



St John Fisher

Catholic Voluntary Academy

Friday, 25th September 2026

Christ at the centre and children at the heart

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

As another successful week draws to a close, we are pleased to share some of the many opportunities and experiences that have taken place across St John Fisher.

This week we welcomed Bikeability into school, giving students the opportunity to develop their cycling skills and increase their awareness of safe and responsible travel. Alongside this, our programme of enrichment and after-school activities is now in full swing, with students making the most of the many opportunities available to them beyond the classroom.

One of the highlights of the week was undoubtedly our Year 7 Open Evening. It was a pleasure to welcome so many prospective students and their families to St John Fisher and to have the opportunity to share what makes our school such a special place. The evening was a great success, and I would like to thank the staff who gave up their time to prepare, organise and support the event.

I was particularly proud of our student helpers. They were outstanding ambassadors for the school. Their confidence, warmth and enthusiasm made a real impression on our visitors, and they played a significant part in creating such a welcoming atmosphere. Watching our students speak so positively about their school and support prospective families was a wonderful reflection of the community we have at St John Fisher.

As the term continues, we also want to maintain a strong focus on the basics that make such a difference to learning. Good attendance and punctuality are essential. Every lesson matters, and students need to be in school, in class and ready to learn so that they can make the most of the opportunities available to them. I would encourage all parents and carers to continue to support us in ensuring that students attend regularly and arrive at school and lessons on time.

There is plenty more to look forward to in the weeks ahead. Our enrichment opportunities are now well established, and this morning a group of students departed for the Walsingham Pilgrimage. We also look forward to the upcoming Batley Torchlight Procession. These are important parts of life at St John Fisher and provide our students with opportunities to experience something different, strengthen friendships, deepen their faith, and create lasting memories.

There is a great deal happening across the school, and it has been wonderful to see our students playing such an active part in the life of our community. I look forward to sharing more of these experiences with you as the term progresses.

Mr K Mackey
Headteacher



St John Fisher

Catholic Voluntary Academy

Christ at the centre and children at the heart

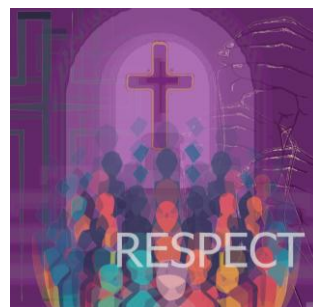
Our Virtues



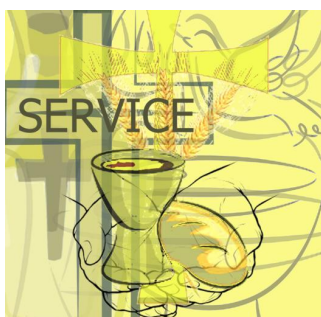
We overcome our fears and do things that are difficult.



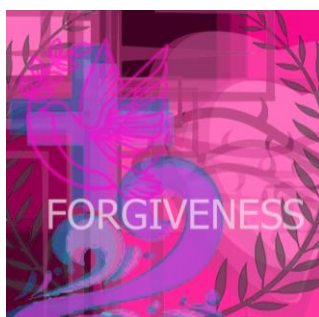
We are truthful to ourselves and others, and our words match our actions.



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 **SERVICE.**

We look for ways to help others.

What will you do to help someone in our school community?



St John Fisher

Catholic Voluntary Academy

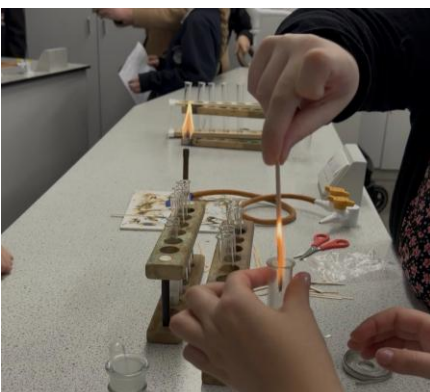
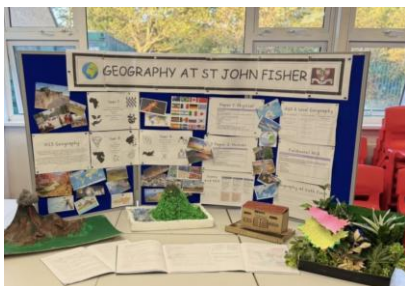
Christ at the centre and children at the heart

Year 7 Open Evening

We were delighted to welcome so many prospective Year 7 students and their families to St John Fisher for our Open Evening. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase our school, meet new families and give visitors a taste of the many opportunities available to our students.

