

# Weekly Newsletter

St John Fisher

Catholic Voluntary Academy

Friday, 4th September 2026

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*Christ at the centre and children at the heart*

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Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

It has been wonderful to welcome our students back to St John Fisher this week as we begin a new academic year. Following two staff training days, we were delighted to welcome all students back together on Thursday. Our first day included year-group assemblies, providing an opportunity to reflect on the year ahead, set expectations and begin our new school journey together.

The start of a new academic year always brings a sense of excitement and anticipation, and it has been fantastic to see our students returning with such enthusiasm. There has been a real sense of energy around school over the past couple of days, as students have reunited with friends, met new members of our community and settled back into the routines of school life.

We have also been incredibly impressed by the way our students have returned to school looking so smart and well presented. Their pride in wearing the St John Fisher uniform has been evident, and they have represented themselves and our school community exceptionally well. Thank you to our parents and carers for your support in helping students meet our high standards and begin the year positively.

We recognise that the start of a new school year can bring additional financial pressures for some families. We would like to remind parents and carers that support is available for those who may be experiencing financial hardship. If you require any assistance or would like to discuss the support that may be available, please do not hesitate to contact the school in confidence.

Over the summer, work has also continued across the school site to prepare for the new term. A number of our classrooms have benefited from significant refurbishment and updating, while other areas of the school have been refreshed and prepared for the year ahead. These Improvements are helping us to create positive and welcoming environments for our students to learn and thrive.

It has been a busy couple of days, with students getting ready for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. We have been particularly pleased to see the way in which students have approached the start of the year, embracing the changes and opportunities before them.

Our opening assemblies have provided an important opportunity to reinforce our expectations and priorities for the year ahead, while reminding students of the values that underpin our school community. We want every student to grow not only in their knowledge and understanding, but also in confidence, character, faith and their commitment to serving others.

Although we are only a couple of days into the new term, there is already a real sense of energy and purpose around school. We are looking forward to building on this strong start and to all that the year ahead will bring.

Thank you to our staff for their hard work in preparing for the return of students, and to our parents and carers for their continued support. Most importantly, thank you to our students for the enthusiasm, positivity and resilience they have shown during these first few days.

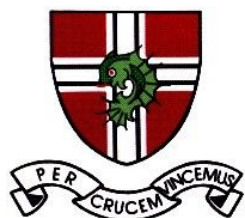
We wish everyone a very warm welcome back to St John Fisher and look forward to a successful and rewarding year together.

Mr K Mackey  
Headteacher

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## Our Virtues



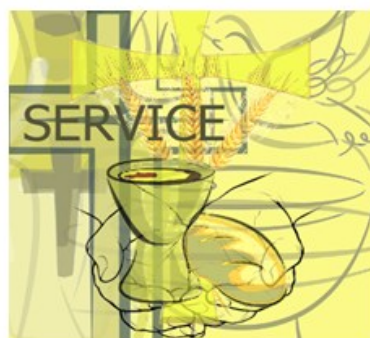
*We overcome our fears and do things that are difficult.*



*We are truthful to ourselves and others, and our words match our actions.*



*We recognise other people's worth and care for our environment.*



*We look for ways to help others.*



*We give people another chance after they have done something wrong.*



*We trust God and are guided by faith in all we do.*

## Virtue in the Spotlight next week



Next week the virtue in the spotlight will be **COURAGE**.

*We overcome our fears and do things that are difficult.*

What will you work on that is going to be difficult next week?



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## Student Leadership Team

We are delighted to welcome our Student Leadership Team for the new academic year and are excited to see the contribution they will make to our school community.

Our Head Boy and Head Girl are joined by 11 Deputy Leaders and 3 Student Leaders, all of whom have demonstrated the commitment, confidence, enthusiasm and maturity needed to take on these important roles.

Throughout the year, our Student Leaders will play an important part in school life. They will act as positive role models for their peers, support and represent the school at key events, listen to and champion the views of fellow students, and work closely with staff to help make a positive difference across the school.

Being part of the Student Leadership Team is an opportunity for students to develop their leadership, communication and teamwork skills, while also giving back to the school community and helping to shape the experiences of others.

We are incredibly proud of all our student leaders and the dedication they have already shown. We look forward to seeing them grow in confidence, take on new challenges and make their mark throughout the year ahead.

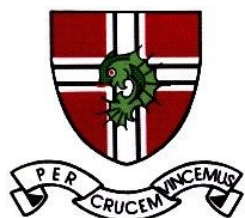
We wish our Student Leadership Team every success in their new roles and look forward to celebrating all they achieve over the coming year.

St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy



Student Leadership Team





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## Important Information

### A Warm Welcome to Our New Staff

As we begin the new academic year, we are pleased to welcome several new members of staff to our school. We are excited to have them join our team and become part of our community. We wish them every success in their new roles and look forward to working alongside them throughout the year.

