

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 busy and positive week at St John Fisher as we continue to establish routines and build momentum across the school. It has been particularly pleasing to see students responding so well to the expectations of the new academic year and embracing the many opportunities available to them.

This week has marked an important milestone with students returning their homework booklets for the first time following the introduction of our new homework approach. It has been encouraging to see students engaging with their homework and beginning to take greater responsibility for their learning beyond the classroom. Establishing positive habits around homework is an important part of supporting our students to become confident and independent learners, and we look forward to seeing this develop throughout the year.

We have also enjoyed a range of enrichment opportunities this week. Students had the opportunity to hear from a visiting scientist, providing an exciting insight into the world of science and helping to bring learning beyond the classroom to life. Our programme of after-school activities is also continuing to develop, with students taking part in a variety of opportunities to pursue their interests, develop new skills and enjoy activities beyond the school day.

We were also delighted to see students who took part in our Lourdes pilgrimage earlier this year come together for a reunion. Meeting again provided a lovely opportunity for students to reconnect, share memories and reflect on the experiences and friendships created during the pilgrimage. It was wonderful to see the bonds formed during Lourdes continuing beyond the trip and to celebrate what was such a meaningful experience for our students.

Looking ahead, next week is an important one for St John Fisher as we welcome prospective Year 7 students and their families to our Year 7 Open Evening on 23 September. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to visit our school, meet our staff and students, experience our facilities and learn more about life at St John Fisher. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our visitors and showcasing the many opportunities available to our students.

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

Thank you, as always, to our staff for their continued care, dedication and commitment, and to our parents and carers for your ongoing support. It is encouraging to see such a positive sense of energy across the school, and I look forward to seeing this continue as the term progresses.

Mr K Mackey
Headteacher

Faith • Service • Respect • Honesty • Courage • Forgiveness



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Our Virtues



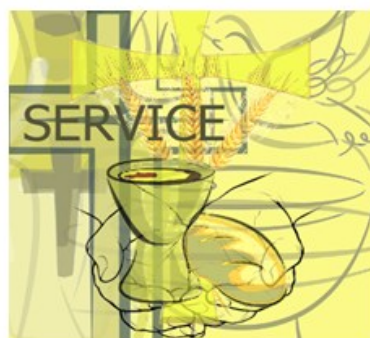
We overcome our fears and do things that are difficult.



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.

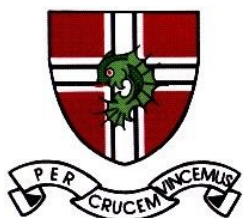
Virtue in the Spotlight next week



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

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

What one thing do we need to improve on next week?



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Celebrating Our Achievers

Lights, Camera, Action! 🎬

We are incredibly proud to share some exciting news about one of our talented Year 7 pupils, MB, who has been offered the fantastic opportunity to film with Channel 4!

MB has recently completed filming for Army of Shadows and has also been offered the opportunity to appear in the popular series Waterloo Road.

This is an incredible achievement and a wonderful opportunity for MB to develop her skills and gain valuable experience within the world of television and film.

We are so proud of her and can't wait to see where this exciting journey takes her. Well done, MB!

A Special Thank You

We would like to say a huge thank you to our Head Boy PH and Deputy Head Boy RS for giving our guests a tour of the school earlier this week.

They were professional, informative and incredibly welcoming, representing our school with confidence and pride.

It was wonderful to see them engaging so positively with our guests and demonstrating the excellent young people we have in our school community.

Thank you both for being such fantastic ambassadors for our school. You should both be very proud of yourselves.

Inspiring the Next Generation of Scientists

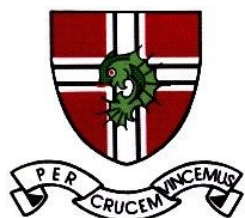
This week, a group of Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 scientists had the privilege of welcoming guest speaker Professor Bill McCaffrey, Emeritus Chair in Earth Sciences at the University of Leeds.

Professor McCaffrey spoke to students about his career journey, personal achievements and experiences in the field of Earth Sciences. He also shared valuable transferable skills, lessons and insights to help inspire students as they consider their future educational and career pathways.

The visit provided an invaluable opportunity for students to gain first-hand insight into the progression from school to university and the wide range of careers available through studying science. Professor McCaffrey was particularly impressed by the enthusiasm of our students, with many staying behind after the talk to ask thoughtful and detailed questions about pursuing opportunities within STEM fields.

We would like to thank Professor McCaffrey for taking the time to share his expertise and inspire the next generation of scientists.





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Lourdes Reunion

The students and staff who attended the Lourdes pilgrimage at the end of the last academic year had the opportunity to attend the Lourdes 2026 Reunion on Tuesday.

