

St John Fisher Catholic High School



Newsletter 1 7 September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

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

On Tuesday we welcomed 234 students into Year 7 and our new Year 12 students into the Associated Sixth Form. It has been a pleasure to see their enthusiasm for starting this adventure with us and I am pleased to report that they have settled into the routines really well. If there are any concerns please contact the Head of Year, Mr Johnson for Year 7, or the Senior Tutor for Year 12 via the Sixth Form office. We want to make sure the transition is as smooth as possible and support is available when it is needed.

WELCOME TO CANON JIM CALLAGHAN

We have a new Parish Priest at St. Roberts and I wish him the very warmest welcome. He will be leading our Youth Mass on the 22nd September. We look forward to this spiritual experience with Canon Callaghan and to formally welcome him to St John Fisher.

COMMUNICATION

As in previous years, a newsletter will be emailed every two weeks. Information will also be posted on the school web site and on Facebook/Twitter. 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. As you are aware, I have recently started as the Headteacher of the school. My main focus will be to ensure that St John Fisher remains the outstanding school your children deserve.

We have also seen some changes to the Heads of Year team this summer. To help you to find your initial contact for any concerns in school, below are the Heads of Year for each cohort:

Head of Year 7

Mr Johnson

Head of Year 10

Miss Hayward-Shott

Head of Year 8

Mr Owen

Head of Year 11

Mr Hussey

Head of Year 9

Mrs Lewis

NEW BUILDING WORK

Over the summer a number of building works took place to improve the facilities and security of the school site. You may have noticed that we now have gates at the front of the school. These are open to students in the morning until 8.50am when they are closed and all students arriving after this time should enter via the main reception. There are now a number of visitor parking spaces at the front of the school. Please note the directions on the new signage if you are visiting during the school day.

A schedule of decoration took place, most notably in the chapel corridor, a number of classrooms and on staircases. During this term there will also be improvements made to the girl's toilets after the boy's toilet were upgraded a couple of years ago.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

We have always prided ourselves on the range of opportunities that are available to our students. This fulfils in part our mission of educating for life. Music, sports, dance and drama are an active part of the wider school. There will shortly be auditions for this year's production, Legally Blonde. I would urge all students to come and get involved in what will be an extravaganza as in previous years. Please also look at the school website with your child and discuss with them which activities they wish to become involved in.

UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS

The school opens itself to visitors and prospective students on the 6th October. Please feel free to join us on this date, to see our students in action, particularly from Years 7 and 11, and speak with our staff who will explain the great work they have put in to create the rounded education our students receive.

Please note that the 20th September is our presentation evening, celebrating those students who have won prizes for their achievements in the past academic year. Invitations will be sent out in due course.

To support parents of Year 11 students we are running two evening sessions focusing on English, Maths and Science. These will take place on the 26th September and the 3rd October depending on your child's form group. Further details will be coming out in the next week. We urge you to attend these highly informative sessions that will help you to understand how best to prepare your child for the challenges of Year 11.

UNIFORM AND STANDARDS

As in previous years we have again set high standards for our students, in their dress, effort in lessons and behaviour. St John Fisher is seen throughout the region as a school of excellence. To maintain this reputation, I ask that you support us in encouraging your children to adhere to our high standards and set the example for our younger pupils and the wider community.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Over the summer you may have seen in the press that we were delighted with the A Level and GCSE results again 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. You may also have read that the changes to both grading and courses this year has meant that it is difficult to compare performance with previous years. However, we can be really pleased with the 86% of students who achieved 4+ (equivalent to the old C Grade) in English and Maths, with 63% getting the new tougher measure of 5+. For the EBacc we achieved 56% at 4+. We expect these figures to be one of the top outcomes regionally and nationally. As a result, we anticipate our Progress 8 measure (the new national benchmark) to be the best that the school has ever achieved.

From the Associated Sixth Form 73 % of students have secured a place at university or further education, 74% of these obtained their first choice university and 46% of these were accepted at Russell Group universities. Eleven students have accepted courses at Oxbridge and nine students have secured places to study Medicine and Veterinary Medicine; 17% of students are taking a gap year. In addition to this we have 10% of our students who have secured apprenticeships with a number of prestigious companies including Jaguar Landover, Deloitte, KPMG and Ridding Park.

We wish all of our outgoing Year 13 students the best of luck as they start university, employment and gap years.

