Carer is a student who helps to look after a family member or friend who is disabled, ill, has a long-term condition or mental health need, often juggling these responsibilities alongside school, homework and everyday life. Young Carers Action Day highlights both their contribution and the challenges they may face. At St Julie's High School, we value and support all young carers. If your child is a young carer, or you think they might be, we encourage you to get in touch. Support can include pastoral care in school, links to local services, and, with parent / carer consent, referral to specialist support such as Barnardo's, where trained workers can work

confidentially with students and their families to provide tailored help. If you would like to talk about support for your child or someone you know, please contact Mrs Jones (Sixth Form). Working alongside Miss Machin at school they're here to listen and help every step of the way.



Letter From The Headteacher

Please [click here](#) for a copy of a letter circulated by Mrs McCourt to all parents with information about the forthcoming celebration of 175 years of Notre Dame teaching in Liverpool.

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Virtual Conference Delegates Turn Adversity into Advantage

This week has seen the seventieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women to evaluate progress on ensuring access to justice for all girls and women. The session spawned a number of parallel engagement events, including the Working Group on Girls event that convened in New York. The hybrid event attracted a number of virtual delegates, including a team from St. Julie's. On the day however, technical difficulties meant that our delegates were unable to join. Refusing to be daunted by this setback, our students instead held their own lively debate around the key themes explored at the session. The debate proved valuable to the students, and we're proud of them for so effectively seizing the opportunity to turn adversity into advantage!



Free Virtual Conference on Medical and Dentistry Applications

Are you thinking of applying for Medicine or Dentistry later this year? If so, you might want to take advantage of this free offer from Get Into Medicine and/or Get Into Dentistry. [Read all about it on our Careers website.](#)

Vacancy for School Cleaning Assistant

We're currently advertising a vacancy for a cleaning assistant, if you or anyone you know might be interested you can [find out more information here.](#)



Free NHS Virtual Work Experience

Are you aged 14 or over and seriously interested in a career in medicine or dentistry? If so, this is a great opportunity to get Virtual Work Experience with the NHS free. This is an amazing programme and takes place online across four months (for dentistry) or six months (for medicine). You work at your own pace in your own time and will learn so much which will benefit you for applying for and studying these subjects in the future.



Neurodiverse Family Support Network Information Event

The Neurodiverse Family Support Network are hosting a support and information event at Sefton Park Palm House on Sunday 22nd March from 11am to 2pm. Parents, carers and professionals are invited to go along, meet with and speak to specialist services and activity providers working with early years right up to adulthood. It's a free

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event and you don't need to register in advance.



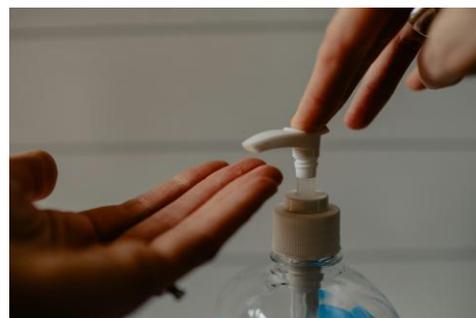
Support Services from River Young People

River Young People Support Services provides free and confidential support for young people impacted by drug or alcohol use. They work closely with schools to offer accessible, student-centred support and aim to make referrals and engagement as straightforward as possible, whether they are using substances themselves presently or in the past – or feel effected by someone else's substance misuse. You can find [more information here](#).



Responsible Parking

Please [click here to read a copy of a letter](#) circulated by Mrs McCourt last week referring to parking and stopping whilst picking up and dropping off students.



Healthy Schools and Controlling Infection

As we enter the period of seasonal illnesses we're working hard as a

school to manage infectious diseases within the school community and following relevant guidelines. You can help to keep your child healthy by [considering this government advice](#). Most mild illnesses - such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough - do **not** require time off school, unless your child has a temperature. There's [more guidance on that here](#). It's always helpful to book medical appointments outside of school hours where possible. Where this isn't possible, they should bring their child to school before, and return after, if they are well enough. Pupils can attend appointments in their school uniform.

Vaccinations are a key line of defence against flu and other preventable illnesses. When children and young people receive all the recommended vaccines in the national immunisation programme, it helps protect their health and support the wellbeing of the whole school community. School Age Immunisation Services (SAIS), commissioned by NHS England, deliver these free vaccinations in schools. This autumn, all school children in England (from reception to year 11) will be offered a [flu vaccination](#) at school. There's more information about vaccination programmes in secondary schools [here](#).



Punctuality Procedures at St Julie's

At St Julie's, we believe punctuality is crucial for a successful and positive school day. Arriving on time ensures every pupil is ready to learn and minimises disruption for all.

Why Is Punctuality So Important?

