



Dear Reader,

It is a busy time of year. As I write, Year 11 and 13 students are beginning the final preparations for their external examinations, and we are beginning to welcome Year 6 students who have chosen to attend SJF next year for another series of informal visits and tours.

Within the pages of this term's newsletter you can read about some of the exciting things that have happened in our vibrant community. There have been a plethora of sporting activities, an exciting opportunity to bury a time capsule on our City Way site and meetings of the School Council and Oxbridge Group. Additionally, I am so proud that St. John Fisher students were chosen to lead the Medway Light Nights parade, and you can read all about the students' experiences inside. There is also important information about checking the contact details we hold for you and your child.

Compiling the newsletter often involves consideration of the calendar. The September issue always includes a welcome to our new pupils; at Christmas we love to share the stories of our worship and celebration with you. Although not usually a space for such news, I feel it is incumbent upon me to acknowledge here the events currently happening in Ukraine. As a community, I know that you will join me in thoughts and prayers for all those whose lives have been adversely affected by this conflict. As a school, we are considering how best we may show our support, and I look forward to reporting on this in a future newsletter.

God Bless,

Mrs. Lennon



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St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School, Ordnance Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 6SG
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Year 11 GCSE PE Climbing

On Sunday 20th February, seven Year 11 GCSE PE students arrived at Lower Grange Farm in Maidstone to participate in their first session of rock climbing. The sport will be used for one of their practical sports in their final GCSE PE exam.

It is safe to say that the day started with a lot of nerves and apprehension; the students walked into the climbing barn and were greeted with an incredibly high wall. As the day progressed, so too did their skills, techniques, and understanding. As a result, the confidence of each student grew. Each one showed phenomenal determination, resilience, and perseverance throughout the day. There was a genuine willingness to overcome all challenges, despite students initially being adamant that they would not make the top of the wall.

I am pleased to inform you that by the end of the session, every student had made it to the top of the wall! I am incredibly proud of each student's fortitude in reaching the top of the wall. As we continue our climbing sessions for the following two Sundays, I look forward to the students relishing in learning more skills and taking on the challenge of climbing more demanding routes.

Special praise goes to Sonny, who emerged as the climber of the day, taking on the most challenging wall and route, and performing with confidence and a high level of skill.

On behalf of myself and the rest of the PE department, I wish them the best of luck.

Miss S. Cheedy



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Light Parade



On Friday 11th February, a selection of Year 7 students from our successful art club took part in the Medway Night Lights parade in Rochester. The week prior to the event, students had been visited by two external artists who assisted the students in creating some absolutely stunning lanterns to be carried on the evening. Beginning at Almon Place Car Park, SJF students were given the privilege of leading the parade, passing thousands of spectators lining the streets, amongst a wall of uplifting sound and a kaleidoscope of colour. The atmosphere was incredible, with the hundreds of lanterns of the many Medway schools involved, lighting up the route as it meandered to its finale at Rochester Castle. Our students completely immersed themselves in the event and their enthusiasm and conduct were an absolute credit to St John Fisher. This was a truly spectacular event to be involved in and we hope that we are able to participate again next year. Thank you to Ms Dwek, and Medway Light Night artists Xtina Lamb from Intra Arts and Chris Reed from Big Fish Arts!

Mr L. Cogger



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GROWING-UP IN MEDWAY

WHAT'S AVAILABLE TO YOU:

FIVE YOUTH CENTRES:
 • Lordswood • Parkwood • Strood
 • Woodlands (Cillingham)
 • WREC (Pentagon Shopping Centre)
 PLUS clubs in community centres

CAREERS WORKSHOPS

MUSIC SESSIONS

SPORTS SESSIONS

GAMES NIGHTS

CREATIVE ARTS SESSIONS

ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES
(including climbing)

GET A QUALIFICATION
(Including The Duke of Edinburgh Award)

1-2-1 SUPPORT with our friendly team

Aged 8-19*?
GET INVOLVED!
medway.gov.uk/youth

*Also available for young people up to 25 years old with additional needs

@Medway_Youth
 @MedwayYouthServices
 @Medway.Youth
 Medway Youth Matters

CHILD FRIENDLY MEDWAY
 YOUTH TOGETHER HERE
 Medway Service You

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Time Capsule

On Friday 11th February 2022, SJF students buried a time capsule in the location of the chapel grounds of the new building on City Way.