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

Yours sincerely



Headteacher



INFORMATION

School Communication

Please see below for forthcoming events; all other events and information are detailed on the school website or Facebook:

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

<https://www.facebook.com/SJFCHS/>

if you have any queries for teaching staff, please email:

office@sjfchs.org.uk

Appointments

All appointments must be put in writing and emailed to office@sjfchs.org.uk and also written in your child's planner. If parents are not picking up their child from school for their appointment, this must also be put in writing and emailed to office@sjfchs.org.uk or your child will not be allowed off site due to safeguarding issues.

Year 12 Pastoral Parents' Evening - Monday 17 September, 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Parents of all Year 12 students are invited to a Year 12 Pastoral Parents' Evening on Monday 17 September from 6.30pm to 7.30pm in the Main Hall of St John Fisher School.

The purpose of the event is to outline the Sixth Form programme, introducing the system used for academic monitoring and explaining our expectations in terms of workload and behaviour. The students' perspective will also be presented, and there will be an opportunity to meet your son / daughter's Senior Tutor if there are any matters you wish to discuss on an informal basis.

We hope that parents of Year 12 students are able to join us for this event, which we feel will help parents support the students through the pressures and challenges of sixth form life.

Year 13 Pastoral Parents' Evening - Monday 24 September, 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Parents of all Year 12 students are invited to a Year 12 Pastoral Parents' Evening on Monday 24 September from 6.30pm to 7.30pm in the Main Hall of St John Fisher School.

Year 11 Parental Support Evenings – Wednesday 26 September and 3 October

Year 11 Parent Support Evenings will take place on Wednesday 26 September from 6.00pm for parents of students in 11A, 11B, 11C and 11F and on Wednesday 3 October from 6.00pm for parents of students in 11H, 11M, 11P, 11W and 11EB. Students are not to attend as they will be receiving this information in school. Please complete and return supply slips. If there are any queries, please contact Mr Sharpe or Mr Hussey at school.

GCSE Review of Remark Requests and Access to Scripts Request

Please be advised that all requests for review of GCSE marking is 9am on Wednesday 19 September and the deadline for access to scripts request is 9am Tuesday 25 September.

All requests should be completed and returned with the appropriate payment to Mrs Haley, Exams Officer. Any requests received after this deadline will not be actioned.

Year 7 Welcome Mass and Refreshments

The Year 7 Welcome Mass **will take place on Friday 28 September from 6pm** followed by refreshments.



Y7 Lockers

A final reminder for anyone who was unable to hand in their locker key at the end of term to please bring the key back to the FINANCE OFFICE as soon as possible and collect their £5 deposit.

Lockers will be issued to Y7 students who have paid a £5 deposit through ParentPay in the next couple of weeks.

Y9/Y10/Y12 Y13 Theatre Trip – 26 September

On Wednesday 26 Sept, there is a trip to see Othello, from 6.30pm to 10pm at Harrogate Theatre.

Parents of Boys

In the latter part of this half term, we will be hosting an information evening for parents of boys as part of our work in Raising Boys Achievement; more information to follow.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham – Saturday 29 September

We are pleased to announce that we will be taking a group of pupils to Walsingham later this month. This is a great opportunity for pupils to represent the school on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 29th September 2018. Walsingham is the National Shrine to Our Lady in Norfolk. This pilgrimage is open to students in Years 7 – 11. The group representing St John Fisher's will join other school and parish groups from across the Diocese of Leeds to celebrate our faith. There is a promise also of fish and chips by the sea on the journey home! The cost will be a voluntary donation of £20 made payable on Parentpay. See the trip letter for more information.

Year 7 Retreat Days

These will begin 17th September and each form will spend a day at Harlow Carr where they will be getting to know one another, reflecting on joining our Community of prayer and being involved in creative activities. A great day out (let's hope the weather keeps nice!) See the trips letter for more information.

New 2 You

This is a supply of second hand uniform, in good condition available for parents to purchase at a reasonable cost with cash from the Goldfish Bowl. Thank you to all who donated items and a total of £913 was raised last academic year.

If you have any old uniform in good condition that you would like to donate to the school, please bring this to Reception.

Price List

Socks - £1

Skort - £5

Shorts - £5

Hoodies - £8

Rugby Shirt - £5

Shirts – £2

Polo Shirt - £5

PE Tops - £5

Kilts - £8

Blazers - £10

Trousers - £5

Ties (new) - £4

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



PTA Meeting

The first meeting of this academic year is on Wednesday 12 September at 7.00pm in the conference Room, new parents are welcome to attend.