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- Sets good routines for life
 - Ensures no learning is missed
 - Minimises disruption for others
- You can read our [punctuality procedures in detail here](#).

100%	0 days	0 lessons missed
99%	1 day	6 lessons missed
98%	3 days	18 lessons missed
97%	1 week	30 lessons missed
96%	1.5 weeks	45 lessons missed
94%	2 weeks	60 lessons missed
93%	2.5 weeks	75 lessons missed
92%	3 weeks	90 lessons missed
90%	3.5 weeks	105 lessons missed

The Importance of Attendance

In a world where we face a constant barrage of performance statistics it can be easy to think that a figure that's over 90% must be pretty good. With attendance that's really not the case, as you can see in the table above. A student with 94% attendance has missed two full weeks of schools – that's 60 lessons! Remember, school attendance matters.



Register As An Alumnus

Are you a former pupil at St. Julie's? Would you like to join our register of alumni? We're always happy to hear from former students, and we'd love to hear about your progress and life experiences that might be helpful in guiding and inspiring our current students. Even if you'd just like to keep in touch and receive our newsletter, you can [fill in the registration form here](#).

Dangerous parking

Please can all parents be reminded not to park on double yellow lines, zig zag markings or drop their daughter off on the pelican crossing. We are very concerned about the safety of all students. Road safety awareness is delivered through our PSHE programme but it is essential that we work in partnership to maintain the safety of all students. Police Community Support Officers will continue to visit the area and issue fixed penalty notices for obstructing driveways and parking illegally. We have also communicated road safety concerns with local councillors and the highway agencies. The safety of students and pedestrians is paramount.



Education Welfare Helpline

New for September 2023 is an Education Welfare Helpline. This is available to all parents with attendance queries and is available 9am - 5pm weekdays. You can contact the service on **0151 233 3916**.

SENISS Helpline: 07591837693

If your child has special educational needs and you are wanting to know more on how to support their learning at home then please ring for professional advice, support or practical strategies.

Monday: 1pm – 4pm, Wednesday: 9am – 4pm, Friday: 9am – 12pm

Alternatively, you can email your concern to seniss@liverpool.gov.uk

Educational Psychology Service Helpline: 0151 233 5978

If you are concerned about your child's emotional wellbeing or managing their behaviour then please ring for professional advice,

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support or practical strategies.
Monday to Friday: 9am – 4.30pm
Alternatively, you can email your concern to epsadmin@liverpool.gov.uk

ASD Training Team:

07522800193/07515501854
Advice and strategies for families of children and young people with autism or social communication needs.

Monday to Friday: 9am – 12pm
Alternatively, you can email your concern to ASDtrainingteam@liverpool.gov.uk
Children's Occupational Therapy Service

Please contact the Children's [https://learnliveuk.com/network-rail-secondary-school-safety-talk/Occupational Therapist](https://learnliveuk.com/network-rail-secondary-school-safety-talk/Occupational%20Therapist) who is supporting the child for advice or alternatively for general enquiries please email chot@liverpool.gov.uk
Liverpool Sensory Service
Please contact the Sensory Specialist Teacher who is supporting the child for advice or alternatively for general enquiries please email sensoryservice@liverpool.gov.uk

Hub Of Hope

[The Hub of Hope](#) is the UK's leading mental health support database. It is provided by national mental health charity, Chasing the Stigma, and brings local, national, peer, community, charity, private and NHS mental health support and services together in one place for the first time.

Parent Chat Live

[Action for Children Parent Chat](#) is a free and confidential live chat with a qualified parenting coach in the UK. Staff are there to talk about family life, caring for children or managing your wellbeing as a parent. The chat service is a safe space for a parent to share their concerns. There will be someone to listen, take time to understand a parent's situation, and work with the parent to find possible solutions. If

appropriate, they may suggest ideas for where to get extra support.

Liverpool Citizens Support Scheme

If you find yourself in crisis you can apply for support to get food and basic necessities for you and your family including gas and electric vouchers (urgent needs) and furniture and household essentials (home needs).

An emergency or crisis might be a fire or flood, or you have had to move due to violence or fear of violence, or you are leaving care or prison and need support to stay in the community. There are [more details available here](#).

Neglect

Everyone deserves to feel safe, cared for, and to have their basic needs met. Being taken care of means that someone is giving us what we need physically and emotionally, as well as making sure individuals are getting an education and access to things like the doctor when needed. If you are struggling; or you think someone you know is being neglected, then it's important to get support. Click here [Neglect | Childline](#) to learn more about accessing support; the types of support you could access. This page contains a contact number: 0800 1111; a contact form and offers different ways of obtaining help including a 1-2-1 chat with a counsellor [Get Support | Childline](#)

Young Carers Support

Barnardo's Action with Young Carers offers assessments and support for young carers. You can find out more from their [information leaflet](#) or [at the website](#).