Mr Clough – EAL Lead and English Teacher  
Mr Horsfall, Drama Teacher  
Mrs Horsfall, Religious Education Teacher  
Miss Mahmood, English Teacher  
Miss Patel, English Teacher  
Miss Trueman, Music Teacher  
Mr Peel, ADT Teacher  
Miss Walder, Maths Teacher  
Miss Ambler, Student support  
Miss Ali, Receptionist  
Mrs Naughton, Business Support Officer  
Mrs Binns, Exams access arrangements  
Miss Womersley, Educational Teaching Assistant  
Mr Evans, Educational Teaching Assistant

### School Day Timings

A reminder of our school day timings for the new academic year:

- **Personal Development:** 8:40am–9:10am
- **Lesson 1:** 9:10am–10:50am
- **Break:** 10:50am–11:15am
- **Lesson 2:** 11:15am–12:55pm
- **Lunch:** 12:55pm–1:30pm
- **Lesson 3:** 1:30pm–3:10pm

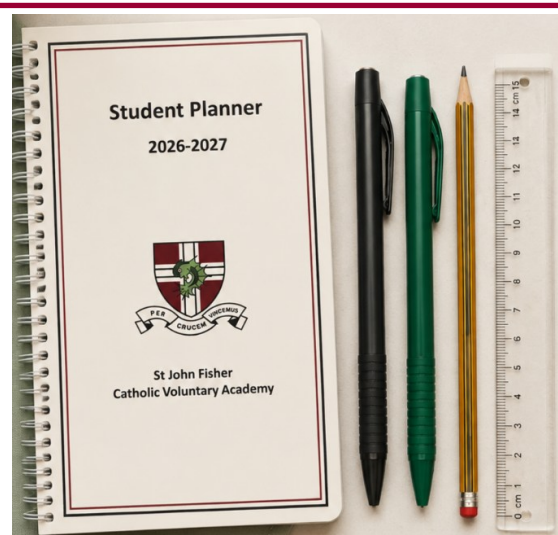
School finishes at 3:10pm.

### Daily Equipment – The Essentials

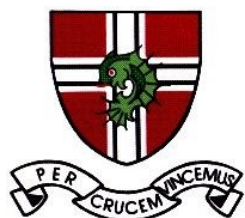
Being prepared for learning starts with having the right equipment every day. We ask all students to make sure they arrive at school ready to learn and with the following essential items:

- **Planner**
- **Pen**
- **Green pen**
- **Pencil**
- **Ruler**

These are **daily must-haves** and should be brought to school every day. Having the correct equipment ready means students can settle quickly into lessons and make the most of every learning opportunity.



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## Attendance

Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in helping students thrive. Being in lessons every day gives them the strongest chance to reach their academic potential and supports positive mental health through structure and daily connection with trusted adults. Just as importantly, attending school helps students build friendships, develop social skills and feel a true sense of belonging.

By coming to school every day, students give themselves the best opportunity to succeed both academically and personally.

### Reporting Absence

All students should aim for at least 96% attendance, but should your child be absent, notify the school by 8:00am each day via:

- Phone: 01924 527000 (Option 1)
- Class Charts
- Email: [attendance@stjohnfisher.org.uk](mailto:attendance@stjohnfisher.org.uk)

As a safeguarding measure, a Class Charts message will be sent to parents if a student is not marked present during registration and we have not received notification that they will be absent from school. We will contact you by telephone if we can't reach you by Class Charts. This is to ensure that they are safe and have not gone missing on the way to school.

### Punctuality

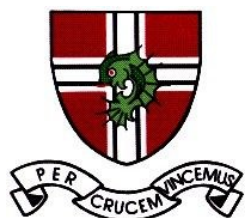
Students must be in form by 8:40am. Any student who arrives after this time will be given a late mark. Please contact the attendance office if your child will be arriving late giving a reason and the expected arrival time.

### Appointments in school time

Whilst we realise that some appointments are unavoidable, we would kindly request that where possible, appointments are made outside of school time. If your child has an appointment and needs to leave school during the day, we would ask that you send evidence of the appointment.

## Term Dates

| St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy<br>Term Dates – Academic Year 2026-2027                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                          |                                             |                                           |                                                                                            |                                            |                                          |                                                                                 |                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Autum Term                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                          |                                             | Spring Term                               |                                                                                            |                                            | Summer Term                              |                                                                                 |                                            |
| 39 days                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                          | 35 days                                     | 30 days                                   |                                                                                            | 24 days                                    | 34 days                                  |                                                                                 | 33 days                                    |
| First Day                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Half Term                                                                                | Last Day                                    | First Day                                 | Half Term                                                                                  | Last Day                                   | First Day                                | Half Term                                                                       | Last Day                                   |
| <b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2026 to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2026 (inclusive) | <b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2026</b> | <b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2027</b> | Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2027 to Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2027 (inclusive) | <b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2027</b> | <b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2027</b> | Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2027 – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2027 (inclusive) | <b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2027</b> |
| <b>Bank Holidays</b><br>Christmas Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> December 2026<br>Christmas Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> December 2026<br>New Years Day Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2027<br>Good Friday Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2027<br>Easter Monday Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2027<br>May Day Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2027<br>Spring Bank Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2027<br>August Bank Holiday Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> August 2027 |                                                                                          |                                             |                                           |                                                                                            |                                            |                                          |                                                                                 |                                            |
| <b>Staff Training Days (Pupils do not attend on these days and may be subject to alteration.)</b><br>Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2026<br>Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2026<br>Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2026<br>Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2027 (Disaggregated)<br>Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2027 (Disaggregated)<br>Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2027 (Disaggregated)                                         |                                                                                          |                                             |                                           |                                                                                            |                                            |                                          |                                                                                 |                                            |



