

St John Fisher Catholic High School



Newsletter 1 9 September 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to the new term, and I hope that you all have had a good summer.

On Tuesday we welcomed 234 students into Year 7. As I am writing this they have settled into the routines really well, but if there are any concerns please contact the Head of Year. We want to make sure the transition is as smooth as possible.

COMMUNICATION

A letter will be emailed every two weeks. Information will also be posted on the school web site. I urge you to spend a few minutes reading these newsletters as this is our main method of communication. Also, if your contact details or email details have changed – please let us know.

BUSES

I sent 20 newsletters last year, and the topic of 'buses' featured in the majority of them. All of the routes are running, but the bus companies have altered some of the timings and pick up points. Also, some of the buses are overloaded. The capacity issue has come about because a large number of parents applied for their passes after the 19th August deadline. The bus companies tell me that they employed drivers, leased buses and registered their routes on the information they had on this date. As time goes on they will look to make the routes and the numbers of buses more accommodating.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Over the summer you may have seen in the press that we were delighted with the A Level and GCSE results this year. The attainment and progress of students has remained really strong; thanks to the hard work of the students, staff and the support of parents. The benchmark figure that the government uses is the percentage of students achieving A* to C in English and mathematics. This year we achieved 83%. For the EBacc we achieved 53%. We expect both these figures to be one of the top outcomes in the region.

CHANGE OF ROLES

You will remember that last term I told you about some changes in the leadership team which may affect who you need to contact. Mr Stansfield is now responsible for behaviour and attendance. Miss Lambden is responsible for welfare and wellbeing and Mrs Langstaff is responsible for teaching quality and all curriculum matters. Mrs Joy is now head of the sixth form.

I am looking forward to working with all students and parents over the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R A Pritchard
Headmaster



I would like to take this opportunity to re-introduce myself and express a warm welcome to all our students and families for the start of the academic year. As Mr Pritchard has said, my role has changed this year and I will be overseeing operations and behaviour within school.

Since taking on this role I have looked at all current procedures and have refined one or two areas. In particular we have created a mobile phone policy, which you can read on the school website. The significant difference for the children will be that from during the course of the day, the students are not allowed to use their mobile phones. Please may I ask that you refer to the policy for the finer details about use and the consequences. Students have had the new procedures explained to them in presentations made by myself.

I am grateful for your support with this new initiative.

Kind regards

Mr Stansfield
Deputy Headteacher

<http://sjfchs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Mobile-Phone-Policy-Sep-2016.pdf>



INFORMATION

Dates for Your Diary

Please see below for forthcoming events; all other events are detailed on the school website.

<http://sjfchs.org.uk/>

Year 11 GCSE Information Evenings

Year 11 Parent Information Evenings will take place on Thursday 15 September from 6pm for parents of students in 11A, 11B, 11C and 11F and on Thursday 6 October from 6pm for parents of students in 11H, 11M, 11P and 11W. Students are not to attend as they will be receiving this information in school. If there are any queries please contact Mr Sharpe or Miss Lewis at school.

Open Evening and Open Day

There is an Open Evening on Thursday 29 September for prospective parents between 7pm and 9pm.

This year's Open Day is on Saturday 1 October between 10am and 2pm. All parents and children are welcome to visit the school to see what it can offer for their child's secondary education.

St John Fisher Parent's Association (SJFA) Meeting – Wednesday 14 September

The first meeting of the academic year for the St John Fisher's Parent's Association will take place on Wednesday 14 September in the Conference Room near the School Reception from 7.00pm. New members are always welcome.

Year 12 Pastoral Parents Evening

There will be a Year 12 Pastoral Parents' Evening on Monday 19 September in St John Fisher's School Hall from 6:30-7:30pm. We look forward to welcoming parents of Year 12 students.

