

St John Fisher Catholic High School



Newsletter 1 6 September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been a real pleasure over the past few weeks to watch the students who have been in open their exam results and move on to the next stages in their educational career. Our sixth formers have gone on to a range of new and exciting opportunities, including apprenticeships with prestigious companies, taking time out for a year and of course university. Whilst many have gone on to Russell Group universities, we are also proud to report that this year, four of our class of 2019 were accepted to Oxford and Cambridge. Whatever their destinations we wish all of them the very best of success in their future endeavours. Many of our Year 11 have chosen to stay with us into Sixth Form and we have welcomed them back this week. I am sure that they will continue to be an asset to the school.

It has been a lovely experience to welcome the new Year 7 students on Tuesday. They have started to settle in well and the other members of the Fisher's Family have been helping them find their feet (and their classrooms) during this early period. This Year 7 is the largest year group the school has ever taken in, testament to the high regard in which you as parents and the wider community hold the school.

Much work has been done over the summer to make the best use of the space that is available to us and my thanks go to all those who have worked tirelessly to get the building ready for the new academic year. On top of the regular maintenance and painting of buildings, we have also created a new exit at the rear of the building to improve congestion. We have remodelled parts of the building to create two further classrooms and have installed a fence along the Coach Road to make the site more secure.

We have appointed a number of new staff and I am happy to report that we are fully staffed for the start of the new term. I would like to welcome the following to St John Fisher:

Mrs Keighley – Head of Maths
Mr Davis – Head of Geography
Mrs Marshall – English Teacher
Miss Byrnes – RE Teacher
Mrs Coyle – RE Teacher
Mrs Blamires – RE Teacher
Ms Warne – Science teacher
Mr Merrett – Languages teacher

Mrs Hobson - GTA
Mrs Simpson – Pastoral Mentor
Mrs Kingham - GTA
Miss Spencer - GTA
Mrs Frame - GTA
Mr Reece- Farren – Music Technician
Mrs Cousins – Catering Assistant
Mr Voros – Cleaning Assistant

I am sure that you will meet many of them in the coming years.

You will be aware of the Road World Cycling Championships that are taking place in Harrogate from the 21st to the 29th September. We have done a considerable amount of investigation into the routes of the races and it appears that we will only be affected by the racing on Friday 27th September. As a result, we have decided to close the school at 12.30pm on this day. Buses will collect students at this earlier time and students and staff will have time to leave before the roads are closed for the race. If you have any questions about these arrangements please get in touch.



Finally, I would like to say how excited I am that the governors asked me to stay on and lead St John Fisher School for this second year. I am look forward to seeing many of you throughout the next year at the numerous opportunities that the students have at St John Fisher to showcase their many and varied talents.

“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 3:27-28

Yours sincerely



Mr P Brockwell
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.

Transport Update

The X10, X71, X72, X73, X74, F63 and F64 are all full and the bus company are not taking any fare payers on these. This means that the buses cannot carry excess pupils at the moment until the numbers drop a bit.

Please ensure your child gets on the correct bus, they must travel on the bus that they have a pass for.

GCSE Review of Remark Requests and Access to Scripts Request

Please be advised that all requests for review of GCSE marking is 9am on Thursday 19 September and the deadline for access to scripts request is 9am Thursday 26 September.

All requests should be completed and returned to exams@sjfchs.org.uk. Payment should be paid via ParentPay. Any requests received after this deadline will not be actioned.

School Assessments Y7 to Y11

Y11 mock exams will take place between 21 October and 6 November – please note these are the week before and the week after half term. There will be further practice exams in core subjects in February.

Y10 mock exams will take place between 30 March and 22 April 2020 - please note these are the week before and the week after Easter Holidays.

Y7, Y8 and Y9 assessments will be during the week of 1 to 5 June 2020.

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.

Year 12 Pastoral Parents' Evening - Monday 16 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 – Wednesday 18 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 7 Welcome Mass and Refreshments

The Year 7 Welcome Mass **will take place on Friday 4 October from 6pm** followed by refreshments.

Year 11 Parental Support Evenings – Wednesday 9 October

Year 11 Parent Support Evenings will take place on Wednesday 9 October from 6.00pm. 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 Miss Hayward-Shott at school.

Drama Department Dates

We have several trips and performance evenings this term and would like to inform parents and carers of these dates:

Wednesday 11th September - Theatre trip to see Malory Towers at York Theatre Royal

Year 10 and Year 13 - this trip is nearly full, 4 places left so students who wish to attend need to pay by Friday.

Tuesday 22nd October - Year 9 Fisher's Shakespeare Festival Performance, 6.30pm G18

Year 9 GCSE Drama students will perform their first assessed performance in G18 on 22nd October. Tickets will be available shortly on Parent Pay, and the evening is compulsory for all Y9 Drama students.

Thursday 24th October - Year 13 Drama and Theatre Devising Exam, 6.30pm G18

This will be a public performance and parents are welcome to attend, attendance from students is compulsory

Tuesday 12th November - Theatre trip to see Woman in Black at York Theatre Royal

Year 11 and Year 12 - this will be on Parent Pay shortly.

Thursday 14th November - Year 11 Drama GCSE Devising Exam, 6.30pm G18

This will be a public performance and parents are welcome to attend, attendance from students is compulsory

Year 7 Retreat Days

These will begin on Tuesday 17th September and each form will spend at 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 £662 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

Opera North Auditions – Saturday 14 September at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance

There are some fantastic opportunities for talented pupils on offer for The Turning of the Screw and Street Scene productions. The deadline is soon, so those interested need to act fast. Click on the link for full details.