ParentPay

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

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

Library News - Children's Literature Festival!

We are excited that former World Slam Poetry Champion Harry Baker (as seen at Edinburgh Fringe) will be paying a visit to school as part of the Festival to be held at Broughton Hall, Skipton, 29 and 30 September. Book your tickets on the website www.childrensliteraturefestival.org or contact Authors Abroad on 01535 656015. Lots of great authors are signed up to appear and school has been given a pair of tickets to give away for the following:

Saturday 29 September: Jon Robinson - author of the Nowhere series, Sonia Leong – Manga artist or Robin Stevens - author of Murder Most Unladylike series and the Guggenheim Mystery.

Sunday 30 September: Kathryn Evans – author of More of Me or Marcus Alexander – author of the Keeper of the Realm series

If you would like a free pair of tickets to see one of these authors please email your interest to npollard@sjfchs.org.uk, first come first served! The authors are suitable for years 7 to 9.

Oxford or Cambridge Mock Interviews

We would like to ask if any parents are Oxbridge graduates and would be prepared to support some of our prospective Oxbridge students this term in preparing for a mock interview before their Oxford or Cambridge interview to contact the Sixth Form Office or email 6thform@sjfchs.org.uk

We would hugely welcome your experience and time to support our Sixth Form students and look forward to hearing from you.

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2019

Letters will be going out soon for **The Annual Leeds Diocesan Pilgrimage for Year 10/12**. The Pilgrimage will take place from **4th to 12th July 2019**. The Lourdes Pilgrimage is a most memorable experience, one which allows students to deepen their own faith as well as the opportunity to serve members of our diocese.

Reply slips should be returned no later than Friday 26th October.

If you have any queries, then don't hesitate to email me at office@sjfchs.org.uk

Miss M McHugh
RE Teacher



School Term and Holiday Dates 2018/19

This academic year's term and holiday dates are detailed below.

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

ACADEMIC YEAR 2018/19

Open	<i>(Monday 3 September Staff Training Day)</i> Tuesday 4 September 2018 which is for Years 7, 11 and Year 13 ONLY Years 8, 9 10 and 12 will not be required to attend school until Wednesday 5 September
Half Term	<i>Friday 19 October 2018 Staff Training Day</i> Close: Friday 26 October 2018 Open: Monday 5 November 2018 <i>Monday 3 December 2018 Staff Training Day</i>
Christmas	Close: Friday 21 December 2018 Open: Tuesday 8 January 2019 <i>Monday 7 January 2019 Staff Training Day</i>
Half Term	Close: Friday 22 February 2019 Open: Monday 4 March 2019
Easter	Close: Friday 12 April 2019 Open: Monday 29 April 2019
May Day	Monday 6 May 2019 Bank Holiday
Half Term	Close: Friday 24 May 2019 Open: Monday 3 June 2019
Summer	Close: Friday 19 July 2019

HOLIDAYS SHOULD BE TAKEN OUTSIDE THE PUPIL TERM DATES ABOVE

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

Monday 3 September 2018

Friday 19 October 2018

Monday 3 December 2018

Tuesday 7 January 2019

Wednesday 20 March 2019

Further information can be found from September 2018 on the school website www.sjfchs.org.uk



Sports Fixtures

Monday 10 September

PE Dept. – Y7 House Cross Country, Period 4

Wednesday 12 September

Mr Nightingale – U18 Rugby V Harrogate Grammar School @ SJF, 15:00-16:30

Mr Pass – U18 Boys Football v Ripon Grammar School @ Ripon Grammar School, 15:00

Friday 14 September

Mr Pass – Y10 Cricket County Final @ Pannal CC

Monday 17 September

Mr Pass – Y7A/B/C Boys Football v St Aidan's @ SJF, 16:00

Wednesday 19 September

Mr Pass – Y9 Rugby Festival, venue and time TBC

PE Extra Curricular Timetable

Please see below the new PE Extra Curricular Timetable from September 2018 to April 2019.



News from the Science Desk – September 2018

“Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known.”

— Carl Sagan

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.

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.

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 previous specification.