Year 11 Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions to Nidderdale

24 to 25 September

15 to 16 October

There are only these two opportunities due to the requirements of assessment. Please sign up ASAP especially for the September weekend. Any queries, please contact Mr Ibison.

jibison@sjfchs.org.uk

Year 7 Welcome Mass and Refreshments

The Year 7 Welcome Mass **will take place on Friday 7 October from 6pm** followed by refreshments.

Years 9 – 13 Dance Trip

On Wednesday 28th Sept, there is a trip to the Alvin Ailey Dance Co. at the Alhambra Theatre in Bradford, from 6pm to 11pm. The trip will return to St Aidan's at 11.00pm.



Student Medical Information

Please could all parents of those children new to St John Fisher ensure that they have returned the blue medical forms and existing parents that they update the School Nurse with any new medical information so that she can fully support their children as required.

Also, parents must speak to a member of staff before arranging to pick up their children on the grounds of ill health. Pupils should be seeking support and advice from staff members before contacting parents to be collected. Staff will then contact parents.

The 1st round of HPV vaccinations for Year 8 girls will take place on Tues 13th Sept in the afternoon. Can any outstanding consent forms be returned to the medical room as soon as possible. In order to ensure dignity is preserved will the girls please wear a vest top under their school blouses for that afternoon.

GCSE Remark Requests

Please be advised that all requests for GCSE remarks should be completed and returned with the appropriate payment to Mrs Haley, Exams Officer no later than 9am on Tuesday 20th September. Any requests received after this deadline will not be actioned.

Uniform

A reminder to all parents, please can you ensure that **ALL** items of uniform are clearly labelled to avoid the start of the lost property mountain.

Car Access on Site

This is a reminder that cars are **NOT** allowed onto site between the following times:

8.30am to 8.50am

3.15pm to 4.00pm

Sports Fixtures

Wednesday 14th September

Mr Pass - Year 9B Boys Football v Boroughbridge (Away 4pm start)

Thursday 15th September

Mr Fox - Year 9 Rugby festival at Moortown (4pm start)

Monday 19th September

Mr Pass/ Mr Owen - Year 9 and 10 Boys 6-a-side football at Rossett (4pm start)

Tuesday 20th September

Miss Huegett - Under 13 girls 7-a-side football at Rossett (4pm start)

Wednesday 21st September

Mr Knowles - Year 7A and B boys football v Rossett (Away 4pm start)

Thursday 22nd September

Mr Hussey - Year 8B boys football v Harrogate High (Home 4pm start)

Friday 23rd September

Mr Knowles/ Miss Thomas - Cross Country match vs St Aidans (1.30pm start on the Stray)



PE Extra Curricular Timetable

Please see below for PE Extra Curricular Timetable

Library News

Year 7 students will receive their library cards and an A4 wallet which includes their Accelerated Reader record, bookmark and also information on downloading the free iMLS app which allows you to access the library records from wherever you are. Students can check what books they have out, write reviews and search the library catalogue. If you have any queries about the app please contact the Librarians Mrs Pollard and Mrs Kennerley.

On Mondays, we have a reading group called "Table Talk" run by Georgie, a Yr13 student. It is an opportunity to read and discuss chosen books and all are welcome. Our Craft Club runs on Tuesday lunchtime and is available to all students. We have various projects always on the go from knitting, simple sewing to paper crafts and colouring. Once again, all are welcome.

The Library also runs the Scholastic Teen Book Club which allows you to order discounted teen fiction for your child. Book leaflets are distributed through the form registers on a half termly basis and orders can be placed online or via the Library. Orders are delivered free to school and 20% value of each order translates into free books for the school library. The new leaflet will be distributed soon so please look through it and take advantage of the offers inside, you can also order books for younger children online through the other catalogues. The shortcut link to our page on the Scholastic website will also be included.

ParentPay

A reminder to **ALL** parents to activate your ParentPay account.