Mr McCaughan, Mrs Bailey, Miss Deans and four A level students (Telvin, Maciej, Owen and Ventsi) were proud to be chosen to attend a presentation about the history of the planning and creation of the new build before burying the time capsule. They were then treated to a tour of the new site.



What did we put in our time capsule?

- Front page of the *Medway Messenger* 10.02.2022
- Front page of the *Daily Mail* 07.02.2022
- St John Fisher School prospectus
- St John Fisher sixth form prospectus
- Newsletter from September 2021
- A letter to students of the future from Year 12 A level History students.
- Map: 1932 showing houses where the Ordnance Street school was later built.
- Photographs: Then and now (the same view of the Ordnance Street site in 1963 and 2022), Ordnance Street views, morning line up years 8,9,10 at Ordnance Street, morning line up Year 7 at Maidstone Road
- Face mask with a message about why we wore them
- School tie for Key Stage 3
- School bear
- SJF key ring, chapel badge, chapel prefect badge, cross, SJF 50th anniversary badge, button badge and Duke of Edinburgh badge.
- Two prayer cards
- Messages from former staff, current staff, student ambassadors
- A 'chunk' of the old building, with the message, "This is why we need a new building!"

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed ideas and content for our time capsule. Students and staff from the future will hopefully learn a lot from the contents and enjoy reading all about us and our excitement at getting a lovely new building.

Miss S. Deans



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Radio play

Earlier this term, Year 11 Drama students were given the marvellous opportunities to see a local drama group, Walderslade United Players, rehearse and record two radio plays at our Maidstone Road site. The first performance – “A Miscarriage of Justice” sees a family turn on each other after a terrible crime is committed and the local Detective Inspector has to solve the case. The second performance – “Passion Play” sees the trial of Drusus, the Roman soldier guarding Jesus’ tomb, for desertion, after Jesus has risen. Mr Malling, SJF’s Chair of Governors, is a member of the group.

The students were able to experience high quality acting, while learning about the technical details and logistics of recording a radio play. We would like to thank Mr Mailing and the United Players for a wonderful opportunity and two most enjoyable performances!

Mr L. Cogger



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Pewter Jewellery

In Design and Technology, Year 8 have been creating original pewter jewelry pieces. They have researched and investigated, designed and planned out how it will be made and created their piece. Students have learnt how to create a mould with the use of hand tools, melt pewter using a brazing heath, and polish their work using a polishing machine after many hours spent sanding down their pewter piece.

Have a look at their fantastic work. Well done Year 8!

Mrs M. Owen



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Sports Update

Netball

The Year 7 netball teams competed in a tournament at Thomas Aveling school, playing against Thomas Aveling, Brompton, and Fort Pitt.



The players were an absolute credit to the school. They were fantastic in their attitude, effort, and resilience. The way they supported each other was incredible. They continue to make phenomenal progress in both their skills and game play.

We had four players making their netball debuts and although they were very nervous on the way to the tournament, they played amazingly well. Congratulations to Isabel, Mumina, David and Raphael.

Our Yellow team won one game and lost two games, but by fine margins; the Blue team lost their games, but their improvement and team cohesion were incredible.

Players of the match

Yellow team - Game 1 - Tombra - Game 2 - Mia - Game 3 - Gabby

Blue Team - Game 1 - Sochi - Game 2 - Erin - Game 3 - Raphael

We would also like to thank Ms Deans, Head of Humanities, who has been working with the netball teams to improve their play.

Mr S. Gough

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Badminton

Following the success of our badminton club on Thursday evenings, a team of St John Fisher Year 8 and 9 girls travelled to The Hundred of Hoo to play a development fixture.

This involved the students rotating around the courts playing against other doubles pairings in 5 minute matches, with an emphasis on gameplay, tactics and laws of the sport as much as on the score.

Our girls played fantastically well and enjoyed the fixture immensely, showing tremendous camaraderie and sportswomanship. The team struck up a brilliant rapport with the Hundred of Hoo players and this will be a fixture we will repeat. We also have plans to extend these opportunities to other year groups.