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## Catering Update

At St John Fisher, we believe that **good food fuels good learning**. That's why we are proud to offer a fully in-house catering service, prepared and delivered by our own dedicated catering team.

Every meal we serve contributes to our mission to create a warm, caring and healthy environment for all our students, from Year 7 through to Sixth Form.

Our school catering service provides:

- Freshly prepared meals cooked on-site each day
- Menus tailored to the tastes and needs of our students
- Affordable and accessible options for families
- Full compliance with School Food Standards
- A dining experience that reflects our Catholic values of service and respect

### An update on meal prices

As we begin the new academic year, there has been an increase in the price of school meals. This reflects the continued rise in the costs associated with providing our catering service, including increases in the cost of food products, ingredients and other operational costs.

We appreciate that any increase in household costs is important to families. We have therefore worked to keep the increase as reasonable as possible while continuing to provide nutritious, varied and good-quality meals prepared for our students each day.

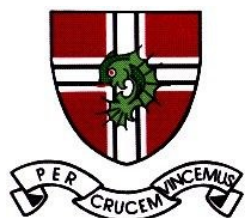
We remain committed to providing **good-quality food at a fair price**, and to ensuring that our catering provision continues to meet the needs of our whole school community.

For details of the new meal prices, please see our website: [St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy - Catering at SJF](#)

## What's on the menu next week?

| Week 2            | Monday                                                    | Tuesday                                              | Roast Wednesday                                                                     | Thursday                                             | Chippy Friday                                        |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Choice 1          | Cottage Pie with Peas and Gravy                           | Meat Pie with Diced Herb Potatoes and Gravy          |  | Chicken Goujon Wrap and Wedges                       | Fish and Chips                                       |
| Choice 2          | Vegetable Lasagne served with Garlic Bread and Side Salad | 5 Vegetable Curry with Rice and Naan                 | Macaroni Cheese with Garlic Bread                                                   | Vegetable Cottage Pie with Peas and Gravy            | Quorn Nuggets and Chips                              |
| Vegetable         | Seasonal Vegetables or Side Salad                         | Seasonal Vegetables or Side Salad                    | Seasonal Vegetables or Side Salad                                                   | Seasonal Vegetables or Side Salad                    | Seasonal Vegetables or Side Salad                    |
| Choice 3          | Chicken Tikka Wrap with Wedges                            | Beef Nachos                                          | Chicken Burger with Wedges                                                          | Chinese Salt and Pepper Chicken Wings with Wedges    | Fish Finger Burger with Chips                        |
| Choice 4          | Panini / Cosmo Pizza                                      | Panini / Cosmo Pizza                                 | Panini / Cosmo Pizza                                                                | Panini / Cosmo Pizza                                 | Panini / Cosmo Pizza                                 |
| Every Day Staples | Fresh Baked Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling        | Fresh Baked Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling   | Fresh Baked Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling                                  | Fresh Baked Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling   | Fresh Baked Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling   |
|                   | or                                                        | or                                                   | or                                                                                  | or                                                   | or                                                   |
|                   | Slice of Wholemeal Pizza                                  | Slice of Wholemeal Pizza                             | Slice of Wholemeal Pizza                                                            | Slice of Wholemeal Pizza                             | Slice of Wholemeal Pizza                             |
|                   | or                                                        | or                                                   | or                                                                                  | or                                                   | or                                                   |
|                   | Homemade Tomato and Basil Sauce with Wholemeal Pasta      | Homemade Tomato and Basil Sauce with Wholemeal Pasta | Homemade Tomato and Basil Sauce with Wholemeal Pasta                                | Homemade Tomato and Basil Sauce with Wholemeal Pasta | Homemade Tomato and Basil Sauce with Wholemeal Pasta |
|                   | or                                                        | or                                                   | or                                                                                  | or                                                   | or                                                   |
|                   | Selection of Homemade Sandwiches                          | Selection of Homemade Sandwiches                     | Selection of Homemade Sandwiches                                                    | Selection of Homemade Sandwiches                     | Selection of Homemade Sandwiches                     |

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## Batley Torchlight Procession