# St John Fisher
## Catholic Voluntary Academy

Friday, 16th October 2026

*Christ at the centre and children at the heart*

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding week at St John Fisher, I continue to be proud of the enthusiasm, commitment and character our students demonstrate in all aspects of school life.

This week, we were delighted to welcome prospective students and their families to our Sixth Form Open Evening. It was a valuable opportunity to showcase the courses, opportunities and pathways available to our young people as they consider their next steps beyond Year 11. Thank you to all staff and students who helped make the evening a success and gave our visitors such a positive insight into life at St John Fisher Sixth Form.

We also came together for our Year 10 Mass, providing an important opportunity for reflection, prayer and community. Moments such as these remind us of the importance of our Catholic faith and the values of respect, service and compassion that underpin life at St John Fisher.

Next week marks the final week of term, and there is still plenty to look forward to. We will be welcoming parents, carers and students into school for our Year 11 Aspirations Evening. This is an important opportunity for families to work alongside staff to explore future pathways, discuss ambitions and consider the choices available as our Year 11 students prepare for the next stage of their education. Strong partnerships between home and school play a vital role in helping young people make informed decisions, build confidence and achieve positive outcomes. I would strongly encourage all Year 11 families to attend and take advantage of this opportunity to plan for the future together.

We are also looking forward to welcoming visitors from The University of Texas El Paso, who will deliver a performance for our Year 7 and Year 8 students. This promises to be an exciting opportunity for our younger pupils to experience something different, broaden their horizons and engage with a new cultural and educational experience.

As we approach the half-term break, I would like to thank our staff, students, parents and carers for their continued support and contribution to our school community. I remain incredibly proud of what our students achieve and of the positive relationships that help them flourish, both academically and personally.

I hope you enjoy reading this week's newsletter and celebrating the many achievements, experiences and opportunities that continue to make St John Fisher such a special place to learn and grow.

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 fear do we hold that we need to overcome?

Faith • Service • Forgiveness • Honesty • Courage • Respect

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# YEAR 11 ASPIRATIONS EVENING

**Thursday**
**22nd October 2026**

**5:30pm**

Supporting your child with post-16 choices, college applications and future pathways.

Haven't registered yet?

Scan the QR code to confirm your attendance.

**The link between home and school is vital for your child's success.**

When we work together, we build stronger support, improve confidence, boost motivation and help your child achieve their goals. Better communication leads to better outcomes.

## WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

- Helps your child make informed choices about their future.
- Builds confidence and motivation for what's next.
- Connects them with opportunities, advice and real-life pathways.
- Supports their next steps – from college and apprenticeships to employment.

## Complimentary Pie & Peas

Prize Draw

⭐ Tablet for a student ⭐

⭐ Shopping voucher for a parent ⭐

VOUCHER



Faith • Service • Forgiveness • Honesty • Courage • Respect

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# Celebrating Our Achievers

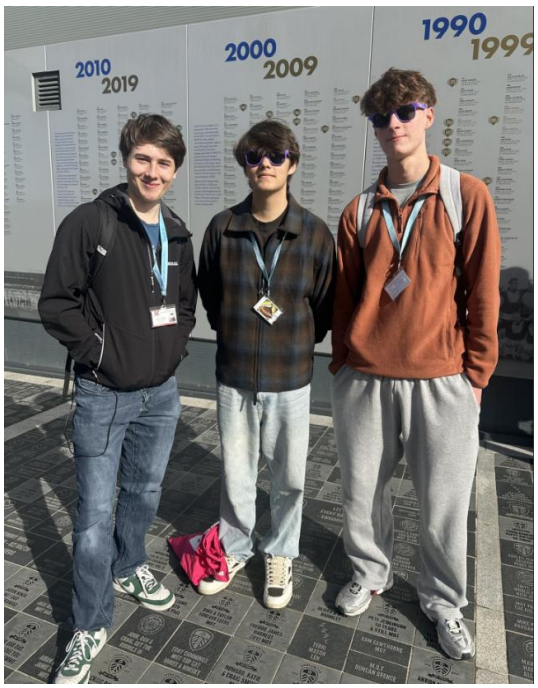
**Sixth Form Represents St John Fisher at Get Inspired Event**

We were delighted to represent St John Fisher Sixth Form at the Get Inspired event at Batley Town Hall, where we showcased our A Level courses and the opportunities available to students from the local community.