Handball

Following the popularity of the Medway Schools Handball tournament, our Year 7 girls and boys handball teams ventured down the A2 to play Leigh Academy Rainham. Both teams performed incredibly well, playing ten minute matches as they rotated between girls' and boys' games.

Across the fixture, LAR narrowly came out on top, but the determination, team spirit and resilience shown was true to the St John Fisher ethos. This is especially impressive considering that handball is an extremely demanding sport and still new to our students!

Mr L. Cogger

Football

The Year 7 and 8 football teams continue to play fixtures against schools in Medway Schools league. They will play each school once in the league, with the winners decided at the end of the term.

Year 9 and 10 football teams have completed their league fixtures and now enter games in the cup. Year 9s are at the quarter-final stage and are due to play the Howard School. Year 10 have to play their first round game against Rainham Mark Grammar school. The dates for both games are yet to be confirmed. As well as cup games, we have organized other games to keep the teams active.

Additionally, the Charlton Athletic Football Club continues to go from strength to strength, and now operates across both school sites.

Mr S. Gough

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Basketball

During Term 2 and 3, the Year 7/8 and 9/10 basketball teams played in a number of Basketball fixtures.

Year 7 and 8

The team played fixtures against the Howard School, Leigh Academy Rainham and the Greenacre School. We enjoyed a win against the Greenacre School 26-18, but unfortunately lost to the Leigh Academy Rainham 30-26 and the Howard School 36-26. The boys eventually finished the league in 4th position.

Year 9 and 10

The team played fixtures against the Howard School and the Greenacre School. Unfortunately we lost both games despite huge effort from all of our students

The PE department would like to say well done to all students who played!

Mr S. Gough and Mr L. Cogger

Medway Secondary Schools Compete in local Sports hall Athletics competition

On Thursday 16th January 2022, two teams of selected students from SJF took part in the Medway Schools Sports Hall Athletics Competition at the Howard School.

This was a large event with 12 schools from across Medway, with entrants competing across 2 year groups.

Boys and girls from St John Fisher participated from Year 7. The boys team finished 6th and the girls team finished 8th.

We would like to thank the students for representing their school with pride and performing with great passion.

Mr S. Gough

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**Chatham
Maritime
Trust**

**Jubilee
Celebration
School
Competition**

For all the details go to www.cmtrust.co.uk/news/

As part of the **Jubilee celebrations in 2022**, Chatham Maritime Trust is holding **3 separate competitions** for schools in Medway. The 3 competitions aim to attract creative thought about our **sustainable future**. We are excited to see how students interpret the themes to create an authentic piece of work.

Chatham Maritime Trust
Maritime Wharf, St. Mary's Island, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 3ES.
01634 891888 • info@cmtrust.co.uk • www.cmtrust.co.uk

Level 3
£500 for the winning student
£350 second prize
£150 third prize
18+ Students
Literature competition
'How can CMT reduce its carbon footprint across all activities and assets, practical solutions'

Level 2
£100 prize for the winning entry PLUS £100 for the School
11-18 Year olds
Literature competition on the theme of 'CMT Making a difference'

Level 1
0-11 Year olds
Art based competition on the theme of 'Green CMT', the artwork must illustrate the theme

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School Council Update

We're so pleased to be holding our termly whole school council meetings again!

As always, students have been keen to participate and contribute their ideas on a range of topics. One of the big ideas students have come up with is to have a cultural event in school to celebrate and learn more about the diversity in our school and local community. Some members of the school council are working towards forming a cultural committee with the aim of turning their idea into a reality. These students will be directly involved in the planning and organising of the event and responsible for updating on progress. We would be love to hear from any members of our 'Friends of St John Fisher' group who may be able to contribute any ideas or provide any assistance with this event.

We have made some changes to the dates and times of the whole school council meetings for the remainder of the academic year, to make it easier for our students to attend. From now on, whole school council meetings will take place on a Thursday afternoon during session 5 in the upper school library on Ordnance Street. Arrangements have been made for School Council members in Years 7, 12 and 13 to attend the Ordnance Street site, as we want all year groups involved.

Term 4:
31.03.22

Term 5:
26.05.22

Term 6:
07.07.22

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our school council representatives for your input so far this academic year.

Mrs J. Douglas

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Food and Nutrition

Year 10 Food Preparation and Nutrition have started a new project based around British cuisine.

