



St John Fisher

Catholic Voluntary Academy

Friday, 2nd October 2026

Christ at the centre and children at the heart

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

As another busy and successful week draws to a close, it has been wonderful to see so many opportunities for our students to learn, grow and come together as a community across St John Fisher.

This week, we were pleased to welcome our Year 7 students to their first Mass. It was a lovely opportunity for our newest members of the St John Fisher community to come together in prayer and reflection, and to begin to experience another important aspect of life at our school. We are very proud of the way our Year 7 students have settled into school and are continuing to grow in confidence as they find their feet in their new surroundings.

Next week, we look forward to one of the special events in our local community calendar, the Batley Torchlight Procession. This is always a memorable occasion and provides our students with the opportunity to be involved in an important tradition within our community. We look forward to seeing many of our students and families taking part and enjoying the event together.

We are also looking forward to welcoming our Year 7 parents and carers to our upcoming Tutor Evening. This will be an important opportunity to strengthen the partnership between home and school, meet tutors and hear more about how our students are settling into secondary school. Strong communication between school and families is an important part of ensuring that every student feels supported and able to make the most of their opportunities.

Looking further ahead, October promises to be another exciting month at St John Fisher. We will be hosting our Sixth Form Open Evening, providing students and families with the opportunity to find out more about the pathways and opportunities available beyond Year 11.

We will also be holding our Year 11 Aspirations Evening, helping our students to begin thinking carefully about their future choices, ambitions and the steps they can take to achieve them.

There is a great deal happening across the school, and it is always encouraging to see our students making the most of the opportunities available to them. As we move through the term, we will continue to focus on high expectations, strong relationships and ensuring that every student is supported to achieve their very best.

I look forward to sharing more of the many successes and experiences taking place across St John Fisher in the weeks ahead.

Mr K Mackey
Headteacher



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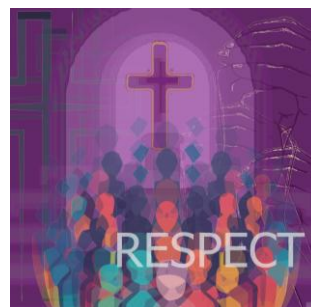
Our Virtues



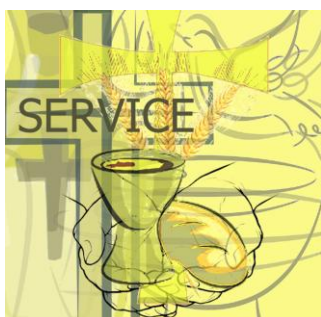
We overcome our fears and do things that are difficult.



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.

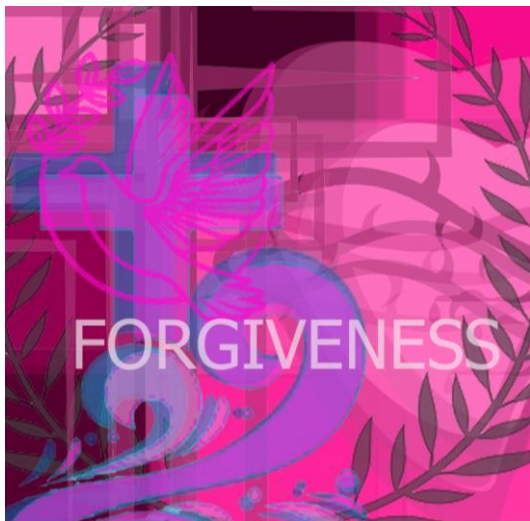


We give people another chance after they have done something wrong.



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 **FORGIVENESS.**

We give people another chance after they have done something wrong.

What can you forgive yourself for, so you can progress?



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Year 11 Aspirations Evening

We are delighted to invite all parents and carers to our upcoming **Year 11 Aspirations Evening on 22nd October**.

Our Aspirations Evening is an important opportunity for parents, carers and school staff to come together to support our young people and their future goals. Parental engagement makes a real difference, and when families and school work together, pupils are better supported to achieve their full potential.

Clear Links to Success

There is a clear link between regular attendance, parental engagement and pupil success. Pupils who attend school regularly are more likely to make strong progress, build positive relationships and take advantage of the opportunities available to them.

We also know that when parents and carers engage positively with their child's education, it can have a significant impact on their learning, confidence and aspirations.

Every Parent and Carer Matters

You do not need to have a child who is already achieving highly to benefit from attending. **Every parent and carer can benefit from being part of the evening.**

Whether your child is already thriving, needs a little extra encouragement, or is still discovering what they want for their future, your involvement matters.

The evening is an opportunity to:

- Find out more about how we can support your child's aspirations
- Understand how attendance and engagement can contribute to success
- Discover opportunities and pathways available to our young people
- Talk to staff and ask questions
- Work together to help your child develop confidence and ambition

Let's Raise Aspirations Together

Every young person deserves the opportunity to believe in their future and understand what they can achieve. By attending our **Aspirations Evening on 22nd October**, you are taking an important step in supporting your child's journey.

We look forward to welcoming you and working together to help every young person succeed.



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Celebrating Our Achievers

A Special Weekend in Walsingham

We were delighted to see a group of our students take part in the Leeds Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham this weekend, accompanied by Mr Wilkinson and Miss Brown. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to come together in faith, meet students from other schools and experience the pilgrimage community.

Our students played an active part throughout the weekend, taking turns to carry the statue and leading the Rosary. They also enjoyed time with students from other schools, taking part in ice-breaker activities, shared prayer and reflection. The weekend also included a trip to the seaside, with some well-earned fish and chips!

