

St John Fisher Catholic High School



Newsletter 20 22 July 2016

Dear Parent / Carer,

Now summer has arrived and we have reached the end of a very busy and successful year. Inevitably we lose staff at this time of year as they move to new locations, new jobs or retirement. I have included the changes later on in the newsletter and wish them all every success in their new roles, and thank them for the hard work and dedication they have shown to the school.

I am also making some minor changes to the leadership structure from September. Mr Stansfield will be responsible for Behaviour and Safety across the school as well as the day to day operations. Mrs Joy who you may remember was previously the assistant head of sixth form will become head of sixth form from September. Miss Lambden will look after Student Welfare and Wellbeing and Mrs Langstaff will continue to run the Curriculum, Teaching and Learning as well as Director of our National Support School status.

Buses

I hope that this will be the final time that I mention buses. Our Transport page is getting longer and longer. Remember, you have to contact the operator for a pass on services from September 2016. Can I encourage you to make arrangements before the end of term as the bus companies are now responsible for collecting payment and issuing passes to students? Please see our transport page for further information. I have also attached the same letter that was sent out two weeks ago just in case you missed the information. **The deadline for applications for all buses is on the 19 August 2016, please ensure that you have applied.**

As for the next academic year, the start of term is:

Tuesday 6 September 2016 which is for Years 7, 11 all day and Y13 to register in the morning only, Y13 return to lessons on Thursday 8 September.

Years 8, 9 and 10, 12 will not be required to attend school until Wednesday 7 September.

Finally, I would like to thank staff and students for their hard work and parents for their support over the last year. I hope that you will all have a good break and we are looking forward to working with in September.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R A Pritchard



Leavers

Thank you to all of the teaching staff who are leaving this year.

Mr Talbot, Mr Colla, Miss Buckingham, Miss Pattison, Mrs Thurlby, Mr Hughes, Mrs Williams, Mrs Binder. Mrs Neesam is also retiring this year after over thirty years at St John Fisher and Mrs Brotherton is moving to Nidderdale after over twenty years of dedication to the school.

Our support staff are also an integral part of the school and we are sad to be losing.

Mrs Brown from Finance, Mrs Jones from Admissions, Mr Sherlock from IT support and Mr Ray from Behaviour Support. We are also losing Mrs Beaumont from the sixth form who has seen the sixth form grow over the last twenty five years. We wish them all well.

Many of you will also know Mr Smart in PE and Mrs Miles in Technology. They have been working here on long term supply basis and have really thrown themselves into the school and everything we do. We wish them luck in their next assignment.

Message from Mr Stansfield

Over the past three months the school have been reviewing the current behaviour policy and although most of it will remain the same and will be re-emphasised in September there are a couple of areas that have changed that we thought should be brought to your attention. As is the situation now, students will be allowed to bring mobile phones into school as many travel long distances and even have their electronic bus pass on them, however during the school day they must not be used. If a student is found using their mobile phone inappropriately it will be taken off them and put in the main office until the end of school. We have taken this measure as a result of a number of issues surrounding mobile phones. The new policy will be posted on the web site in September.

Please may I also remind you that from September pupils should be wearing shirt and tie and not the polo shirts.



Dear Parent/Guardian

Update on Proposed Bus Routes for St Aidan's and St John Fisher Students – September 2016

St. Aidan's and St John Fisher are continuing to work closely with the bus companies to ensure that our students are able to access both schools from September 2016. Since our last communication with parents and guardians there have been a number of changes which are listed below:-

- Leeds routes have changed their payment method. Previously parents/guardians paid for their children's passes through Generation M. As of 2016 payment for passes will be made directly through the individual bus company.
- The changes in West Yorkshire were only agreed on 1st June 2016 and we are constantly making changes to our website as the bus companies make changes to their timetables to accommodate as many of our students as they can. The companies bringing students in from West Yorkshire are A & A, Connexions and Tetleys.
- A & A, Abbotts, Atkinsons, Connexions, Stephensons and Tower who are covering our North Yorkshire Routes are also making changes to try and accommodate as many stops as they can. Again our website is constantly being update to accommodate these changes:

www.staidans.co.uk/transport

sifchs.org.uk/information/transport/

As the bus routes are no longer subsidised by the local authority the bus companies are taking on the risk of the proposed routes and they will not be able to run them if they are not sustainable.

The bus companies that St. Aidan's and St John Fisher have been in talks with will guarantee that:

1. They drop off and pick up from the school sites
2. Guarantee a place on the school bus so long as the student has signed up for a pass
3. Been accommodating in trying to respond to the parents' requests for extra stops
4. Taken on new routes that would otherwise have been withdrawn
5. Regular drivers so that they get to know the students
6. Able to respond to early picks ups at the end of term or should school encounter a problem on site that prevents its operation

Therefore please may we ask that if you intend to send your child or children to school by the designated bus companies that you sign up for a bus pass as soon as possible.

