St John Fisher
Catholic Voluntary Academy

Friday, 23rd 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 half-term at St John Fisher, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the experiences that have enriched school life this week and to thank our whole school community for its continued support.

This week, we were delighted to welcome students from The University of Texas at El Paso, who delivered a musical performance for our Year 7 and Year 8 students. It was a fantastic opportunity for our younger pupils to experience something different, enjoy live music and engage with a new cultural and educational experience. We are grateful to our visitors for sharing their talents with us and providing such a memorable experience for our students.

We also came together for our Trust Mass, an important opportunity to reflect on our Catholic faith and the values that unite us as a school community. Moments of shared prayer and worship remind us of the importance of faith, compassion, service and supporting one another in all that we do.

As we break up for the half-term holiday, I would like to thank our staff, students, parents and carers for their hard work, commitment and contribution throughout the first term of the academic year. I hope everyone enjoys a restful and well-deserved break, taking the opportunity to spend time with family and friends and return refreshed for the weeks ahead. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 2 November, ready for another half-term of learning, achievement and opportunity.

Looking ahead, we will be holding our Year 13 Parents' Evening after the break. This will be an important opportunity for parents and carers to meet with staff, discuss progress and consider the next steps as our students continue to work towards their academic goals and future pathways. We encourage all Year 13 families to engage with this opportunity and work in partnership with us to support students in achieving their full potential.

As always, I remain incredibly proud of our students and the enthusiasm, determination and character they demonstrate in school each day. I hope you enjoy reading this week's newsletter and celebrating the many achievements and experiences that make St John Fisher such a special place to learn and grow.

I wish all our families a safe, happy and restful half-term break.

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 after Half Term



After half term the virtue in the spotlight will be **HONESTY.**

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

We do what we say we will do.

Faith • Service • Forgiveness • Honesty • Courage • Respect

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Blessed Chiara Badano Catholic Education Trust Feast Day

We were delighted to come together with schools from across the Diocese to celebrate the Blessed Chiara Badano Catholic Education Trust Feast Day, marking an important milestone as the Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust (BKCAT) and the Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Academy Trust (BPS) unite to form our new Trust.

This special celebration brought together representatives from all 44 schools, including staff, pupils, clergy and members of the Central Team, in a wonderful expression of faith, unity and community. St John Fisher was proudly represented by our student leaders, Lourdes students and altar servers, who demonstrated great respect and reverence throughout the occasion.

To enable all pupils to share in this significant moment, a Trust-wide liturgy video was shown across the family of schools, reaching approximately 14,500 pupils from Reception to Year 13. The video included an introduction and Gospel reading from Bishop Marcus, together with a liturgy, providing a powerful opportunity for collective worship and reflection.

Our new Trust takes inspiration from Blessed Chiara Badano, whose faith, courage, joy and compassion continue to inspire us. Her example reminds us of the importance of placing Christ at the heart of all we do and living out our faith through kindness, hope and service to others.

As we begin this exciting new chapter, we look forward to strengthening our partnerships, learning from one another and continuing to provide every young person with opportunities to flourish in faith, knowledge and understanding.

One family of schools, united in faith and inspired by Blessed Chiara Badano.



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Introducing Arbor: Our New School App

We are preparing to move to **Arbor, our new Management Information System**, to make accessing important student information and communicating with school easier and more convenient for parents and carers.

The first stage of the transition will begin in the week commencing **Monday 2 November**, following the half-term break. During this period, attendance information will temporarily be unavailable through ClassCharts while we complete the migration and necessary testing. However, behaviour information will remain available as normal, and parents and carers should continue to report student absences through ClassCharts, following our usual attendance procedures.

Once the migration and testing are complete, our aim is to bring attendance information, behaviour updates and communication with school together in the Arbor App. This will provide families with one convenient platform to access key information and keep in touch with us.

We will share further details, guidance and the launch date for the Arbor App as soon as these are confirmed.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we make this important change. We look forward to the benefits Arbor will bring to our school community, helping us to communicate more efficiently and keep families informed.

School Uniform Reminder

We are aware that a small number of students have experienced issues with trousers splitting at the seams. We have discussed this matter with Smart Uniform, and they have agreed to replace any trousers affected by this issue free of charge.

If you experience this issue, please return the item to Smart Uniforms in Dewsbury or Batley for an exchange.

The team at Smart Uniform are happy to assist with any sizing concerns and we would encourage parents to speak to them in the first instance.

Alternatively, the school has a range of trouser sizes available for students to try on before visiting the store. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any further assistance.

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Celebrating Our Achievers

A Musical Visit from Texas!

We were delighted to welcome university students from El Paso, Texas, to our school for a special musical visit with our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils.



The visitors shared their musical talents through a fantastic live performance, giving our pupils the opportunity to experience music from another part of the world and learn more about different cultures and traditions.



It was a wonderful opportunity to bring music, learning and cultural exchange together, creating an engaging and memorable experience for our pupils.