A huge thank you to Mr Wilkinson and Miss Brown for giving up their weekend to accompany our students, and to all of the students who represented St John Fisher so positively. It was wonderful to see them embracing the experience, building friendships and creating memories that they will take with them for years to come.



Celebrating Sporting Success

A huge congratulations to two of our Year 11 pupils who have been selected for the Huddersfield Giants U16s Pathway2Performance squad!

This is a fantastic achievement and a wonderful recognition of their talent, dedication and hard work. We are incredibly proud of them and wish them every success as they continue their rugby journey with the Giants.

Well done — what an achievement!



Faith



Service



Forgiveness



Honesty



Courage



Respect



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REMEMBERING

Annette Crowther



In loving memory of Annette, who was a valued member of our St John Fisher community.

We were saddened to hear of the recent death of Annette Crowther, who served as a lay chaplain at St John Fisher.

Annette was a much-loved and valued member of our school community, and many of our parents and families will remember her time at St John Fisher with great fondness. She made a positive difference to the lives of many within our community, and we remember with gratitude the contribution she made to the life of our school.

We ask our St John Fisher community to keep Annette, her family and all those who knew and loved her in their prayers at this sad time.



*Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in peace.
Amen.*



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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 Year 7 Open Evening.

The dates for the academic year are:

- 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 – 93.31 %
Top Form Class: 7E – 97.20%



Congratulations to the 695 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 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

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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Sixth Form Open Evening

ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



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We warmly invite prospective **Sixth Form** students and their parents to our

ANNUAL OPEN EVENING



Thursday
15th October 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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2 OCTOBER 2026 • LEARNING IN ACTION ACROSS THE DEPARTMENT



CITIZENSHIP

Year 10 Students explored forced migration, refugees and asylum seekers, developing their understanding of why people may be forced to leave their homes and the rights they have. They were introduced to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Equality Act 2010, considering how these protect equality and help prevent discrimination.

Year 11 Citizenship Students explored the relationship between media, politics and public opinion, using reporting of Tiananmen Square and the Falklands War to examine censorship and press freedom. They also investigated Sarah's Law to understand the influence of petitions and campaigns, before considering how party political broadcasts and spin doctors are used to communicate political messages and shape public opinion.



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Year 10 Coursework explored physical and intellectual development in childhood, including milestones and factors affecting healthy development.

Year 11 Students investigated obesity and sexual health campaigns, considering how health promotion improves outcomes.

Year 12 Students explored protection and professional practice through the Health and Care Act 2022 and Children Act 2004.

Year 13 Students studied the respiratory system and oxygen supply, building knowledge of physiology and health conditions.



LAW

Year 12 Students explored Literal, Golden, Mischief and Purposive statutory interpretation, debating surprising judgments, legal principle and public policy. Revision games are helping them recall case details.

Year 13 Students examined the European Convention on Human Rights and Human Rights Act 1998. Article 5 scenarios explored when the right to liberty and security is upheld or infringed.



CRIMINOLOGY

Year 12 Students explored how media representations shape perceptions of offenders, victims and crime, and influence attitudes towards the criminal justice system.

Year 13 Students studied the CPS and Full Code Test, then traced cases through pre-trial procedures, trial, sentencing and appeals to understand how justice agencies work together.



PSYCHOLOGY

Year 12 The Biological Approach covered genetics, neurochemistry and the nervous system, alongside collaborative 16-mark essay planning. Students then explored schemas and information processing in the Cognitive Approach, presenting learning through dual coding.

Year 13 Students investigated family dysfunction and cognitive explanations of schizophrenia, plus biological treatments. Group planning and writing of a 16-mark essay developed understanding and exam skills.



SOCIOLOGY

Year 12 Students examined how teacher labelling, expectations, setting and streaming affect working-class attainment. The self-fulfilling prophecy helped explain how labels influence identity, behaviour and achievement.

Year 13 Labelling Theory introduced crime and deviance as social constructs. Students explored primary and secondary deviance and how deviant labels may shape identity and future behaviour.



POLITICS

Year 12 Students debated whether the UK has a democratic deficit, examining representation, elections, participation, accountability, sovereignty and Parliament. They explored expanding voting rights and universal suffrage. Learning about Extinction Rebellion and Farmers' protests prompted debate about peaceful protest, civil disobedience, disruption and political violence, weighing effectiveness against methods while developing balanced judgements.





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TRAINING CAVE

After School Youth Programme

Training Cave is a not-for-profit boxing gym, based in Kirklees, who deliver free boxing and education programmes to children and young people in our community.

We are currently running a new After School Youth Programme, enabling us to continue supporting children and young people in our community by providing a safe environment after school, keeping them off the streets and away from negative influences.

This programme is **free** to attend and suitable for children and young people, (6- 18), who are interested in boxing but struggle in large group settings, are vulnerable to negative influences or face financial barriers to sports.

Tuesdays 5pm - 5:45pm
Fridays 5pm - 5:45pm

Participants will attend a six week block of small group training to build confidence, before graduating to our timetabled classes on a referral basis. If participants do not feel ready to move on, they can continue attending our small group After School Youth Programme until they do.

If you are the parent or guardian of a child or young person who could benefit from this programme, (aged 6-18), please email **info@trainingcave.co.uk** to request a registration form.



Forte
Charitable Foundation

Training Cave,
Unit 10 Carr Mills Business Centre,
Bradford Road,
Birstall,
WF17 9JX
www.trainingcave.co.uk



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