

## Newsletter 11 17 February 2017

Dear Parent / Carer

### Post 16 Changes

Last night we had the open evening for Year 11. We have been speaking to students about their choices. In the last newsletter I wrote about the changes to GCSEs. We also have substantial changes to A levels. They are now linear (examined at the end of two years) and the majority of students will choose to study three A levels rather than four. This means that the choice is even more important, as it is a good start to their work. Entry requirements are also more rigorous because of the changes to grading in English and mathematics, and the fact that the new A levels are more challenging. We are giving individual advice to students, and are asking for the application with choices by 3 March.

Below is a link to the presentation we gave to students and parents yesterday:

<http://sjfchs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Sixth-Form-Information-Evening-20171.pdf>

### Clarification from Last Newsletter – Resitting of GCSE maths and English

I believe I confused a few parents in the last newsletter about the rules for resitting maths and English when current Year 11 get into 6<sup>th</sup> Form. Although the new 'threshold' is a grade 5 for English and Mathematics - they will only **have to** re-sit if they achieve a grade 3 or below. This is the guidance at the moment.

### Building Work

I am sorry for the disruption caused by the new pitch and changing rooms, however the inconvenience will be worth it in the end. The pitch will be ready by the end of March and the changing rooms will be ready by May half term. We are using the opportunity to resurface the road around the back of the changing rooms, which will improve access and make it safe.

### Message from Miss Lambden

As we have made mental wellbeing and resilience a priority for the school this year, our parent session this half term will focus on the latter. We have had great support from parents across the whole school with this initiative and so far, have covered mental health, mindfulness and resilience. Before the end of the year we are hoping to cover substance abuse, self-harm and eating disorders and our intention is to continue to run these sessions next year. If there are any other areas you feel you would like us to cover please do not hesitate to contact Miss Lambden via email at [elambden@sjfchs.org.uk](mailto:elambden@sjfchs.org.uk).

### Parking

Finally, can I ask that parents are considerate to our neighbours when picking up children – please do not park across driveways.

Have good half term break.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Pritchard  
Headteacher



## INFORMATION

### Dates for Your Diary

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

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

### Tuesday 28 February – Y8 Options Evening

A reminder that it is the Y8 Options Evening for parents, 7pm in the Main Hall. The Options Booklet will be available on the website from 28 February and parents may wish to print this out and bring it with them to the evening. All students will receive a booklet on 28 February.

### Friday 3 March - Sixth Form Applications

A reminder to parents of Y11 that the application form for sixth form that has been issued should be completed, signed by parents and handed in to school by Friday 3 March.

### Jazz n' Dine – 8 March, 7:00pm to 10:00pm in the Sixth Form Dining Room

Back by popular demand, an evening celebrating the jazz, swing, Latin and funk talents of the amazing musicians in school.

Tickets are £10 and include a two-course meal served by our Year 9 music group.

Available to book on Parent Pay tickets are limited to 80 places and are sold on a first come, first served basis. Book early to avoid disappointment.

### Easter Revision Sessions

Advanced notice that the Easter Revision School for Y11 will be held on Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 April. We hope all students will be able to attend. The time is likely to be 8:45am to 1:30pm, but this will be confirmed nearer the date.

### Library News

Charity Chicks – this year's batch of knitted chicks containing a crème egg will hatch over half term and be available to purchase from Monday 27 February in the Library. This year's charity is Macmillan Cancer Care. Yellow knit chicks cost £2, other colours £2.50 and special tinsel knit made to order are £3. Last year's chicks were very popular and make great Easter gifts. Contact the Library direct to place your order on 01423 887254 and send money in with your child.

The **Scholastic Book Fair** will be open from Monday 27 Feb to Friday 3 March in the Library with many books priced from £2.99 plus some novelty stationery items too! Please encourage your child to come upstairs and have a browse. Book Fair leaflets will be put given out during form time. Running alongside the fair will be our own **Mega New-to-You Book Sale** with old library stock being sold for 50p per book. Various lunchtime activities will also be running during Literacy Week.

### Learn to Play the Organ

The Diocese of Leeds Organists' Training Programme was created last year to provide high-quality organ tuition within the Diocese of Leeds in northern England (including Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield, Harrogate and Wakefield), and with the ultimate aim of building links further afield. It has been set up following the success of the Schools' Singing Programme, which delivers the UK's largest church music programme to over 3,000 children across Yorkshire every week.

The Director of the Organists' Training Programme is David Pipe, who is also Cathedral Organist. He teaches around thirty pupils each week, with ages ranging from eight to mid-seventies!



The Programme is in partnership with the Royal College of Organists, who will be working closely with the Diocese of Leeds to prepare their new syllabus of entry-level qualifications to attract and encourage school pupils. David Pipe comments, "I'm delighted that St John Fisher Catholic High School has offered so much encouragement for learning the organ. We have ten pupils learning here at present, which is one of the highest numbers of organists for any school in the country. I've been really impressed with the pupils' approach to lessons, and hope that some may go on to be offered organ scholarships at universities such as Oxford and Cambridge."

We're always pleased to hear from prospective organ pupils, so please do speak to Mr Ratcliffe if you're interested.

#### **4G Pitch Construction Update – Week 13**



The pitch is being "stoned" ready for the application of the tarmac.