In an attempt to remove all cash and cheques from school we are asking all parents to use our e-payment method to pay for school dinners, trips, music lessons etc. This can be done online using a very secure website called

ParentPay

If you have not yet activated your account and do not have a username and password please contact the finance office on: finance@sifchs.org.uk or 01423 818409

News from the Science Desk – September 2016

All Students

Welcome back, I hope that the long holiday has had a restorative effect and you are ready for the New Year at St John Fisher, and especially in Science.

Since the last E-Bulletin.

- Using the Hubble telescope, scientists have performed the first spectroscopy of the atmospheres of Earth-sized exoplanets
- Scientists at Rice University announced a new titanium-gold alloy that is four times harder than most steels
- The hottest ever temperature in the Eastern Hemisphere was reported, with Mitribah, Kuwait reaching 54 °C. This is second only to Death Valley in California, which saw 56.7 °C in 1913.
- Researchers in Germany discovered that bacteria from the human nose produces a novel antibiotic which is effective against multiresistant pathogens.



- Current levels of atmospheric greenhouse gases already commit the planet to air temperatures over many land regions being eventually warmed by greater than 1.5 degrees Celsius, according to new research.
- Researchers have pinpointed which of the more than 4,000 exoplanet candidates discovered by NASA's Kepler mission are most likely to be similar to Earth. Their research outlines 216 Kepler planets located within the 'habitable zone', of which 20 are the best candidates to be habitable rocky planets like Earth
- NASA reported that July 2016 was the hottest single month in recorded history (going back to 1880), 0.84 degrees Celsius above the 1950-1980 global average.
- Astronomers announced the detection of Proxima b, an Earth-sized exoplanet that is in the habitable zone of the red dwarf star Proxima Centauri, the closest star to the Sun. Due to its closeness to Earth, Proxima b may be a flyby destination for a fleet of interstellar StarChip spacecrafts currently being developed by the Breakthrough Starshot project.
- An annular solar eclipse occurred.

Year 7

Welcome to your Science at St John Fisher, you will now have met your teacher(s) and have been introduced to safety and the early principles in your first topic. Topics that you will be encountering this year are: B7.1 Cells and Reproduction, C7.1 Safety and Particles, P7.1 Forces and Motion, B7.2 Classification and Variation, C7.2 Acids and Rocks, P7.2 Heating and Energy. You will find support material for each topic, revision material as well as worksheets and an interactive workbook (not supported by all PCs) for the whole key stage in the KS3 area of the VLE.

Year 8

Topics that you will encounter this year are: B8.1 Digestions and Respiration, C8.1 Elements, Compounds and Mixtures, P8.1 Light and Sound, B8.2 Causes of Disease, C8.2 Reactivity of Metals, P8.2 Magnetism and Electricity. You will find support material for each topic, revision material as well as worksheets and an interactive workbook (not supported by all PCs) for the whole key stage in the KS3 area of the VLE.

Revision Material for Year 7 and 8

Collins KS3 Revision Science ISBN 978-0-00-756282-4

CGP Key Stage Three Science The Workbook ISBN 978-1-84146-239-4

The two books above can be obtained for a combined price of £7.50 from the Science prep room, and will allow pupils to consolidate their understanding in addition to the support material and worksheets for the whole key stage in the KS3 area of the VLE.

Year 9

Your year group will be facing the new GCSE content from this September. Broadly this is very similar to the current specification, but we will seek to build a suite of new and adapted resources for you as you continue your studies. Current VLE content can be taken as a guide, but there are some differences. Once we have identified appropriate revision guides and work books for this new specification we will either source them/ guide towards these accordingly.

We will set up pupils with a Kerboodle account which will provide on-line text books supporting the new specification together with a suite of further resources which are very useful if accessed.

Students are streamed in Year 9 with the upper sets on each side of the year containing those students who may continue and pursue Separate Sciences. Assessment will continue throughout Year 9, and we will continue to test and monitor students across the year, and make changes in setting where there is evidence to suggest that this



is required, and in to the first term of Year 10, to ensure that students enter the most suitable pathway for these new, more challenging GCSEs.