We will be setting 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 (Sets 1 and 2 are parallel to one another, as 3 and 4) with the upper sets on each side of the year containing those students who may continue pursue Separate Sciences, but pupils from other sets will also be considered where there is strong evidence to show that they will contend with the pace and content. 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 cohort to go through the new GCSE in Science for examination in Year 11, 2021.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Also try mygcse.co.uk and getrevising.co.uk

Events and Clubs

KS3 Science Club (Y7)

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

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: vsg7 (VSG7) –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, Mr Grainger and Mr Thyne. Recruitment is increasingly an issue in some schools, and I am very pleased to welcome two teachers of such an excellent standard and experience to join our team.

Finally

We were very pleased with the A-level results overall in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, as well as GCSE where the results for Combined Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, were in the top 5% of School results nationally, which is a credit to the effort of all the pupils and support of the teachers and parents alike.

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

Specialist Leader of Education





ST JOHN FISHER PE EXTRA CURRICULAR TIMETABLE 2018-19 (SEPT – APRIL)



ACTIVITIES START W/C 10TH SEPTEMBER (EXCEPT LISTED BELOW)

GIRLS CRICKET TBC

SPORTS LEADERS STARTS W/C 17TH SEPTEMBER – MUST HAVE SIGNED UP & PAID ON PP (LIMITED PLACES – SEE MISS HUEGETT FOR MORE INFORMATION)

DAY	LUNCHTIME: 12:35 -1.15PM			AFTER SCHOOL: 3:45 - 5PM		
	SPORT	WHERE	TEACHER	SPORT	WHERE	TEACHER
MON	YEAR 11 BOYS FOOTBALL 6 TH FORM BOYS FOOTBALL SPORTS LEADERS QUALIFICATION ALL YEARS FITNESS SUITE	ASTROTURF ASTROTURF SPORTS HALL FITNESS SUITE	MR HUSSEY MR HEATON MISS HUEGETT	YEAR 8 GIRLS NETBALL YEAR 7 BOYS FOOTBALL ALL YEARS FITNESS SUITE	SPORTS HALL ASTROTURF FITNESS SUITE	MRS CRICHTON MR PASS MR OWEN
TUES	YEAR 10 BOYS FOOTBALL ALL YEARS GIRLS RUGBY ALL YEARS FITNESS SUITE YEAR 7 & 8 BADMINTON CLUB	ASTROTURF FIELD FITNESS SUITE SPORTS HALL	MR STANSFIELD MISS HUEGETT MR NIGHTINGALE	YEAR 7 GIRLS NETBALL YEAR 10 GIRLS' NETBALL ALL YEARS FITNESS SUITE	SPORTS HALL SPORTS HALL FITNESS SUITE	MISS TELFER MRS NIGHTINGALE MR SCOTT
WEDS	ALL YEARS BOYS AND GIRLS RUNNING CLUB ALL YEARS TABLE TENNIS ALL YEARS FITNESS SUITE	OFF SITE GYM FITNESS SUITE	MR PASS & MISS HUEGETT MR MILLS	YEAR 9 & 10 GIRLS NETBALL ALL YEARS GIRLS FOOTBALL YEAR 7 & 8 BOYS RUGBY YEAR 9 & 10 BOYS RUGBY YEAR 11 & 6 TH BOYS RUGBY ALL YEARS TABLE TENNIS ALL YEARS FITNESS SUITE	SPORTS HALL ASTROTURF FIELD FIELD FIELD GYM FITNESS SUITE	MISS TELFER MISS HUEGETT MR HOWGATE MR PASS MR NIGHTINGALE MR MILLS MR TANNER-SMITH
THU	ALL YEARS GIRLS FOOTBALL ALL YEARS FITNESS SUITE YEAR 7 & 8 BOYS RUGBY	ASTROTURF FITNESS SUITE FIELD	MISS HUEGETT MR NIGHTINGALE	Y11 & 6 TH FORM NETBALL YEAR 8 BOYS FOOTBALL YEAR 9 BOYS FOOTBALL ALL YEARS FITNESS SUITE	SPORTS HALL ASTROTURF ASTROTURF FITNESS SUITE	MRS NIGHTINGALE MR OWEN / MR BLACK MR NIGHTINGALE
FRI	YEAR 7 BOYS FOOTBALL ALL YEARS FITNESS SUITE	ASTROTURF FITNESS SUITE	MR PASS	ALL YEARS BADMINTON ALL YEARS FITNESS SUITE	SPORTS HALL FITNESS SUITE	EXTERNAL COACH