A particular highlight was seeing our student ambassadors in action. They welcomed visitors with confidence and enthusiasm, answered questions and shared their experiences of life at St John Fisher. Their positivity and pride in the school helped to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere throughout the evening.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and to all our staff and students who helped make the evening such a memorable and successful occasion. We hope our photographs capture some of the energy and spirit of the evening.





St John Fisher

Catholic Voluntary Academy

Christ at the centre and children at the heart

Celebrating Our Achievers

Bikeability

This week, our students took part in Bikeability sessions, developing their cycling skills and learning more about staying safe and responsible when travelling by bike.

The sessions provided a practical opportunity for students to build their awareness, make informed decisions and put their skills into practice. It was great to see them engaging positively with the sessions and making the most of this valuable experience.



Netball Club

Our Netball Club is now in full swing, with sessions taking place every Tuesday after school. It's great to see students getting involved, developing their skills and enjoying the opportunity to play together.

The club is open to students of all abilities, so whether you're new to netball or already enjoy playing, everyone is welcome.

For more information, please speak to Mrs Buckley.



Bloxham Sustainability Challenge

A group of Sixth Form students recently attended the Bloxham Sustainability Challenge launch event in London. The day included inspiring talks from organisations such as Esri UK, OS Maps, and East West Rail, giving students valuable insights into how sustainability is shaping future developments and decision-making. Our students represented the Sixth Form exceptionally well, demonstrating enthusiasm, maturity and professionalism throughout the event. They are now beginning work on their project, and we look forward to following their progress in the challenge.





St John Fisher

Catholic Voluntary Academy

Christ at the centre and children at the heart

Celebrating Our Achievers

Congratulations to the students who have signed rugby scholarships with professional clubs. This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to their hard work, dedication, and talent. We are incredibly proud of their success and wish them every success as they take this exciting next step in their rugby journey.



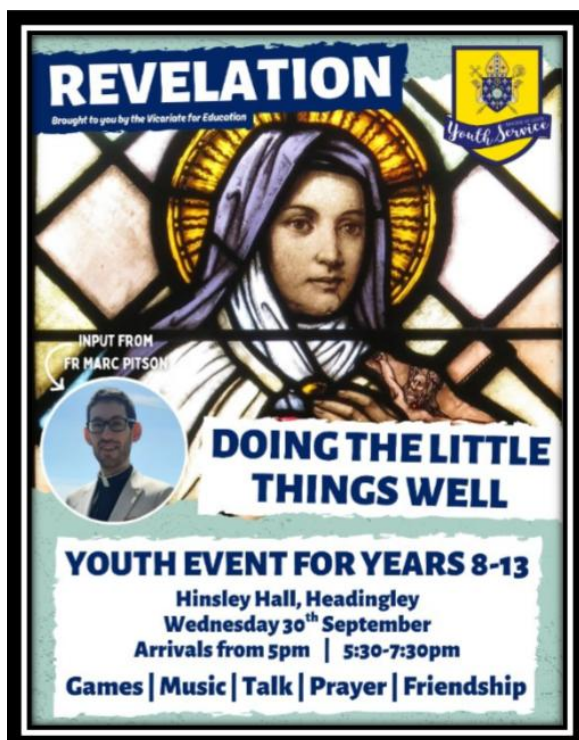
Revelation Youth Event

We are excited to share an opportunity for pupils in Years 8–13 to attend the upcoming Revelation Youth Event, taking place at Hinsley Hall, Headingley, on Wednesday 30th September.

The evening, themed “Doing the Little Things Well,” will include games, music, a talk, prayer and time to meet other young people. Pupils attending will leave school at 4:00pm, stopping at McDonald’s on the way, and are expected to return to school at approximately 8:15pm.

There are 15 places available. If you would like to attend, please see Mrs Fidler to add your name to the list. The sign-up deadline is Monday 28th September.

We hope this will be a fun and inspiring evening for everyone who takes part!





St John Fisher

Catholic Voluntary Academy

Christ at the centre and children at the heart

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:

- Thursday 15 October 2026 – Sixth Form Open Evening
- Thursday 26 November 2026 – Staff Training
- Tuesday 12 January 2027 – Staff Training
- Thursday 4 March 2027 – Staff Training
- Tuesday 20 April 2027 – Staff Training
- Thursday 24 June 2027 – 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, telephone 01924 527000 (Option 1), or email - 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 - 94 %
Top Form Class: **7E – 100%**



Congratulations to the 669 students who achieved 100% attendance this week!

Your commitment and dedication is truly commendable.



St John Fisher

Catholic Voluntary Academy

Christ at the centre and children at the heart

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 Sde 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

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

Faith



Service



Forgiveness



Honesty



Courage



Respect



St John Fisher

Catholic Voluntary Academy

Christ at the centre and children at the heart

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