The whole Youth Section reunited for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, sharing, prayer and reminiscing. The afternoon began with Mass together at Corpus Christi Church, where Fr Marc Pitson spoke about how we can live our daily lives in a new way, having experienced the peace, joy and service of our time in Lourdes.

We then headed into the College Hall for some fun and games, followed by testimonies about the impact Lourdes has had on our lives. The afternoon ended with everyone watching the adverts that had been created as part of our school challenge for Lourdes.

Our students had a fantastic time, and it was so wonderful to be sitting in a sea of Yellows again, remembering our wonderful week in Lourdes — if a little emotional! Everyone in attendance agreed that they would love to return to Lourdes!



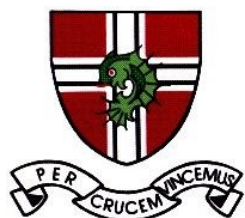
Geography in Action: Our Students Take on the Sustainability Challenge

We are delighted our A Level Geography students will be representing St John Fisher at the Bloxham Sustainability Challenge National Launch Conference: Real Places, Real Decisions at the Royal Geographical Society in London.

This exciting opportunity will allow students to engage with contemporary geographical issues, hear from leading academics and researchers, and explore how geographical knowledge informs real-world decision-making.

Following the conference, students will produce a report to share their learning and will enter a national competition, with their work also contributing towards their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

We wish them the very best of luck!



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A Fantastic Start to School Sport!

It has been a fantastic week for sport at school, with great numbers getting involved across our sessions.

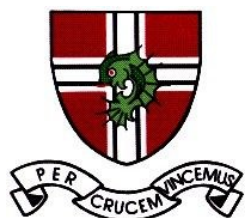
Girls Rugby got off to a brilliant start on Monday, with an excellent turnout for the first training session. It was fantastic to see students getting stuck in and giving rugby a go.

All abilities are welcome — whether you're completely new to rugby or already have experience, there's a place for everyone.

Meanwhile, **Football** has also had a fantastic start, with an impressive **58 students turning up** for the first session. The enthusiasm and energy on the pitch made for a great afternoon, and we're looking forward to seeing plenty more students getting involved.

A huge well done to everyone who took part!





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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.

Attendance Matters

Regular attendance gives students the best opportunity to succeed academically, socially and personally. Being in school every day supports learning, friendships, wellbeing and a strong sense of belonging.

We ask all students to aim for at least 96% attendance. If your child is absent, please notify school by 8:00am each day via Class Charts, 01924 527000 (Option 1), or attendance@stjohnfisher.org.uk.

Students should be in form by 8:40am. If your child arrives late, please contact the Attendance Office with the reason and expected arrival time. Where possible, please arrange medical and other appointments outside school hours.

As part of our safeguarding procedures, we will contact parents if a student is absent from registration without prior notification.

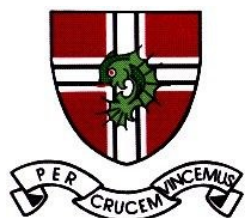


Attendance Champions This Week
Top Year Group: Year 7 — 96.33%
Top Form Classes: 7E — 98.8%



Congratulations to the 702 students who achieved 100% attendance this week!

Your commitment and dedication are truly commendable.



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What's on the menu next week?

Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Roast Wednesday	Thursday	Chippy Friday
Choice 1	Toad in the Hole with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy	Meat Lasagne with Garlic Bread		Chicken Masala with Rice and Naan	Fish and Chips
Choice 2	Sweet Chilli Roast Vegetable Noodles	Roasted Vegetable Pasta Bake	Macaroni Cheese with Garlic Bread	Mexican Chilli with Savoury Rice	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	Piri Chicken Wrap with Wedges	Meatball Sub with Wedges	Chicken Burger with Side Option	Chicken Tikka Sub 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

FREE School Meals



IMPORTANT CHANGES TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS

From **September 2026**, new national rules mean more families can qualify for Free School Meals

WHAT IS CHANGING?

All children in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to Free School Meals

The £7,400 earnings threshold will be removed

Students identified as **Targeted FSM** (from households earning **£7,400 or less**) will receive Pupil Premium funding

WHY IT MATTERS

A **healthy meal** for your child

The school will receive around £1,100 per eligible student in additional **Pupil Premium** funding

Additional funding can last **up to 6 years**, even if your child no longer receives Free School Meals



WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Apply if you receive any of the following:

- Universal Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Meet the criteria for families with no recourse to public funds



HOW TO APPLY

Apply quickly online via your Local Authority

Students do not have to take the meals if they do not want to, but registering is important.

It provides access to a free meal and the school may receive funding for extra support, resources and opportunities.