Domestic Abuse:

There is clear evidence that nationally and locally the frequency of incidences of domestic abuse increased during and following the pandemic. If you or someone you know is suffering from domestic

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abuse then the following resources will be of use:

- Merseyside Police provide a range of [local and national helplines](#), including a vital resource for adults ['#It's abuse'](#).
- The [Bright Sky app](#) is an excellent resource for victims of domestic abuse.
- The [Hideout](#) resources provide support for children who have witnessed or suffered from domestic abuse

Members of the Safeguarding Team are in school every day during lockdown and can be contacted in the usual way, with the safeguarding@stjulies.org.uk email address being the best way to make contact out of hours.

RASA (Rape and Sexual Abuse)

Merseyside is a specialist service providing support to anyone who has been impacted by any form of sexual violence at any time in their lives. You can call us on 0151 558 1801, email referrals@rasamerseyside.org or visit our website www.rasamerseyside.org

Mental Well-being Support

Children and young people, parents and carers in crisis can call the **Alder Hey CAMHS crisis care line** 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 0151 293 3577 or freephone 0808 196 3550. They should only present to Accident Emergency Department if they need medical treatment or are struggling to keep themselves safe in the immediate moment.

Anxiety UK – Charity providing support if you have been diagnosed with anxiety
Phone: 03444 775 774 (Mon to Fri 9.30am-5.30pm)

CALM – Campaign against living Miserably, for Men ages 15-35
Phone: 0800 58 58 58 (daily 5pm-midnight)

Mental Health Foundation – support for mental health concerns
<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/>

MIND – Meeting mental health needs
Phone: 0300 123 3393 (Mon-Fri, 9.00am-6.00pm)

No Panic – support line for panic attacks and OCD
Phone: 0844967 4848 (daily 10.00am-10.00pm)

Give Us A Shout
Immediate support by text for people of all ages.
<https://giveusashout.org/>
Text 'SHOUT' to 85258

PAPYRUS – Suicide prevention team
Phone: 0800 068 4141 (Mon – Fri, 10.00am – 5.00pm, 7.00pm - 10.00pm, weekends, 2.00pm-5.00pm)

Rethink Mental Illness – supporting mental health all ages.
Phone: 0300 5000 927 (Mon -Fri, 9.30am-4.00pm)

Samaritans – supporting those experiencing feelings of despair
Phone: 116 123 (free 24 hour helpline)

Kooth Guidance for Adults

Kooth is a free, online self-referral counselling service for young people that has had some really positive feedback. The guide for adults, [available here](#), gives more information about the kinds of services that young people can access and explains about how the system works.

Microsoft Office 365 Licencing

All students at St. Julie's are licenced to install the Microsoft Office 365 suite on up to five computers or mobile devices at home at no cost. Students can visit <https://www.office.com> and sign in using their school email address and password and then look for the 'Install and more' option.

Resources for Parents in Knowsley

Your list of contacts at St. Julie's

You can click any of the hyperlinked names below to send an email.

Progress Leaders

Year 7: [Miss O Knisz](#)
Year 8: [Mrs J Navarro](#)
Year 9: [Miss C Corrigan](#)
Year 10: [Miss V Homer](#)
Year 11: [Mr M Mottram](#)
Sixth Form: [Mrs R Lyons](#)

Curriculum Leaders

English: [Mrs D Walker](#)
Maths: [Miss M Naylor](#)
Science: [Mr J Magor](#)
RE: [Mrs T Hyland-Williams](#)
MFL: [Mrs R Buckton](#)
Humanities: [Miss J Rimmer](#)
Performing Arts (including PE): [Miss A Douglas](#)
Art and Technology: [Mrs A Bell](#)
Social Sciences and Computing: [Mrs K Byrne](#)
SENDCo: [Miss S Jackson](#)
Safeguarding: [Safeguarding Team](#)

Why not visit our Websites?

[St. Julie's Main Website](#)
[Chaplaincy Website](#)
Chaplaincy Instagram: [stjuliesl25](#)
[Wellbeing Website](#)
[Careers Website](#)

[Advanced Solutions](#): 0151 486 1788

Listening Ear: St Nicholas Centre,
70 Church Road, Halewood, L26 6LB

0151 488 6648

Children in care (under 18?) Polaris
Knowsley.EHWP@coreassets.com
07967 381 035

[Knowsley CAMHS](#) 0151 351 8610

[Kooth](#)

[Mental Health Support Teams](#)

[Zuntold](#)

Domestic Abuse

[Merseyside Domestic Violence Service](#) 0780 272 2703 mdvs.org

[Ruby Project](#) ruby@pss.org.uk

Family support [Family First](#)

[Knowsley Family Info](#)

[PSS Prisoner Family Service](#)

[Lee Cooper Foundation](#)

[Healthy Knowsley](#)