

St John Fisher Catholic High School



Newsletter 7 9 December 2016

Dear Parent / Carer

This is the last newsletter before the Christmas break. I am sure that you will agree that it has been busy and also a successful term. The new staff and students who joined us in September have added a great deal to our community in terms of quality, energy and commitment.

Over Christmas we will be allocating the places for our next year Y7. As expected we have a large number of applicants who want to be part of our community. Over the last two years we have applied an in year variation to the number of students we accept. So rather than accept 196 (which is our official admission number), we have accepted 230. There are two main reasons for this.

1. There is demand from Catholic parents who want to access a Catholic school. The governors do not want to refuse these applications.
2. Finance, there is a year on year real terms cut in school budgets and if we did not grow to plug the funding gap, the quality of provision would quickly deteriorate.

We would like to change the admission number to 230 so we do not need the in-year variation. There is demand for this; the schools in Harrogate are full to capacity (most are over capacity); the nearest other Catholic school is full of Catholic children, so this is a sensible solution we are keen to implement.

School Performance

Yet again our school performance was a wonderful occasion. Four nights of Billy Elliot were produced, directed and performed in great style. Thank you to all student's staff and parents who supported the show.

Next Week

As well as having the senior citizens party this Friday, we have Christmas dinner for students and next Wednesday we have the carol concert. You may want to start your Christmas celebrations with us. We start at 7pm, and you are welcome to join us for a few drinks afterwards. The term finishes at 2-30pm on Friday 16 December. We open again to students on Wednesday 4th January 2017.

As always thank you for your support, and I hope you have a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Pritchard'.

Mr R A Pritchard
Headmaster



INFORMATION

Children in Need Week

A huge thank you to all that donated money to the many events that took place during our Children in Need week; a total of **£5,250** has been raised. A fantastic amount and thank you to everybody who contributed to such a worthy cause.

The Cast of the 6th Form Pantomime



One of the many cakes made for the Bake Off Day



Poppy Appeal

We have received confirmation that a total of £232.70 was raised from the Poppy Appeal. Thank you to all who contributed.

Dates for Your Diary

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

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

Year 9/10 Ski Trip - Easter 2017

In case any parents want to buy equipment for the ski trip as a Christmas gift I have put a brief list of some of the equipment that will be needed below:

Salopettes	Tights/leggings (to wear under salopettes)
Ski Jacket	Ski Socks (at least 3 pairs)
Ski Gloves	Top Base layer (can be t-shirt/roll neck top/base layer)
Ski goggles and/or sunglasses	Sun and Lip protection
Fleece top	

I look forward to seeing all parents at the parents information evening for the Year 9/10 ski trip after Christmas (date to be confirmed).

Miss Burton

Carols by Candlelight – Wednesday – 14 December

An evening of lessons and carols led by our students and staff will take place on Wednesday 14 December in the Chapel, doors open 6.30pm for a 7pm start to be followed by mulled wine and mince pies (no tickets required). A collection will be taken with proceeds going to PAFRS (Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) and Young Minds.

Xmas Jumper Day – Friday 16 December – £1 Donation

This year's "Christmas Jumper Day" is fast approaching and following our successful fundraising last year, we are keen to participate in this initiative again; this year, any funds raised will be going to support Save the Children and Macmillan Cancer Support and will be matched pound for pound by the government. For more information, click on the link below:

<http://sjfchs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Xmas-Jumper-Day-2016.pdf>



Billy Elliot Review

All credit must go to St John Fisher students and staff for pulling off a simply brilliant exposition of one of the most complex and diverse musicals of the century. The standard of shows at this school gets stronger and stronger and as one of the first schools in the country to present Billy Elliot, this was no exception.

The audience were treated to top quality tap, street dance, ensemble singing, folk singing, magic realism, solos, duets, and of course ballet; traditional and contemporary. Politics, Swan Lake, social history, class were all subjects explored through song and dance. Just like the miners this production needed toughness and resilience.

It's always a sobering moment when you realise that events you remember are being treated as historical artefacts and 1980's Britain, the miners' strike and all the gritty social realism and grimness were all recreated with genuine respect, humour and seriousness. Layering dancing and singing on top of this to tell a finely nuanced story that interplays concepts of gender and sexuality and growing up is a challenge that was firmly met. Who better to understand rebellion against authority, the pains of growing up and the struggle for self-expression and identity than young people and teenagers? 12 year old Freddie Brown took on the role of Billy Elliot brilliantly, accompanied by 18 year old Connor Wall as his Father Jackie in a beautiful pairing that shone throughout.