This group will be the first cohort to go through the new GCSE in Science for examination in Year 11, 2018.

Summary of changes for all new GCSEs

- A new grading system will be introduced. Students will be awarded a grade from 1 to 9, with 9 being the highest. Students will get a U where performance is below the minimum required to pass the GCSE.
- Tiering will only be used in subjects where un-tiered papers will not allow students at the lower end of the ability range to demonstrate their knowledge and skills, or will not stretch the most able. The tiered model used will be decided on a subject by subject basis. Science is expected to be tiered in to Higher and Foundation levels.
- All new GCSEs will be fully linear with assessment at the end of the course and content not divided into modules.
- Exams will be the default method of assessment, though there will be 16 required practicals to be undertaken.
- Combined Science is expected to consist of two, 1 hour and 15 min (70 marks), papers in each of: Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Separate Sciences will consist of two, 1 hour 45min (100 marks) papers in each subject. There will be 8 required practicals per subject.

Year 10

There are 3 groups of separates, of around 25 students per class, which will allow additional setting after the first mock examinations in Science, at the end of this term, where there is evidence to suggest that this is advisable.

Alternatively students will pursue Combined Science as detailed above. There is no assessment through coursework, but pupils may be tested on their practical approach within the terminal examinations.

Once we have identified appropriate revision guides and work books for this new specification we will either source them/ guide towards these accordingly.

Pupils will continue to have access to Kerboodle which will provide on-line text books supporting the new specification together with a suite of further resources which are very useful if accessed.

Year 11

Year 11 can be a tough year, as pupils come to the realisation of what the year culminates with. On their return pupils will receive some guidance around study skills, on their first day back, and I look forward to meeting parents at the Year 11 information evenings on Thursday 15th Sept and 6th October.

The resources and support that we are able to offer provide pupils with an excellent opportunity to gain the grades that their own hard work and efforts warrant. Pupils will retain their access to Kerboodle, and can utilise the VLE to consolidate and stretch their learning, as well as access to past papers and mark schemes.

Students are able to purchase the appropriate revision guides from the Science prep room at £2.50 per book, and can ask their classroom teacher as to which would be the most appropriate to obtain.

Year 12

A massive well done to all GCSE pupils from last year, the results showed that pupils took the bull by the horns and approached their examinations with self-motivations and determination. Well done! Your attitude and approach continued to be impressive across the exam period, and I wish you every success in your future studies. Some of you I will see around the Science Department.

Separates pupils will be able to return their allocated text books and receive back their £20 deposits on safe return of all three in a suitable condition (that does not include unread).



Events and Clubs

- KS3 Science Club (Y7)
- Astronomy Club (Y10-11)
- Microbiology Club (Y9)
- Planetarium Visit (All years)
- Stem Ambassadors (Y10-11)
- Science Trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park (Y7)
- Space Centre Outreach

We will advise pupils and parents days, dates and signing up process as these approach.

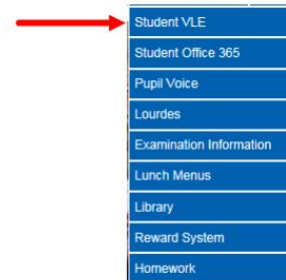
VLE

On the KS3 area of the VLE are support materials, the first of the support materials is an interactive booklet and requires students to log on using their school log on, and a password of 'password' until changed, the second of which provides summary/revision sheets for the appropriate topics.

1. Click on either of these two tabs on the school website.



2. Scroll down and click on Student VLE:



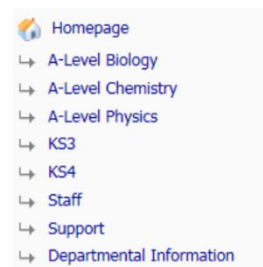
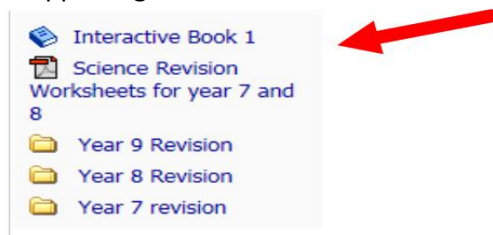
3. Scroll down to Science



4. Click on the subject area that you would like to explore.

5. The KS3 area has two large resources supporting the

whole of Y7 and Y8.



