

Weekly Newsletter

St John Fisher

Catholic Voluntary Academy

Friday, 11th September 2026

Christ at the centre and children at the heart

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

It has been another positive week at St John Fisher as we continue to settle into the new academic year. After the excitement of the first few days, it has been particularly pleasing to see our school routines becoming established and to see students approaching the new term with enthusiasm and confidence.

Our Year 7 students deserve a special mention this week. They have made a fantastic start to life at St John Fisher and are settling into their new routines, lessons and surroundings really well. We have been impressed by the way they have embraced the opportunities and challenges of secondary school and are beginning to find their place within our wider school community. We are sure that, as the weeks progress, their confidence will continue to grow.

There is already plenty to look forward to this term. On 23 September, we will be welcoming prospective Year 7 families to our upcoming Year 7 Open Evening. This is an important opportunity for families who are considering St John Fisher for their child to visit our school, meet members of our staff and students, and experience the welcoming community that makes our school such a special place. We look forward to welcoming many families on the evening.

As a Catholic school, we are also proud to be part of the wider faith and local community. Looking ahead to early October, our students and families will have the opportunity to take part in the Batley Torchlight Procession. This is a much loved local and faith filled tradition and provides a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together in prayer, reflection and fellowship. Further details can be found on the flyer included in this newsletter.

As we move further into the term, our focus remains firmly on ensuring that every student feels a strong sense of belonging and is able to make the very best start to their learning. We want our students to grow in confidence, character and faith, while developing the knowledge, skills and values they need to flourish.

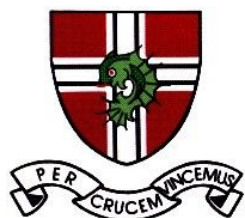
Thank you to our staff for the care and commitment they continue to show our students, and to our parents and carers for your continued support.

It has been a very positive start to the year, and I look forward to seeing this continue as the term progresses.

With very best wishes,

Mr K Mackey
Headteacher

Faith • Service • Respect • Honesty • Courage • Forgiveness



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Our Virtues



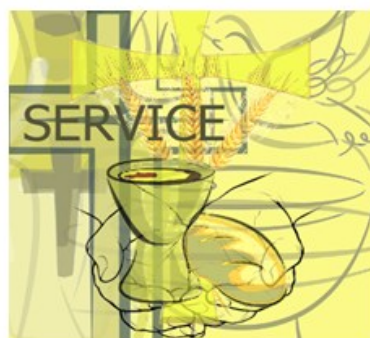
We overcome our fears and do things that are difficult.



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.

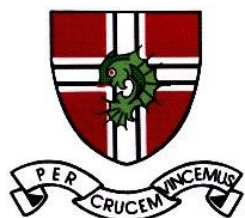
Virtue in the Spotlight next week



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

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

How will you show respect towards other people in the community?



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Important Information

As part of our arrangements for the new academic year, we are introducing a number of dates when school will close to pupils at **12.55pm, following Period 2**. These early closures will allow us to hold important staff training and development sessions, as well as our Sixth Form and Year 7 Open Evenings.

The dates for the academic year are:

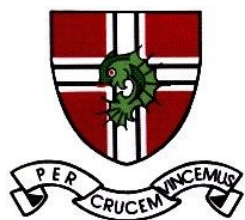
- Wednesday 23 September 2026—Year 7 Open Evening
- Thursday 15 October 2026 – Sixth Form Open Evening
- Thursday 26 November 2026- Staff Training
- Tuesday 12 January 2026— Staff Training
- Thursday 4 March 2026— Staff Training
- Tuesday 20 April 2026— Staff Training
- Thursday 24 June 2026 – Staff Training

We recognise that an earlier school finish may require families to make alternative arrangements, and we are providing support for students on these days. Students who are eligible for Free School Meals will be able to access their lunch allowance at break time. A grab bag can also be collected by eligible students when they leave school at 12.55pm.

We hope that providing these dates well in advance will help families to plan accordingly. These sessions are an important part of our commitment to ongoing staff development and ensuring that our staff have the time and opportunities needed to continue to provide the very best for our students.