We would point out that the contract will be between parents and the bus company providing the service and will not involve St. Aidan's or St John Fisher in any way.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in this difficult situation

Yours faithfully

John Wood
Headteacher

Rob Pritchard
Headteacher



INFORMATION

School closes tomorrow at 2:35pm

GCSE Exam Results

Please be advised that your child will be able to collect their GCSE results from the Main Hall on Thursday 25th August between 10am and 12pm. If your child is unable to collect their results, they need to send me a confirmation email to rhaley@sjfchs.org.uk as to which email address they would like their results sending to. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs R Haley

GCSE Examinations Officer

Skiing

Both the Year 9/10 ski trip at Easter 2017 (current Year 8/9 students) and the Sixth Form ski trip at Feb half term 2017 (current year 11/12) have a couple of places still available. If your child is interested in going, please ask them to collect a letter from Mrs Ball (in the Goldfish Bowl).

Costs - Year 9/10 - £870

- Sixth form - £960

Ms Burton

Y10 Salamanca Trip

On Sunday morning, 24 Year 10 pupils set off for sunny Spain to complete an intensive language course in the ancient University town of Salamanca. The pupils stayed with local Spanish 'mamas', where they were quickly embraced as part of the family – eating local cuisine, watching Spanish TV, meeting extended family members and of course took their well-deserved siesta each afternoon!

Students would begin each day by completing 4 consecutive hours of intense conversation and grammar classes, in small groups of 8, which were taught entirely in Spanish. After lunch back with their chatty 'mamas' every day, the pupils then took part in a number of activities. Beginning with a private tour of the city, led once again in native Spanish, pupils spent their afternoons relaxing and trying out the aqua park, touring the astounding Cathedral with its breath-taking views at nauseating heights, visiting a bull fight museum and arguing over its relevance today, a touch of retail therapy in the bustling streets and racing to complete the Salamancan scavenger hunt – even packing in a morning breakfast treat of 'chocolate con churros'!

Evenings were later spent trying our hands at Salsa dancing, or wandering around the city sampling local tapas and beverages, before culminating each night with an ice-cream and natter in the bustling and picturesque Plaza Mayor. As their Spanish soared, the days flew by, and what after what felt like no time at all, 24 tanned faces took a tour of the Bernabeu Stadium, before finally manoeuvring our way through the streets of Madrid to return to the cooler climes of Harrogate just 5 days later.





Billy Elliott Dance Workshop

On Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th July, ex Billy Elliot star Layton Williams (of Bad Education, Matthew Bourne's Lord of the Flies, Hairspray UK tour) visited our school! It was such a privilege to be taught by a renowned performer who has been working professionally since the age of 10, when he received his first role as Billy Elliot. On the Tuesday he delivered a contemporary and commercial workshop for GCSE and A-Level dance students. Pupils learnt a demanding yet incredibly fun sequence to Sia's Cheap Thrills and on the Wednesday, Billy Elliot cast members learnt repertoire from the original West End production. Students commented on the success of these two days, claiming, "It's the best day of my life!" which indeed sums up what was two very exciting days of being taught by a star!



Dates for your diary

Please see below a list of the term dates for 2016-2017. Please note there has been a change in the training days – there will now be one on Friday 10 March. Please view school website for more dates on the: [St John Fisher School Calendar](#)

St John Fisher PTA News

The St John Fisher Samba! Soccer! Summer Ball raised approximately £2,500 – thank you again to everybody who helped to make the ball a great success. Photos taken at the Ball can now be viewed by copying the following into your web browser: <http://school.sjfchs.co.uk/> I would like to take this opportunity to thank those parents who have helped the PTA in any way this year and wish you all a great summer holiday. If you would like to attend the next PTA meeting, it will take place in the Conference Room from 7pm on Wednesday 14 September. Newcomers are always welcome.

Josi Mackinnon
Chair of PTA



News from the Science Desk – July 2016 – End of Summer Term

Year 7

Year 7 have now completed their end of year tests. The results of this in conjunction with their end of unit tests will allow us to set year eight classes as balanced mixed sets of all ranges. I hope that year seven have enjoyed their year in Science, and come back after the holidays ready to commence year eight

Year 8

Year eight have now completed their end of year tests. This will allow us to determine their progress over the whole of KS3. Initial streaming in Year 9 will be guided by progress across the year and performance in the end of year test, as well as performance in the end of unit tests that they have sat. Setting will be reviewed across, and at the end of Year 9. Most of those pupils, who undertake Separate Sciences, are likely to come from the two top sets in each half of the year. We are currently looking into a Micro Biology project which will commence next year, for those pupils who are particularly interested in this aspect of Science.

Year 9

Year nine have now completed their end of year tests in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This in conjunction with class work, will allow us to set initial sets in year ten. There will be three sets of separates of equal ability, with approximately 25 pupils in each. This will leave space for movement of pupils in to these sets from Combined Science (Science sets 1-7), at the next assessment point, and movement in the opposite direction if evidence supports this. There are now further resources available for this new 9-1 graded GCSE on Kerboodle

Year 10

Most pupils will move with their teachers in to year eleven, and will look to complete the courses in plenty of time to undertake rigorous consolidation and revision. The sooner pupils come to terms with the importance of their last year of lower school, the more likely that they will enjoy lower stress in the run up to the examinations, and performance through them. We look forward to welcoming them with this sense of purpose, dedication and self-motivation.