Our Sixth Form students were outstanding ambassadors for the school, engaging confidently with prospective students and their families, sharing their own experiences and highlighting the many opportunities available at St John Fisher. Their enthusiasm and professionalism helped to give visitors a valuable insight into life in our Sixth Form.

The event also provided an excellent opportunity for our students to develop their communication and networking skills, while demonstrating the confidence, maturity and pride they bring to representing our school.




**Sixth Form Students Explore Future Careers at Elland Road**

Our Year 12 and Year 13 students recently attended a careers fair at Leeds United's Elland Road, exploring a wide range of opportunities for life beyond Sixth Form.

Students spoke with representatives from a variety of universities about courses and progression routes, while also meeting leading employers, including KPMG, to learn more about career options and apprenticeship opportunities.

The visit also included informative seminars, helping students develop their understanding of the UCAS application process and the different pathways available to them.

It was a valuable experience, encouraging our students to think ambitiously about their futures and take confident steps towards their next stage of education or employment.

# St John Fisher Scholarship Team Secure Impressive Cup

Congratulations to the St John Fisher Scholarship Team, who secured an impressive 3–0 victory in their cup match against a very strong side who reached the national final last year.

The team delivered an outstanding performance, demonstrating excellent skill, determination and teamwork throughout the match. There were also some exceptional individual performances, highlighting the talent and commitment within the squad.

This is a fantastic result against such high-quality opposition, and we are incredibly proud of all the students involved. Well done, team!




# Year 8 Geography Residential Trip

The students who expressed an interest in attending the visit before the summer break have now been selected to take part in the Geography Crandale Trip from 11-13 June 2027. A payment plan will be set up on ParentPay in the coming weeks. Further information regarding trip arrangements, will be shared with families shortly.

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## Important Diary Dates

- 19th October - El Paso Texas University performance
- 22nd October - Year 11 Aspirations evening
- 23rd October – Final day of term
- 5th November – Year 13 Parents evening

| Term Dates | Staff Training Dates | Early Closures |
|---|---|---|
| Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2026 | Friday 27th November 2026 | Thursday 26th November 2026 |
| Monday 21st December 2026 – Friday 1st January 2027 | Monday 19th July 2027 | Tuesday 12th January 2027 |
| Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February 2027 | Tuesday 20th July 2027 | Thursday 4th March 2027 |
| Friday 26th March – Friday 9th April 2027 | Wednesday 21st July 2027 | Tuesday 20th April 2027 |
| Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June 2027 | | Thursday 24th June 2027 |
| Last day of term – Wednesday 21st July 2026 | | |

## 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 – 91.05 %
Top Form Class: 7E – 96%



**Congratulations to the 658 students who achieved 100% attendance this week!**
Your commitment and dedication is truly commendable.

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## 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 | TRADITIONAL ROAST DINNER | 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 or Slice of Wholemeal Pizza or Homemade Tomato and Basil Sauce with Wholemeal Pasta or Selection of Homemade Sandwiches | Fresh Baked Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling or Slice of Wholemeal Pizza or Homemade Tomato and Basil Sauce with Wholemeal Pasta or Selection of Homemade Sandwiches | Fresh Baked Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling or Slice of Wholemeal Pizza or Homemade Tomato and Basil Sauce with Wholemeal Pasta or Selection of Homemade Sandwiches | Fresh Baked Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling or Slice of Wholemeal Pizza or Homemade Tomato and Basil Sauce with Wholemeal Pasta or Selection of Homemade Sandwiches | Fresh Baked Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling or Slice of Wholemeal Pizza or Homemade Tomato and Basil Sauce with Wholemeal Pasta or Selection of Homemade Sandwiches |