One mark of top quality acting from students is when they play adults and all the performers were superb, accents were correct even when singing and the diction was spot on. Younger performers had clearly crafted their characters with great care with plenty of emotion on display. I loved the ensemble dancing especially in numbers like Solidarity and Shine led by the perfectly honed Jo Stephenson as the local ballet teacher Mrs Wilkinson.

The whole production was faithful to the integrity of the story. The set design and costumes were detailed and integral to the narrative. The authentic riot shields of the police officers were used as symbols of oppression and violence as well visually and rhythmically. The way the production sounded and was lit was brilliant (especially the follow-spot work).

All the scene changes were executed perfectly and blended together by a highly efficient production and props team. And a special mention must be made for the orchestra, ever present and sounding in tip top condition as usual, tempos were spot on in what was a hugely complex score.

All the characters had depth there were no facile creations. Year 12 student Jake Abbott balanced the anger of older brother Tony with some subtle moments of drama, watched on carefully by Billy's Mum – a crystal clear Ellie Klouda. You could see this in the Merry Christmas Maggie Thatcher scene which balanced vaudeville with political satire. You wanted to laugh and cry at the same time. Deep into the Ground was full of sentiment without being sentimental.

Full credit must however go to Billy Elliot himself, his sheer stamina, perfect dancing and sensitive acting all being equally strong. It was a joy to see his progression throughout the performance culminating in a mesmerising Swan Lake with older Billy Nic Cain.

And what, ultimately, made this production work is its truthfulness. The integrity and respect for the script and the story shone through.



Theatre Trip: Frankenstein, Harrogate Theatre - Friday 3rd February. Students to meet at the Theatre at 7.10pm. Please arrange suitable transport home from the theatre. This is for Year 10, 12 and 13, please pay on Parent Pay by 16th December.

The Attic Newsletter Issue 3

The latest termly edition is now available, click on the link below:

<http://sjfchs.org.uk/the-attic-news-issue-3/>

ParentPay

We have reduced the minimum payment for school meals to £5. Please activate your parentpay account to pay for your school meals - your username and password for parentpay are available from the finance department: finance@sjfchs.org.uk 01423 818409

For information, the revaluation machine cannot accept the new polymer £5 and will not be upgraded until the New Year.

Geography - Water Aid Speaker

This month year 7 and year 9 were introduced to the importance of sanitation and access to clean, safe water as part of the United Nations World Toilet Day. World Toilet Day is a global event celebrated to raise awareness and inspire people to take action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. All of the year 7 Geographers learnt about the 2.4 billion people struggling to stay healthy and well because of the lack of access to a toilet. The groups developed a mature approach to the task in hand and created some fantastic campaign posters to raise awareness and inform people about World Toilet Day and the global importance of sanitation.



On Friday 2nd December we had a guest speaker come in from WaterAid to talk to the whole of year 9 about issues and challenges surrounding access to water and sanitation. Emma Wren delivered a fantastic presentation about her experiences in Uganda and the sights she came across when working with children and families who are struggling without clean water and running toilets. The students were captivated by Emma's talk especially seeing the photographs and jerry can, which families in Africa use to fetch water every day for their families.

Sports Results

Boys Cross Country

The U13 boys took part in the National Cross Country Finals in Formby, Liverpool on Saturday and continued the fine tradition that St John Fisher has of having had a team in the National finals for the last 12 years. This was more impressive in that the team was made up of 5 out of the 6 runners being from year 7 (so the prospects for next year are very good). Although the team finished in 24th place this was a terrific achievement. Will Hugill the only year 8 boy to run was in magnificent form and finished 2nd out of the 144 runners.

The team was:

Will Hugill, Dominic Jones, Alex Rennocks, Cameron Inglis, Dan Kaye and Oliver Stables (unfortunately Callum Hodgson was unable to run on the day but he has been an important team member helping the team to qualify through the Area and Regional finals)

Table Tennis

Two of the school teams became North Yorkshire Champions in the competition held at Rossett School on Wednesday 23rd November.

It proved comfortable for them, as Scarborough and York were not represented, so only local schools entered.