For more information about our catering and school meals provision, visit our website



If you have any questions, please contact the school office - we're happy to help

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SOCIAL SCIENCES

Newsletter

LEARNING IN
ACTION ACROSS
THE DEPARTMENT!

SEPTEMBER 2026

A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT OUR STUDENTS HAVE BEEN LEARNING OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS

CITIZENSHIP

YEAR 10

Students have been studying migration and how governments and local councils respond to changing populations through law, policy and public services. They explored the role of the Census and how data helps decision-makers plan for housing, healthcare, education, transport and other community needs.



YEAR 11

Students have deepened their understanding of democracy by investigating systems around the world. They used the Democracy Index to compare countries such as North Korea and Norway, and reflected on voting patterns in the UK and what influences voter turnout and electoral behaviour.



LAW

YEAR 12

Students have begun by looking at how laws are made by Parliament and other delegated authorities. They debated whether it is better for elected officials or experts in specific fields to make law, leading to an engaging whole-class debate with excellent independent research.



YEAR 13

Students have begun the topic of 'Human Rights', exploring what human rights are and how they are evident within society. They considered the impact of breaching rights on individuals and groups and how Parliament and the government act to protect individuals and their liberties.

HUMAN RIGHTS



HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

YEAR 10

Students have been learning about PIES (Physical, Intellectual, Emotional and Social) development in childhood (ages 4-10), exploring milestones and factors that influence growth and wellbeing in preparation for their upcoming coursework.



YEAR 11

Students have explored what makes a healthy lifestyle and the barriers that can prevent healthy choices, including diet, exercise, access to services and personal circumstances. This supports their preparation for upcoming coursework.



YEAR 12

Students have been learning about equality, diversity and individuals' rights within health and social care settings and how professionals promote inclusive practice, challenge discrimination and ensure dignity, respect and fairness for service users.



YEAR 13

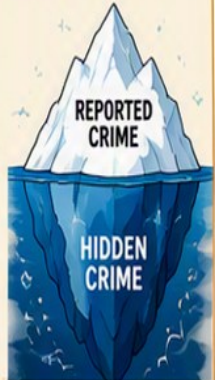
Students have been learning about the cardiovascular system, including the composition of blood, the heart, blood pressure, electrical activity of the heartbeat and the different types of blood vessels, building valuable knowledge for assessments and future progression.



CRIMINOLOGY

YEAR 12

Students have been reflecting on why certain crimes go unreported and evaluating the impact of hidden crime on individuals, communities and the criminal justice system. They explored barriers to reporting offences and how unreported crime affects crime statistics.



YEAR 13

Students have been studying the rights of individuals during criminal investigations, focusing on the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984. They explored the balance between police powers and individual rights and the protections for victims and witnesses.



PSYCHOLOGY

YEAR 12

Students have been learning about how people acquire behaviours through experience and observation. Topics included Classical Conditioning (Pavlov), Operant Conditioning (rewards and punishments) and Social Learning Theory (Bandura's Bobo Doll experiment).



YEAR 13

Students have been learning about schizophrenia, including positive symptoms (hallucinations, delusions) and negative symptoms (speech poverty, reduced motivation). They explored diagnosis challenges, reliability and validity, and biological explanations including genetics and neurotransmitter activity.



SOCIOLOGY

YEAR 12

Students have explored how cultural and material deprivation may influence educational achievement, including income, housing, language, parental attitudes and access to resources. They began evaluating sociological explanations for educational inequality and how these shape life chances.



YEAR 13

Students have been studying Crime and Deviance, exploring Functionalist theories (crime as inevitable and sometimes beneficial) and Subcultural theories (alternative values and norms leading to deviance). They assessed strengths and limitations and applied theories to contemporary examples.



★ STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

- ★ Excellent debate and independent research in Law lessons!
- ★ Fantastic engagement in Health & Social Care coursework prep!
- ★ Impressive critical thinking in Sociology and Criminology!

“ The beautiful thing about learning is that nobody can take it away from you.

— B.B. King

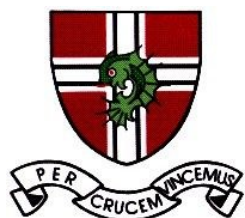
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THINK
CRITICALLY
QUESTION
ANALYSE
UNDERSTAND
EXPLORE



REFLECT
DISCUSS
EVALUATE
LEARN
GROW



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Year 7 Open Evening

ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



Christ at the centre and children at the heart

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



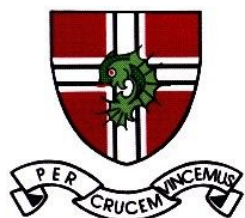
01924 527000
reception@stjohnfisher.org.uk

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

Faith • Service • Respect • Honesty • Courage • Forgiveness



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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