## FREE Breakfast



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**16 OCTOBER 2026 • LEARNING IN ACTION ACROSS THE DEPARTMENT**

### CITIZENSHIP




**Year 10** Students explored the UDHR and its role in protecting dignity, freedom and fairness. They distinguished prejudice from discrimination, applying their knowledge to scenarios involving the Equality Act's protected characteristics and discussing how to challenge unfair treatment.

**Year 11** Students revisited the UN's origins after the Second World War and explored peacekeeping and humanitarian work in Lebanon and Liberia. They examined its main organs, including the Security Council, and evaluated the UK's permanent membership and the impact of veto power.

### HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE



**Year 10** Students completed their first NEA section on childhood growth and development using PIES: Physical, Intellectual, Emotional and Social. They are now exploring how culture influences development across life stages.

**Year 11** Students are planning obesity or sexual health campaigns, identifying target audiences, key messages, resources and delivery strategies.

**Year 12** Students explored data protection, health and safety, and manual handling legislation, linking laws and policies to safe practice.

**Year 13** Students began the musculoskeletal system, examining the skeleton, bone anatomy and joint structure to understand movement and health.

### LAW



**Year 12** Students explored court structures and hierarchy in the English Legal System, examining how precedent guides judicial decisions and how cases contribute to common law.

**Year 13** Students examined Articles 6 and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Discussions explored privacy rights, exceptions in individual cases and the controversy these can create.

### CRIMINOLOGY



**Year 12** Students compared Home Office police-recorded crime statistics with the Crime Survey for England and Wales. They evaluated validity, reliability and unreported crime, questioning how accurately official data represents crime.

**Year 13** Real-life cases helped students explore how legal teams, judges, media, evidence and expert witnesses influence verdicts and sentencing. They also examined jurors' and magistrates' responsibilities and the challenges of achieving fair justice.

### PSYCHOLOGY



**Year 12** Students explored Freud's id, ego and superego, levels of consciousness, and psychodynamic methods including case studies and clinical interviews. They evaluated falsifiability, applications and explanatory power, collaboratively planning a 16-mark essay and answering exam-style questions.

**Year 13** Students explored CBT and family therapy for schizophrenia: challenging unhelpful thoughts and beliefs, improving family communication and understanding, and reducing conflict. They evaluated research on effectiveness through collaborative activities.

### SOCIOLOGY



**Year 12** Students explored student subcultures, attitudes to education and social class identities. Links to Bourdieu's capital and symbolic violence helped explain how school interactions and expectations may reproduce inequality.

**Year 13** Students examined Marxist explanations of crime, linking capitalism, exploitation and inequality to profit pressures, material success and class conflict. They evaluated the perspective's strengths and limitations in explaining contemporary crime.

### POLITICS




**Year 12** Students examined how pressure groups and think tanks influence UK government through expertise, policy ideas, protest and direct action. Case studies prompted debate about ideological bias, effectiveness and whether unelected organisations strengthen democracy or undermine elected representatives. Students used contemporary examples to construct balanced, evidence-based arguments.

**Curious Minds • Critical Thinkers • Confident Learners • Future Leaders**

Pol-Ed®

# Keeping your family safe from fire

## Advice for Parents and Carers



### Fire safety starts at home

Most fires in the home can be prevented. Actions such as:

- Testing smoke alarms every week, keeping them clean and well maintained
- Storing and charging electrical items safely
- Talking to children about fire risks can make a significant difference.

Fire safety is not about causing worry; it is about helping families feel prepared and confident about what to do if an emergency occurs. Working smoke alarms are one of the most effective ways to protect your household, and every family should be aware of their escape routes and what to do if an alarm sounds.