Term Dates

St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy 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
Tuesday 1st September 2026	Monday 26 th October 2026 to Friday 30 th October 2026 (inclusive)	Friday 18th December 2026	Monday 4th January 2027	Monday 15 th February 2027 to Friday 19 th February 2027 (inclusive)	Thursday 25th March 2027	Monday 12th April 2027	Monday 31 st May 2027 – Friday 4 th June 2027 (inclusive)	Wednesday 21st July 2027
Bank Holidays Christmas Friday 25 th December 2026 Christmas Monday 28 th December 2026 New Years Day Friday 1 st January 2027 Good Friday Friday 26 th March 2027 Easter Monday Monday 29 th March 2027 May Day Monday 3 rd May 2027 Spring Bank Monday 31 st May 2027 August Bank Holiday Monday 30 th August 2027								
Staff Training Days (Pupils do not attend on these days and may be subject to alteration.) Tuesday 1 st September 2026 Wednesday 2 nd September 2026 Friday 27 th November 2026 Monday 19 th July 2027 (Disaggregated) Tuesday 20 th July 2027 (Disaggregated) Wednesday 21 st July 2027 (Disaggregated)								



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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

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

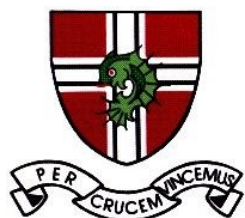
Whilst we realise that some appointments are unavoidable, we would kindly request that where possible, appointments are made outside of school time. If your child has an appointment and needs to leave school during the day, we would ask that you send evidence of the appointment.

Attendance Champions this week

Top Year Group: Year 7—97.53%

Top Form Class: 7E & 7I —98.80%

Congratulations to the 770 students who achieved 100% attendance this week! Your commitment and dedication are truly commendable.



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School Catering Information

Following our recent update about school meal prices and our in-house catering service, we would like to remind families that full information about our school catering provision is available on our website.

This includes details of **meal prices, menus and catering arrangements**, as well as information about the nutritious and freshly prepared meals available to our students.

For full details, please visit our website: [St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy - Catering at SJF](#)

What's on the menu next week?

Week 3	Monday	Tuesday	Roast Wednesday	Thursday	Chippy Friday
Choice 1	Loaded Beef Bolognese with Garlic Bread and Side Salad	Chicken Tikka Curry with Rice and Naan		Sausage and Mashed Potato with Peas and Gravy	Fish and Chips
Choice 2	Southern Fried Quorn Burger with Side Options	Loaded Vegetable Nachos	Macaroni Cheese with Garlic Bread	Vegetable Sausage and Mashed Potato 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 Burger with Wedges	Chicken Goujon Wrap with Wedges	Chicken Burger with Wedges	Beef Chilli Burrito 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

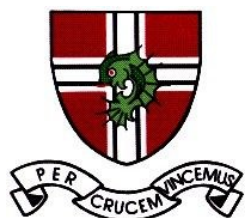
Please note all menus are subject to change dependent on item availability.

Lunchtime is not just about eating. It is also a chance for students to:

- Socialise
- Relax and reset
- Enjoy a positive, respectful environment

Our dining areas are supervised, welcoming, and designed to help students enjoy their break from learning.

Students are encouraged to stay hydrated throughout the day. Fresh drinking water is available from our water machines, and students may refill their bottles before school, at break, or at lunchtime.



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Year 7 Open Evening

ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



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We warmly invite prospective Year 7 students and their parents to our

ANNUAL OPEN EVENING



Wednesday
23rd September 2026



4:00pm - 7:00pm



St John Fisher
Catholic Voluntary Academy
Oxford Road, Dewsbury
WF13 4LL

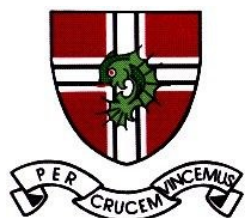


01924 527000
reception@stjohnfisher.org.uk

Pupils feel safe and happy at this welcoming and rapidly improving school.
Ofsted 2025

Rated Outstanding for
Catholic Life & Mission

FAITH ♦ SERVICE ♦ FORGIVENESS ♦ HONESTY ♦ COURAGE ♦ RESPECT



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Maths Doctor and Chess Club

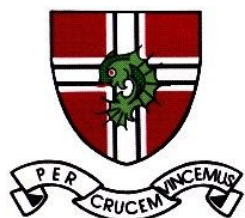


COME AND JOIN US

Maths Doctor and Chess club

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday lunchtime in M50





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Batley Torchlight Procession

BATLEY

TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION

HONOURING OUR LADY • ADORE THE EUCHARIST • WALK IN FAITH

75th
Anniversary

MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER
7.30PM
WITH BISHOP MARCUS STOCK

HELD AT
ST MARY OF THE ANGELS
BATLEY

St Mary's Church, Cross Bank Road, Batley, WF17 8PQ

Followed by Refreshments
PIE & PEAS SUPPER
PAROCHIAL HALL, MELTON ST, BATLEY
PIE & PEAS £2.00 / HOT DOGS £1.50