Year 11

I wish every pupil good luck in their examinations and hope that they will gain the grades that their hard work and dedication deserves.

Those that took up the opportunity of the Separate Science text books may now return these and collect their deposits, as long as the books returned are in a suitable condition, which I am sure will find its way to the parents.

Staff

We will be sorry to say farewell to Mr Talbot and Mr Colla who are moving on to pastures new. They both have had a big impact on the classes that they teach and in the legacy of work and schemes of learning that they have influenced and will be leaving behind. We wish them both every success in their new posts and would look forward to working with them again if the situation arises.

We will be welcoming three new staff in September Miss Hogg, Mr Palmer and Mr Robinson to add to the expertise in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

May I take the opportunity to thank staff, parents and pupils for their support and shared vision across the year. Have a relaxing, productive and enjoyable Summer break, and see you on the far side.

rtanner-smith@sifchs.org.uk

Mr Tanner-Smith
Head of Science



New Resource

Please take the time to look at the revision resource below, particularly for those with Mock or GCSE examinations coming up.

getrevising.co.uk

This application allows pupils to easily manufacture an exam revision timetable, where the exam dates can be installed, the actual unit and topic to be studied, the number of hours that the student would like to study, other commitments that can be blocked out, and other study times reserved.

Once the timetable is produced it will then provide links to exam board specific revision materials such as flash cards and mind maps.

Please feel free to explore this resource especially as mock examinations, tests and ultimately GCSE examinations approach. We have had very positive responses from those pupils and parents who have utilised this resource thus far.

30th November - 6th December GetRevising
Exam Timetables

	Mon 30th	Tue 1st	Wed 2nd	Thu 3rd	Fri 4th	Sat 5th	Sun 6th	
08:00 - 09:00	School	School	GCSE Biology (AQA)	GCSE History (AQA)	GCSE Chemistry (AQA)	GCSE Physics (AQA)	GCSE Art & Design (AQA)	
09:00 - 10:00								GCSE Geography (AQA)
10:00 - 11:00								Hockey
11:00 - 12:00								GCSE Drama (AQA)
12:00 - 13:00								GCSE Physics (AQA)
13:00 - 14:00			GCSE Religious Studies (AQA)			GCSE Physics (AQA)		
14:00 - 15:00					GCSE Mathematics (AQA)	GCSE Physics (AQA)		
15:00 - 16:00							GCSE Physics (AQA)	
16:00 - 17:00	GCSE Mathematics (AQA)	GCSE Biology (AQA)	GCSE Mathematics (AQA)	GCSE Chemistry (AQA)			GCSE Physics (AQA)	
17:00 - 18:00	GCSE History (AQA)	GCSE Biology (AQA)	GCSE Chemistry (AQA)	GCSE Chemistry (AQA)			GCSE Physics (AQA)	
18:00 - 19:00	GCSE Religious Studies (AQA)	GCSE Religious Studies (AQA)	GCSE History (AQA)	GCSE Mathematics (AQA)			GCSE Drama (AQA)	
19:00 - 20:00							GCSE Drama (AQA)	
20:00 - 21:00	GCSE Biology (AQA)	GCSE Religious Studies (AQA)	GCSE History (AQA)	GCSE Mathematics (AQA)			GCSE Drama (AQA)	
21:00 - 22:00								

For further information about revision resources, please access the school website: [Science Department](#)



ST JOHN FISHER SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

ACADEMIC YEAR 2016/17

(Monday 5 September Staff Training Day)

Open Tuesday 6 September 2016

which is for Years 7, 11 and Sixth Form **ONLY**

Years 8, 9 and 10 **will not** be required to attend school until Wednesday 7 September

Friday 14 October 2016 Staff Training Day

Half Term Close: Friday 21 October 2016

Open: Monday 31 October 2016

Monday 28 November 2016 Staff Training Day

Christmas Close: Friday 16 December 2016

Open: Wednesday 4 January 2017

Tuesday 3 January 2017 Staff Training Day

Half Term Close: Friday 17 February 2017

Open: Monday 27 February 2017

Easter Close: Friday 7 April 2017

Open: Monday 24 April 2017

Friday 10 March 2017 Staff Training Day

May Day Monday 1 May 2017

Half Term Close: Friday 26 May 2017

Open: Monday 5 June 2017

Summer Close: Friday 21 July 2017

HOLIDAYS SHOULD BE TAKEN OUTSIDE THE PUPIL TERM DATES ABOVE

STAFF TRAINING DAYS – Pupils are not required to attend school on these days:

Monday 5 September 2016

Friday 14 October 2016

Monday 28 November 2016

Tuesday 3 January 2017

Friday 10 March 2017

Further information can be found on the school website www.sjfchs.org.uk