### Safety actions to protect your home



Many household fires start through everyday activities. Cooking remains one of the most common causes of accidental fires, particularly when food is left unattended or when cookers and cooking surfaces are used for extra storage, as items left on or near hobs can accidentally catch fire.

Faulty electrical equipment, damaged charging cables and overloaded plug sockets can also present significant risks. Developing safe habits, such as switching appliances off when not in use, avoiding overloading extension leads and keeping flammable materials away from heat sources, can help reduce the likelihood of a fire starting in your home.

As children grow older, they often spend more time independently in their bedrooms and make greater use of technology. It is important for parents and carers to know where devices are being charged and to encourage safe charging habits.

Phones, tablets, laptops and gaming equipment should never be charged under pillows, on beds or beneath blankets where heat can build up. Hair straighteners should be fully switched off after use and allowed to cool safely. It is also worth having conversations about candles, incense burners and any other items that generate heat.



Children are naturally curious and may have questions about fire, fireworks or emergency services. Open and age-appropriate conversations can help them understand both the dangers and the importance of safe behaviour. Encourage children to tell an adult if they find matches, lighters or damaged electrical items. Explain that smoke can be just as dangerous as flames and that hiding during a fire can make it more difficult for firefighters to help them. Reassure children that knowing what to do in an emergency helps to keep everyone safe.



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### Creating a family escape plan

Every family should have a simple escape plan. Take time to identify the quickest way out of each room and, where possible, a second route in case the first is blocked. Make sure everyone in the household knows these routes and understands what to do if they hear the smoke alarm. Keep exits clear so that everyone can leave quickly in an emergency and ensure keys are stored in a safe but accessible place.



All family members should know where they are kept. Choose a family meeting point outside the home as this helps ensure everyone can be accounted for safely and reduces the risk of anyone re-entering the building. If there is a fire, get out, stay out and call 999. Teach younger children never to hide during a fire and never to go back inside for toys, pets or belongings.

Your family escape plan should also cover what to do if you cannot leave the property safely. If your escape route is blocked, move to a room with a window if possible and close the door behind you. Use towels, bedding or clothing to block gaps around the door to help prevent smoke entering the room. Open the window, call for help and dial 999 if you can. If you are on an upper floor, do not jump from a window; stay where you are and wait for rescue. If you live in a flat, make sure everyone in the household is familiar with the building's fire safety arrangements, evacuation procedures and escape routes, including the importance of not using lifts during a fire.

### Fireworks, Deliberate Fires and Hoax Calls



Some children might not fully understand the consequences of irresponsible behaviour involving fire. Deliberately setting fires, misusing fireworks or making hoax calls to emergency services can place lives at risk and divert valuable resources away from genuine emergencies. Parents and carers play an important role in helping young people understand how these actions can affect individuals, families and communities. Taking opportunities to discuss news stories, local incidents or community events can help reinforce these messages.

### Knowing your rights and the support available

Local authorities, housing teams, Citizens Advice, community organisations and charities may be able to assist with a range of issues, including housing conditions, household safety and family wellbeing. Many local Fire and Rescue Services also offer free Home Fire Safety Checks, providing practical advice tailored to individual households and circumstances.

If you rent your home, your landlord has legal responsibilities to help keep you safe. In England, landlords must provide smoke alarms on every storey of a property, ensure gas appliances are checked annually where provided, maintain safe electrical installations and provide appropriate carbon monoxide alarms where required. They should also ensure that escape routes can be used safely at all times.

If you have concerns about fire safety, speak to your landlord or letting agent first. If problems are not resolved, your local council's housing team, Shelter or Citizens Advice may be able to offer support and guidance.

### Useful Sources of Support

Further advice and support can be obtained from:

- Your Local Fire and Rescue Service
- Citizens Advice
- Shelter
- GOV.UK

These organisations provide information on home fire safety, housing rights, landlord responsibilities and support for families who may be experiencing difficulties.

### Want to find out more?

www.Pol-Ed.co.uk
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