- The first task was to take on creating a three course meal in groups.
- The dishes had to be British.
- The students decided to create three dishes - a starter, main course and dessert.
- There were four groups, A, B, C, D.

We would like your opinion about who presented their dishes the best.

Please email m.owen@stjohnfisher.school with your best set of dishes: A, B, C or D.

Thank you for your responses!

Mrs M. Owen

<p>Group A Prawn Salad Mini Roast Eaton Mess</p>			
<p>Group B Carrot and cucumber Bangers and Mash Jelly and ice Cream</p>			
<p>Group C Scotch Eggs Sausage, mash and veg Jam Roly Poly</p>			
<p>Group D Apple Crumble</p>			

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Religious Education

In KS3 Religious Education, all Year 7 and 8 students sat pre-public exam (PPEs) style assessments in the hall. Students were asked to respond to questions that covered content that has been studied since September. In order to assist in the preparation for these exams, revision and at home learning resources were made available in the classroom and online.

In January, Year 7 learnt about the seven sacraments in Catholicism with a focus on baptism and reconciliation. They are now learning about Lent and how it is practiced by Catholics and they will have several lessons on the Paschal Mystery (Holy Week). Students will have the opportunity to develop skills of empathy and evaluation when they study Jesus' Last Supper.

Year 8 have learnt about Catholic Social Teaching (CST). They have studied the seven core themes of CST which include human dignity, the preferential option for the poor and care for the environment. Students have learnt that although these are called Catholic Social Teachings, the teachings concern everyone regardless of belief. Year 8 have recently begun a unit focused on morality. They will learn some A level content when they consider ethical philosophers like Kant and Bentham but will spend most of the term looking at how to make good moral decisions.

Students in Year 9 have looked at several Catholic religious practices which included sacraments, liturgical worship, and pilgrimage.

Year 10 have almost finished the Judaism component (25% of the GCSE course). They have been studying topics that include the Tenakh, the Mitzvot (the laws) and the importance of Jewish festivals.

Year 11 will have sat their last PPE, and have almost finished the GCSE course. Revision will begin in lesson prior to the Easter break in preparation for Paper 1 which is on 16th May. Students are encouraged to attend intervention on Thursday evenings at 3.10-4.00pm in E5. They can access the textbook online at kerboodle.com; as well, they have revision guides to assist in their home learning.

Students may also choose to use the Edexcel Religious Studies A course on senecalearning.com for some recall revision.

Miss J. Turner

Mission Statement:

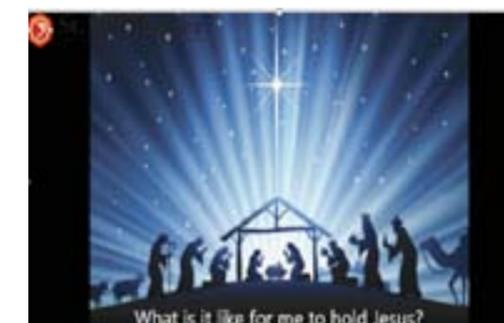
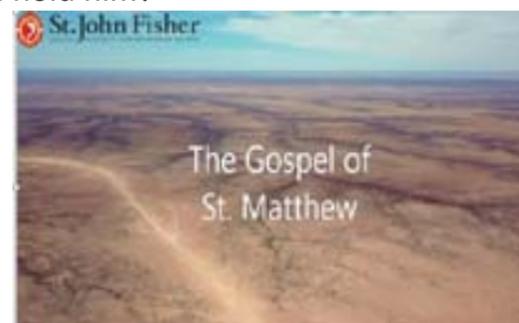
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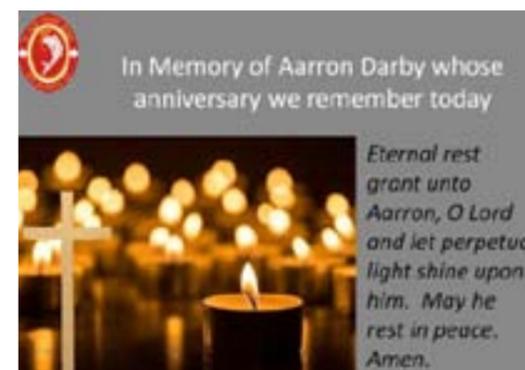


Chaplaincy

We began the New Year with a staff inset retreat day. The focus of the day was spiritual meditation and mental well-being. The spiritual meditation included the gospel from St. Matthew describing the visit from the kings to see the new born child in Bethlehem. The reflection was to consider: What is it like for me to hold Jesus? and, what do I say to Jesus as I hold him?