A huge thank you to our visitors for sharing their time and talents with us. We hope you enjoyed your visit to the UK as much as we enjoyed welcoming you to our school!



Congratulations, Miss Farrington!

A huge congratulations to Miss Farrington on completing the Yorkshire Marathon. Taking on the challenge of a marathon requires months of dedication, determination and perseverance, and we are incredibly proud of her achievement.

Miss Farrington's commitment and resilience are an inspiration to our students and school community.

Well done on this fantastic accomplishment!

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Celebrating Our Achievers

Celebrating Our Pupils' Achievements!

A huge well done to one of our pupils who recently took part in an ice skating competition in Blackburn!

It's wonderful to see our pupils pursuing their passions and showing such dedication, commitment and determination as they develop their skills.

We are delighted to celebrate this achievement and wish you every success with your skating journey.

Well done on a fantastic achievement!



Celebrating Community Spirit

A huge congratulations to one of our pupils who has been awarded the **Louise Rush Award – Junior Volunteer of the Year** by Batley ARLFC.

Playing for the club's Under-15s, this pupil has become the first-ever recipient of this special award, recognising the dedication and commitment shown in supporting both the club and the wider community.

From helping at club events and supporting local activities to lending a hand with jobs around the field, your willingness to get involved and help others has truly made a difference.

It is wonderful to see such a positive example of teamwork, kindness and community spirit being recognised. These are qualities we are incredibly proud to celebrate in our school community.

Well done on this fantastic and well-deserved achievement!



Thank You to Mrs Fiddler and the SVP Group

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to **Mrs Fiddler** and our **SVP Group** for taking the time to show their appreciation for staff across the school at the end of term.

The group kindly provided a wonderful selection of homemade cakes, along with tea and coffee, as a thank you for the hard work, dedication and commitment shown by staff throughout the term. It was a thoughtful gesture that was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all.

Their kindness and generosity helped create a lovely opportunity for colleagues to come together, take a well-deserved break and celebrate another successful term.

Thank you, Mrs Fiddler and the SVP Group, for your support, thoughtfulness and for helping to make the end of term so special.



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Important Diary Dates

- 5th November – Year 13 Parents evening
- 10th November – Revelation

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 – 88.95 %
Top Form Class: 7E – 95.60%



Congratulations to the 633 students who achieved 100% attendance this week!
Your commitment and dedication is truly commendable.

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What's on the menu after half term?

Week 3	Monday	Tuesday	Roast Wednesday	Thursday	Chippy Friday
Choice 1	Loaded Beef Bolognaise with Garlic Bread and Side Salad	Chicken Tikka Curry with Rice and Naan	TRADITIONAL ROAST DINNER	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 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



WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

Dewsbury Neighbourhood Team
Dewsbiury Police Station
Halifax Road
Dewsbury
WF13 2BS

Kirklees District

Website: www.westyorkshire.police.uk

16 October 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian

RE: Firework Safety and Legal Responsibilities

I hope this letter finds you in good health.

As we approach the Bonfire season, I want to take a moment to discuss an important matter that concerns the safety and well-being of your children. Fireworks, although thrilling, can pose serious risks when handled irresponsibly or without proper supervision. It is crucial for you, as parents and guardians, to ensure your children's safety and prevent them from misusing fireworks.

The use of fireworks is regulated by various laws and regulations to minimise the risks associated with them. The primary legislation governing fireworks is the Fireworks Regulations Act 2004, which restricts the sale, possession, and use of fireworks, especially among individuals under the age of 18. It is essential that you familiarise yourselves with these laws and regulations to uphold your responsibilities as parents and guardians.

Here are some key points to consider:

1. Age Restrictions: Under UK law, it is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to possess category 2 and 3 fireworks in public places. Retailers are also prohibited from selling category 2 and 3 fireworks to individuals under this age limit.

2. Responsible Supervision: If your child is under 18 and wishes to enjoy fireworks, please ensure that they are always under the supervision of a responsible adult. Fireworks should never be left in the hands of children or teenagers.

3. Noise and Nuisance: Fireworks should not be used in a manner that causes distress to others or constitutes a nuisance. Misuse can lead to noise complaints and potential legal consequences.

4. Legal Consequences: The police take firework-related offences seriously. Robust action will be taken against anyone found committing offences such as underage possession, antisocial behaviour, or misuse of fireworks.

This Bonfire season let's work together to ensure children enjoy fireworks safely and responsibly. By doing so, we can help prevent accidents, protect our communities from unnecessary disturbances, and avoid any legal repercussions.

If you have any questions or concerns about firework safety or UK legislation, please visit the West Yorkshire Police website - www.westyorkshire.police.uk

Wishing you and your family a safe and enjoyable Bonfire season.

Sincerely

Liz Lockwood

Inspector Elizabeth Lockwood
Dewsbury Neighbourhood Teams
Kirklees District