The Under 13 team of Theo Kelly, Luke Furlong, Jonathan Shepherd and Tom Barlow defeated Fishers B team of Gabriel Mead, Brook Sutton, Herbie Asbury and Harry Hudson by 8-0. Herbie taking the only game not to finish 3-0, against Tom.

Then they defeated Harrogate Grammar School by 8-0, again all 3-0 wins except for Tom having to go to 4 in his 2 matches.

The B Team went down 2-6 to Harrogate Grammar School—but showed promise for next season.

The Under 16 team of Sammy Kelly, Tom Hudson, George Asbury and Matthew Lynch defeated Queen Ethelburgas in a closer match by 7-1.

Tom lost a match, and was taken to 4 games in his other match, and Sammy dropped a game in 1 of his matches, but all the others were 3-0 victories.

In their other match against Rossett, an 8-0 win was achieved, and all matches were 3-0 wins.

The Under 19 Team decided not to play, or we could have won all 3, although the winners—Queen Ethelburgas were a strong team.

The winning teams now represent North Yorkshire in the North East of England Finals at Northfield Academy Billingham on the weekend the 14th/15th January, but likely to be on separate days. They will meet champion schools from Cleveland, Cumbria, Northumberland, Durham, Hull, Tyne and Weir and East Yorkshire. The Winners and Runners Up will qualify for the last 16 schools in the country either at Blackburn or at Grantham.

Boys Football

Y7 English Schools National Cup

The A team moved into the last 64 in the country with a top quality defensive performance against Cardinal Langley school (Rochdale). Despite the long journey Fishers made the better start and Dominic Jones put the team ahead in the first half with a deflected shot.

Cardinal Langley pressed hard and shortly into the second half they equalised only for Dominic to put Fishers back in front within a minute. Solid defending from Stables, Windsphere and Keeney and some fine goalkeeping by Josh Sharkey ensured that Fishers ran out winners. They then played Minsthorpe in the next round.

Fishers defeated Minsthorpe Academy 6-1 to reach the last 32 in the country (the B team have already qualified for the last 32 in their competition and play Manchester Grammar next week).

Goals were scored by : Riddington, Barker, Sheriden Hawley, Jones and Waddington (2)

A great performance by the team:

Josh Sharkey, Oliver Stables, Owen Keeney, Dylan Windsphere, Alex Rennocks, Will Barker, Dan Riddington, Jude Sheriden Hawley, Dominic Jones, Fin Bruce, Alfie Waddington, Theo Kelly

Girls U16 Football

The U16 Girls Football team are through to Round 6 of the English Schools National Cup, where only 16 schools in the country remain in the competition.

An emphatic performance in Round 5 saw St John Fisher outclass a very talented Mirfield side. St John Fisher were a class above, showing true 'Fisher's' desire, determination and resilience and most importantly, team work to ensure that they were victorious.

Molly Bridson punished Mirfield and converted all four goals to make the score 4-0. But it was a complete team performance full of tenacity and passion from every player in a St John Fisher shirt, putting them all in contention for player of the match!

They will now face Trinity School of Carlisle on Friday 9th December, to try and earn themselves a place in the Quarter-Final of the National Cup.



Sports Fixtures

Monday 12 December

Y7C Netball v King James @ King James, 16:00-17:30

Wednesday 14 December

U12 Boys Football ESFA B Team Cup v Minsthorpe, @ SJF, 13:30-16:00

U16 Girls Football North Yorkshire Cup v King James @ King James, 12:00-15:00

U18 Boys Football v Cadmaen College @ Whitby, 10:00-16:00

Thursday 15 December

Y7 Table Tennis Competition @ SJF, 13:30-15:30

Y7 Boys Football v Settle @ Settle, 12:30-16:30

Tuesday 10 January

Y10 A & B Netball v Harrogate Grammar School @ HGS, 16:00-17:30

Wednesday 11 January

Y8 Netball v King James @ SJF, 16:00-18:30

Thursday 12 January

Y11 & 6th Form Netball v Rossett @ SJF, 15:45-17:30

PE Extra Curricular Timetable

Please see below for PE Extra Curricular Timetable.

News from the Science Desk – December 2016

Year 7

I am pleased to announce that the Science club which started on the 3rd November, has been well attended, those that attend will experience a range of different fun Scientific activities and practicals.

Please do remind your son and daughter to attend as they will gain Science experiences over and above that in class. Pupils will have completed two summative and two formative assessments this term which will allow us to formulate a progress indicator and behaviour for learning indicator which will be communicated to you via a short report.