We also marked the first anniversary of the death of our much loved and missed Mr. Darby, with a tribute to reflect on art in Creation.



Additionally, staff engaged in discussion, hearing the key note speaker David Wells, and considering how a Catholic community encourages engagement and instills hope. Discussion of Catholic Social Teaching prompted question such as: How is it possible for us to practise the virtues of gratitude and hope, to instil in one another those virtues?



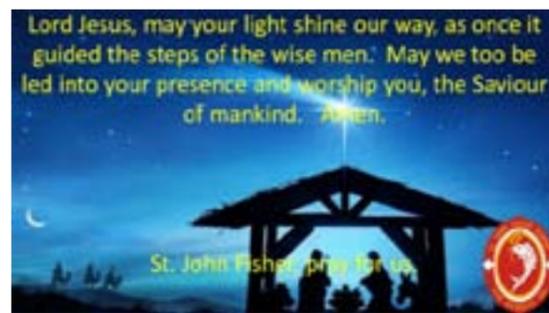
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During the first week of the term we celebrated the Feast of The Epiphany on the 6th January. A video reflection assembly was shown to all, reminding us of the importance of 'new beginnings' with the birth of Christ, and the subsequent visit from the Magi/ Wise Men. Students were tasked with the reflective question "How can you wisely use the gifts and talents God has given you, in this New Year?"



As I write, we are marking the Liturgical Season of Lent. We begin our Lenten journey as always, with a whole school service. This Penitential Service offers students time to reflect on their lives and to consider forgiveness. We also reflect on our hopes for the New Life Christ brings, celebrated in the Resurrection. Traditionally, during Lent, Christians focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving.



During our Ash Wednesday Service on 2nd March, we launched our Lenten Charity Appeals. This year we will be supporting CAFOD World Gifts, as our global charity. Our national charity is Huntington's Disease support, and locally we will be fundraising for My Shining Star, children's cancer support. Further information of our fundraising events will be launched to the whole community by our student Charity Ambassadors, with updates on these appeals to follow.

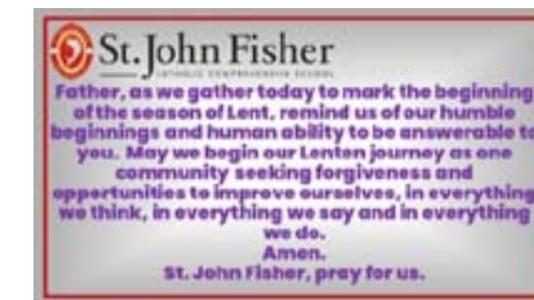
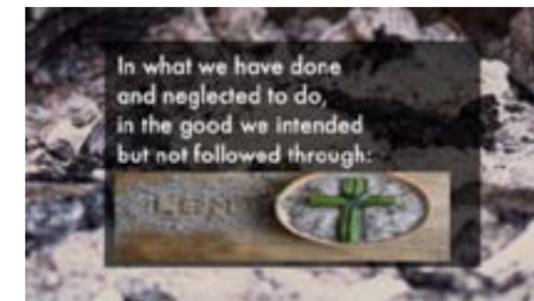
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Additionally, during Lent, students and staff will be able to attend morning masses and engage in weekly Lenten reflections.



Mrs. C. Drain.

Contact Details

Over the Easter break, parents and carers will receive a contact details form to review and update for their child as necessary. It is vitally important that we have up-to-date contact information for you so that we can speak with you in an emergency and so that you can receive regular updates on your child's progress. Thank you in advance for checking these thoroughly.

Ms V. Walker

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Great Big Dance Off

On Monday 28th February, six students from our dance club travelled to Folkestone Leas Cliff Hall to compete in The Great Big Dance-off South East heat.

The girls (pictured in rehearsals at the venue) performed brilliantly, showing exceptional resilience and confidence to dance in front of nearly 1,000 people.