#### **Changing Room Refurbishment**



Early days of the refurbishment project.

#### **Sports Results**

##### **Boys Football – Y7B**

The Year 7B boys won the Area B team tournament held at Rossett. They defeated Harrogate Grammar 2-0 (goals from Stockdale and Culshaw) and Boroughbridge 4-0 (3 goals from Sam Luke and one from Joe Culshaw) to reach the final against Rossett. In the final they defeated Rossett 1-0 with a cracking free kick from Sam Luke.

Team:

Cwiklinski, A Anderson Codman, Hall, Della Rovere, Stockdale, Barlow, Kaye, Culshaw, Luke, Inglis, O'Connor, S Anderson Codman.

#### **Sports Fixtures**

##### **Wednesday 1 March**

Y8A & B Netball v Harrogate Grammar @ HGS, 15:00-17:00

6<sup>th</sup> Form Boys Football v Ermysteads @ Sandylands, Skipton, 12:30-17:00

##### **Thursday 2 March**

Y9A & B Football v Harrogate Grammar @ HGS, 15:30-17:00

##### **Monday 6 March**

Y9 Netball v Boroughbridge @ Boroughbridge, 15:00-18:00

##### **Thursday 9 March**

Y9 Boys Football v Queen Ethelburga @ Queen Ethelburga, 16:00-17:30

##### **Monday 13 March**

Y8A & B Boys Football v King James @ KJS, 15:00-17:00

Y9 Netball v St Aidan's @ SJF, 16:00-18:00



## Tuesday 14 March

U15 Area Netball Tournament @ Ashville, 14:00-18:00

## Thursday 16 March

U13A & B Area Netball Tournament @ Ashville, 14:30-17:30

## PE Extra Curricular Timetable

Please see below for PE Extra Curricular Timetable.

## News from the Science Desk – February 2017

### Year 7

We are hoping to take the year group to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park in the last week of the Summer term, i.e. July. Watch this space for further details. Of the two sides of the year, the left hand side is the better attending than the right hand side. Any pupil who would like to attend is very welcome, please look at the notice on the door of F18.

### Year 8

A short reminder that the revision resources below are still open to 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.

### 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

**Revision Guides and Workbook together for Combined Science (£10), and Revision Guide and Workbook for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics (£4 each) are now available. 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.

### Year 10

We hope you had the opportunity of talking to your son/daughter's Science teacher at parents' evening. The next important date is the whole year mocks in April. In Science this will consist of 1hr examinations in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, testing pupils on both Y9 work and Y10 work. We will tier these to Separates/Higher Combines to allow movement between these sets and Foundation Combined. If in doubt pupils will sit the higher tier to allow us to assess their comprehension of the harder style questions.

We would like all pupils to reach their full potential and to achieve the highest grade of which they are capable, and thus make every attempt to ensure that pupils are on the most appropriate course for them. The new



specification is of increased rigour, requires deeper levels of knowledge (including some A-level standard concepts), and requires the ability to remember and rearrange a number of equations.

**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

Dual Science pupils should now have completed two ISAs for their Core Science and will complete a second Additional next half term. Where there are concerns that the mark will not support examination performance, an opportunity will be offered to at Easter to undertake a third ISA for Core and/or Additional Science. Where there are similar concerns for those studying separates, pupils will be required to complete a further ISA either over a series of lunch times or after school.

Science revision sessions are now open to all interested pupils, and other pupils by 'invitation'. We hope that pupils will take advantage of the staff giving up their time at lunch (Monday, Thursday and Friday. Sessions are also taking place after school each day of the week (Monday –Thursday inclusive), and we will be run by some of our sixth form students to small groups, the pace and content will be dictated by the individual requirements of those attending.

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.**

**Should pupils wish hard copies of the existing specification text books we have a limited supply of these that we can supply for £10 for all three books, on a first come first served basis.**

[rtanner-smith@sifchs.org.uk](mailto:rtanner-smith@sifchs.org.uk)

**Mr Tanner-Smith**  
**Head of Science**

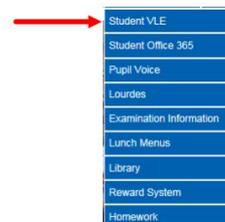
## VLE

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.



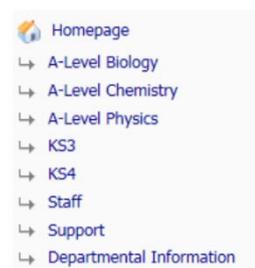
2.Scroll down and click on Student VLE:



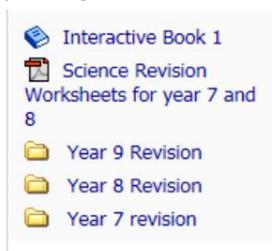
3.Scroll down to Science



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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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
<b>MON</b>	YEAR 7 BOYS FOOTBALL GCSE PE PRACTICAL VOLLEYBALL YEAR 11 & 6 <sup>TH</sup> 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
<b>TUES</b>	YEAR 7 NETBALL	MRS PALMA & MISS THOMAS	YEAR 11 & 6 <sup>TH</sup> FORM NETBALL	EXTERNAL COACH
<b>WEDS</b>	6 <sup>TH</sup> 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
<b>THURS</b>	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
<b>FRI</b>	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**