Year 8

A short reminder that the revision resources below are still open to Y7 and Y8. Y8 will find these increasingly useful as they experience the more complicated topics that they encounter. Both years will find these particularly useful when they come to prepare for end of unit, and end of year, tests. Year 8 will also have had two summative and two formative assessments, we will be sending home long reports in the New Year, which will include a progress indicator and behaviour for learning indicator which will be communicated to you via a short report.

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. We have now put these on parent pay also, should you choose this option, please print out the relevant screen and send in with your son/daughter to collect the books.

The VLE does NOT require a log in, please follow the links that are open to all members of the public from the school website.



Year 9

We have identified suitable revision guides and work books for the new curriculum. We will carry a rolling stock of books that are suitable for Revision Guide and Workbook together for Combined Science (£10), and Revision Guide and Workbook for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics (£4 each). If you are unsure as to which is the most suitable then the class teacher will be able to advise accordingly. We will continue to assess Y9 over the year, but there will be no wholesale changes of set, until pupils sit an end of year test in the summer, which will give us an indication of those who should pursue separate science and those for whom combined science is more appropriate.

I am pleased to announce that two of our year nines have been invited to the North East Challenge Final, having been part of the team that won the York Gifted and Talented Science and Technology Challenge Day. This event will take place in January 2017 at the University of Sheffield.

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, this will take place at the end of the first week of January, and will comprise of an examination on the first three topics that pupils have studied this year; C10.1 Atomic Structure and Matter, B10.1 Plants and Photosynthesis, and P10. Waves.

We have had some requests to be considered for Separates and I would encourage those pupils to prepare and perform well to put themselves in the best position. Some other pupils are seeking to make the move in the opposite direction, due to the increased rigour of the new specification, the depth of knowledge required (including some A-level standard concepts), the need to remember and rearrange a number of equations and the breadth of the topics.

We have identified suitable revision guides and work books for the new curriculum. We will carry a rolling stock of books that are suitable for Revision Guide and Workbook together for Combined Science (£10), and Revision Guide and Workbook for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics (£4 each). If you are unsure as to which is the most suitable then the class teacher will be able to advise 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

Y11 have now received their mock examination results we will now help pupils analyse their areas of strength and weakness, which they will need to go over and work on immediately. In some cases this should be an appreciation of the amount of work required, the need to commence revision in a structured manner, early, combined with an appropriate attitude and self-motivation and determination.

The next batch of ISAs are now being covered in class, with Separates undertaking their Chemistry ISA over the next two weeks. Dual Science pupils should now have completed ISAs for their Core Science and Additional and will be given the opportunity of doing at least one more in each, the higher mark in each being the one put forward to the examination board.

A number of pupils have failed to attend the intervention sessions arranged for them, and often matches an under performance in the mock examinations. Other pupils who are keen to attend these sessions, are now encouraged to do so. I hope to be able to offer after school sessions with motivated sixth formers from after Christmas, details to follow.

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.



Finally

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

rtanner-smith@sjfchs.org.uk

Mr Tanner-Smith
Head of Science

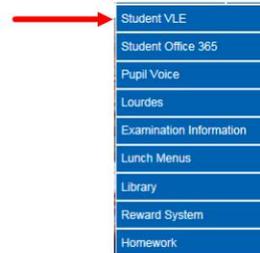
VLE

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.



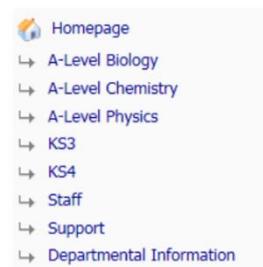
2. Scroll down and click on Student VLE:



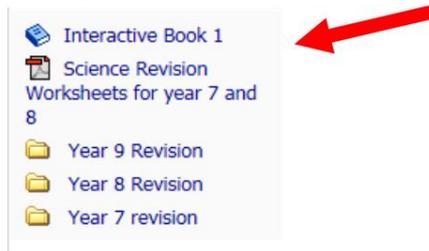
3. Scroll down to Science



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.

Getrevising.co.uk

Make an exam revision timetable

Install exam dates

Exam board, unit and topics

How many hours wanting to be dedicated.

Links to exam board specific revision materials such as flash cards and mind maps.

We have had very positive responses from those pupils and parents who have utilised this resource thus far.



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