Although the team did not progress to the national stages, they can be incredibly proud of their performance, which showed creativity and togetherness. The girls have worked extremely hard with Shanice, our dance coach from the Right Step Dance Company to perfect a routine to a song from "The Six" musical about Henry VIII's wives. This is a significant stepping stone in the Dance Club's journey to develop public performances and participation in future competitions. Well done to Helena, Danae, Julie, Giada, Zara and Agata!



Mr L. Cogger

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Join us: Medway Culture Club



Medway CULTURE CLUB

Woodlands Youth Centre
Woodlands Road Gillingham
Kent ME7 2BX

The BIG MCC Bake Off!

- How to be a Restaurateur
- Hot Lunch Included
- Book now at www.medwayculture.club

2.5 hours

£8 per Child

Saturday 2nd April 2022 - 10.30am-1pm

Phone Us: 07466069145 | Email us: info@medwaycultureclub.co.uk



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Oxbridge Group

The Oxbridge Group operates in the sixth form. Led by Ms. Walker, Deputy Headteacher, it aims to support some of the most able students in the year group with applying to top Russell group universities.

This year, Year 13 students have been supported to prepare for university interviews with the provision of targeting reading material, while Year 12 students have been applying for summer schools in their chosen subjects. Elsewhere, our Year 12 students who are enrolled on the Oxford University SwiftStream programme, designed to support them in applying to top universities, continue their work on the course.

We look forward to reporting on some of their great destinations in a future newsletter!

Ms V. Walker

Easter Health Clinics

The Kent and Medway Immunisation Team is running clinics during Easter holidays for any vaccinations your child may have missed - don't forget to do the online consent form if you haven't already. Here is the link for the clinic dates and times for you to book direct: <https://kchft.healthit.org.uk/patheks>

Visit www.kentcht.nhs.uk/imms for more information. You can also phone the team 0300 123 5205, text 07401320923 or use their web chat if you have any questions about your child's immunisations.

Primary Transition

Now that Year 6 students have been allocated their secondary schools for September, we have been delighted to welcome them and their families for visits. During their visits, students have individual meetings with Mrs. Lennon, go on a socially distanced tour of Maidstone Road, and take a minibus trip up to City Way to see the progress on our new build!

It has been great getting to meet so many of our new students. There is still time for Year 6 parents / carers to book a visit - please email Mrs. Liffen, Headteacher's PA, at e.liffen@stjohnfisher.school, to arrange this.



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Term Dates for Academic Year 2021– 2022

	START	TO	FINISH
TERM 1	Wednesday 1st September 2021	to	Thursday 21st October 2021
Autumn Break	Friday 22nd October 2021	to	Friday 25th October 2021
TERM 2	Monday 1st November 2021	to	Friday 17th December 2021
Christmas Break	Monday 20th December 2021	to	Monday 3rd January 2022
TERM 3	Tuesday 4th January 2022	to	Friday 11th February 2022
February Break	Monday 14th February 2022	to	Friday 17th February 2022
TERM 4	Monday 21st February 2022	to	Friday 1st April 2022
Easter Break	Monday 4th April 2022	to	Monday 18th April 2022
Good Friday – Bank Holiday	15th April 2022		
Easter Monday – Bank Holiday	18th April 2022		
TERM 5	Tuesday 19th April 2022	to	Friday 27th May 2022
Bank Holiday	Monday 2nd May 2022		
May Break	Monday 30th May 2022	to	Friday 3rd June 2022
TERM 6	Monday 6th June 2022	to	Tuesday 19th July 2022
Bank Holiday	Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd June 2022		

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS/SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

TERM 1	Wednesday 1st September 2021 – CPD in school
TERM 2	Friday Friday 22nd October - School Closed in Lieu of May Bank Holiday
TERM 6	Wednesday 20th July 2022 - School Closed
TERM 6	Thursday 21st July 2022 - School Closed
TERM 6	Friday 22nd July 2022 - School Closed

Please note that in accordance with the local and national guidelines, St John Fisher do not authorise holidays during term time.

Mission Statement:

'St. John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School inspires students, spiritually and educationally forming them through Faith, so that they can achieve their aspirations and contribute to their community.'

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