<https://sifchs.org.uk/opera-north-audition-opportunities/>

Year 8 High Starter Trip to Salford

Last year a group of Year 8 High Starters got together to discuss some 'big questions' facilitated by volunteers from Year 12. They considered topics such as war, art and media and their learning prepared them for a recent trip to Salford Media City where they toured the BBC Studios and participated in workshops at the IWM and the Lowry Centre. The trip and its preparation have developed the students in terms of both knowledge and skills and we intend to develop the group further as they move into Years 9/13.



Year 10 Trip to Cambridge University



Our trip to Cambridge has now become an annual event and 29 Year 10s made the journey at the end of June. We were welcomed and well fed by Fitzwilliam College where we learnt about admissions and preparing for university as well as participating in a heated debating session and making use of the facilities of the JCR. The following day we punted along the river and heard about the history of the university before visiting our link college St Catharine's for a tour and yet another meal. It was an inspiring visit as ever and hopefully will focus minds and prompt some excellent applications in due course.

Swimming Success – Tom Plant Y11

During the summer holidays, Tom Plant took part in the Welsh Summer National Championships. He swam multiple events over the course of the five day meet and recorded personal bests in all but one. His stand out performances came in the backstroke where he qualified for finals in the 50, 100 & 200m events. Tom managed to take two seconds off his qualifying time for the final in the 200m backstroke and, in a closely contested final, battled through to finish third and win a bronze medal. His time of 2:22:00 was the third fastest Welsh time recorded in that age group this year. Well done Tom.



Chemistry Cambridge Challenge



A small cohort of students from the Associated Sixth Form took part in the Chemistry Cambridge Challenge. The Challenge is designed to extend beyond students learning in Year 12 and the exam questions are presented to test not only knowledge but students skills at interpretation and their ability to apply information to unique situations. The students worked really hard, showed resilience and rose to the challenge. All the students who took part in the lunchtime sessions impressed Miss Burton (Head of Science). Five students did exceptionally well and achieved certificates (3 Copper, 1 Silver and 1 Gold). Well done to all the students involved.



SJF Library News

September 2019



WELCOME BACK TO THE LIBRARY!

Good to see you all back for the autumn term. If you have borrowed a book before the summer break please make sure you return it a.s.a.p. If you have lost or damaged your book, we still need to know! No fines are charged but damaged books must be paid for.

LIBRARY REBRAND!



This year we will be working hard to cultivate a quiet and dedicated study environment in the library. With our amazing collection of books, magazines, newspapers and computer access we want you to use your library as the outstanding resource that it is.

NEW TO SCHOOL?

Year 7 students will be allocated their library barcodes shortly but in meantime you can still borrow books. Bring your choice to the counter.

LUNCHTIME IN LIBRARY

During the lunch period; use of the library will be prioritised for those wishing to do homework, research, study quietly, read or take part in lunchtime clubs. There will also be opportunities for creative colouring and **quiet** games such as Connect-4 or puzzles. **No food or drink please other than bottled water.**

We are keen for students to socialise in the appropriate spaces and leave the library available for those who need it.

JOB VACANCY: PUPIL LUNCHTIME ASSISTANTS



Love your books? Want to know how the library works from behind the counter? If you are in years 8 and above you can apply to become a lunchtime assistant, five at least are needed. Full training given! Ask Mrs. Pollard for an application form, you will need to have this signed by a parent/carer and your form tutor. If successful, you will need to be available one lunchtime a week.

TALK TO US...



We are constantly refreshing our stock with newly published titles throughout the year. Book suggestions from you are also welcome.

COMING SOON!

Lunchtime clubs – watch this space!

HAVE A GREAT AUTUMN TERM!

Sports Fixtures

Monday 16 September

Mr Pass – Y8A/B Boys Football St Aidan's @ SJF, 16:00-17:30

Tuesday 17 September

Miss Huegett – Y9 Boys Football Tournament @ SJF 15:30-17:30

Thursday 19 September

Mr Nightingale – Y11 Rugby v Prince Henrys @ SJF 16:00-17:30

PE Extra Curricular Timetable

A copy of the timetable has been emailed separately.



School Term and Holiday Dates 2019/20

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

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/20

Open	<i>(Monday 2 September Staff Training Day)</i> Tuesday 3 September 2019 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 4 Sept.
Half Term	<i>Friday 18 October 2019 Staff Training Day</i> Close: Friday 25 October 2019 Open: Monday 4 November 2019 <i>Monday 2 December 2019 Staff Training Day</i>
Christmas	Close: Friday 20 December 2019 Open: Tuesday 7 January 2020 <i>Monday 6 January 2020 Staff Training Day</i>
Half Term	Close: Friday 14 February 2020 Open: Monday 24 February 2020 <i>Wednesday 18 March 2020 Staff Training Day</i>
Easter	Close: Friday 3 April 2020 Open: Monday 20 April 2020
May Day	Friday 8 May 2019
Half Term	Close: Friday 22 May 2020 Open: Monday 1 June 2020
Summer	Close: Friday 17 July 2020

HOLIDAYS SHOULD BE TAKEN OUTSIDE THE PUPIL TERM DATES ABOVE

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

Monday 2 September 2019

Friday 20 October 2019

Monday 2 December 2019

Tuesday 6 January 2020

Wednesday 18 March 2020

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



News from the Science Desk – September 2019

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.

Year 9

Your year group will be starting to study for their GCSEs.

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 complete the examinations for GCSEs in Science in Year 11, 2022.

Summary of Science GCSE's

- 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.
- Science is tiered in to Higher and Foundation levels.
- All 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 consists of two, 1 hour and 15 min (70 marks), papers in each of: Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Separate Sciences consists 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 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

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.

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.

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:

jburton@sjfchs.org.uk

Miss Burton

Head of Science

Specialist Leader of Education