The interactive book requires a log in which is the same as students' email address (Year of start at SJF, first 5 surname letters, initial – e.g. 09TanneR), with password set as password until changed. There have been some technical issues with some PC software issues for this resource, so if there are any problems do use the 2nd resource.

The Science revision sheets **do not** require a login, and can be printed out, with the answers at the end of the resource.

6.The GCSE area is now divided in to:

Dual Science

GCSE Physics

GCSE Biology

GCSE Chemistry

GCSE Astronomy

ISA



7.From here you can access the material relevant to the area of study, as well as the link to Kerboodle (for Y9,Y10 and Y11)

To log on:

Username: Initial followed by surname (e.g. rtannersmith)

Password: Initial followed by surname again (you will be prompted to change this once logged on).

Centre no: qjq1 (QJQ1 –in lower case)

Revision Apps

In this day of portable devices, you may like to explore the following revision applications:

Test and Learn Science GCSE AQA.

AQA Core Science GCSE textbook.

Staffing

We welcome three new members of staff from September in to the Science Department, Miss Hogg, Mr Palmer and Mr Robinson. Recruitment is increasingly an issue in some schools, and I am very pleased to welcome three teachers of such an excellent standard to join our team.

Finally

Thank you to all parents for your support over the year, and as ever should you have any questions or queries, then please do not hesitate to contact me, but please note the new email address of:

rtanner-smith@sjfchs.org.uk

Apologies if any emails have gone astray with our changes to Office 365.

Mr Tanner-Smith

Head of Science



PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE 2016 -2017 (SEPT - EASTER)

Day	LUNCH TIME – 12:30 – 1.15PM		AFTER SCHOOL – 3.45- 5PM	
	SPORT	TEACHER	SPORT	TEACHER
MON	YEAR 7 BOYS FOOTBALL GCSE PE PRACTICAL VOLLEYBALL YEAR 11 & 6 TH FORM BOYS RUGBY ALL YEARS GIRLS RUGBY	MR KNOWLES MR PASS MR FOX MISS HUEGETT	YEAR 7 BOYS FOOTBALL YEAR 7 NETBALL YEAR 8 BOYS RUGBY YEAR 9 NETBALL	MR KNOWLES MISS THOMAS MR PRITCHARD MRS CRICHTON
TUES	YEAR 7 NETBALL	MRS PALMA & MISS THOMAS	YEAR 11 & 6 TH FORM NETBALL	EXTERNAL COACH
WEDS	6 TH FORM BOYS FOOTBALL	MR PASS	ALL YEARS GIRLS FOOTBALL YEAR 8 NETBALL YEAR 10 BOYS FOOTBALL ALL YEARS GIRLS & BOYS TABLE TENNIS	MISS HUEGETT MISS THOMAS MR OWEN MR MILLS
THURS	YEAR 7 BOYS FOOTBALL ALL YEARS GIRLS FOOTBALL	MR KNOWLES MISS HUEGETT	YEAR 10 NETBALL YEAR 9 BOYS FOOTBALL YEAR 7, 9 & 10 BOYS RUGBY	MRS NIGHTINGALE MR PASS MR FOX & MR CRAIG
FRI	ALL YEARS BOYS & GIRLS X COUNTRY YEAR 8 BOYS FOOTBALL	MR KNOWLES & MISS THOMAS MR HUSSEY	BADMINTON CLUB	EXTERNAL COACH

PLEASE NOTE: THE FITNESS SUITE IS AVAILABLE FOR USE EVERY LUNCH TIME AND AFTER SCHOOL UNTIL 5PM

