



Head Teacher's Message

Dear Reader,

Welcome to our Summer 2023 newsletter. We have now been on City Way for several months and I am delighted to report that the move went extremely well. Staff and students are now familiar with their new surroundings and we are beginning to make the most of our brand new facilities.

Despite these exciting events, school life continues on as normal. As I write, Year 11 and 13 students are completing their final examinations. I know that you will join me in thoughts and prayers for them at this challenging time.

In this term's newsletter, you can read about a wide range of activities that have gone on at SJF in recent months. There are stories about the latest learning in RE and our cross curricular days. There have also been a number of exciting trips, including Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and a visit to the Houses of Parliament, and you will find all the details within.

I will write to you again in September with details of the activities going on in the last weeks of the summer term, as well as the news from our Results Days. Parents and carers are reminded that the last day for students is Friday 14th July; pupils will finish at 12.05pm.

In the meantime, I wish you and your family a lovely summer holiday.

God Bless,
Mrs. Lennon



Mission Statement:

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St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School, City Way, Rochester, ME1 2FA
Ph: 01634 543123 e-mail: office@stjohnfisher.school





Religious Education Update

In term 5, Year 7 have been learning about the events of the resurrection and the ascension of Jesus. They empathised with how the disciples would have felt following His death, resurrection, and subsequent appearances. The lessons discussed topics like doubt and strength in faith. They have debated whether it would be easier to be a disciple then or today - having seen/spent time with the risen Jesus or being able to have faith in Him today even though He hasn't been seen. Pentecost revealed the arrival of the presence of the Holy Spirit and the impact that the gifts of the Holy Spirit have on believers. Students finished the term by learning about the final rite of initiation for Catholics, the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Year 8 have been quite historical in term 5. They started the term studying the start of the early church and considered what qualities would have been required to be a disciple in the time of Jesus – enduring hardship and persecution. Students looked at the conversion of St Paul and his impact on Christianity. They discussed how his conversion demonstrates how people can change for the better. They have learnt that the Church is the people, not a building; and without the Church there is no Faith. Students have considered the religious roles within the Catholic Church. To conclude the term, students looked at the mission of Christianity today and how charity groups like CAFOD fulfil the expectations set in Catholic Social teaching.

Year 9 have moved on to the topic of Catholic beliefs. They have learnt about the development of the Trinity within the Bible and through the creation of the Nicene Creed. They have debated the different interpretations of the Creation story – whether it can be read literally or metaphorically. Year 9 have also learnt about the importance of the incarnation and how that has impact on the relationship between God and humans.

Year 10 have been studying the sources of authority for Catholics. They have discussed the three different ways the Bible can be understood: literally, inspired by Holy Spirit, and inspired. They have looked at the influence of the magisterium on everyday religious beliefs. In relation to the magisterium, students have analysed four documents from Second Vatican Council and the effects they have had on the life of a Catholic.

Year 11 have begun their GCSE exams; the first paper was on the 15th of May, Judaism on the 23rd and the last assessment in the subject will be on the 6th of June. Year 13 sit their A Level exams on the 12th, 19th, and 26th June. The RE department prays for their success in these exams and for the next phase of their lives.

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News from Chaplaincy

Celebration of the Word Chapel Services continue weekly. These take place within form time and offer students opportunities to be actively involved in planning them. Each form group visits the chapel over the academic year. During the service, students are asked to consider the scriptural readings of the day and reflect on their actions over the week, alongside time for prayer, reflection and personal intentions. Additionally, students write or choose a prayer or poem to be read at the service. This prayer or poem is themed to reflect our weekly Gospel value.

On Friday 26th May, we celebrated our 2023 Year 11 and 13 Leavers with a Mass. Fr Peter joined us to celebrate Mass and spoke fondly of his time at school, the importance of Catholic education and the onward journey our students are now on.

Each of our leavers was presented with a prayercard, including a message from Mrs. Lennon and the whole SJF community. We ask you to join us in prayer and reflection during this time of transition for our young people.



St. John Fisher
CATHOLIC COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL



"A good person is not a perfect person. A good person is an honest person, faithful and unhesitatingly responsive to the voice of God in their life."
St. John Fisher

Message from Mrs. Lennon and the whole SJF community.

Congratulations to all students. We continue to be proud of all members of our school community. But in particular at this time of year, we could not be more proud of you as you take your next steps in this world.

Being a student at St. John Fisher is about more than just exam results. It is about using your school years to try different experiences, find out what you're good at, and learn how to take those talents and share them with the community. During your time with us, you have done some extraordinary things and we are proud of each and every one of you. You have, and will continue, to make the world a better place.

We look forward to welcoming back those of you in year 11 who are joining us for Sixth Form in September. For our year 13s, from this point on, your journey will be on a different path to your friends. You may be going to university, an apprenticeship or employment. We wish you every success in your new adventures. We hope that all of you will join us for Results Day in August. Remember: you are a part of our community, now and forever.

Your years at St. John Fisher have built up your faith: faith in God; faith in our community, and faith in your own ability to be a positive part of it. We hope that your future is full of joys and blessings, and we are always here for you if you need us.

With love, respect and warm wishes, from Mrs. Lennon and everyone at St. John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School.

"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." John 15:11



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**LEAVERS
2023**

Heavenly Father,

We pray for ourselves, as we come before you at this important time in our lives. We reflect on all the memories we have made throughout our time at St. John Fisher School. We remember these with great joy, they have all made us the people we are today.

Whatever our future, the weeks ahead present for us all a fresh start; whether we are continuing in education or branching out to new horizons. Let us remember that we once again have the opportunity to let this shape our lives.

Jesus, you guided us throughout our first day and followed us to our last. We come together that you may follow us, and guide us on our journeys forward.

May we continue to strive to be our best, and build on the success of our foundation at St. John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School.

Amen.
St. John Fisher, pray for us.



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A Level Politics Trip to the Houses of Parliament

On the 21st March, A Level Politics students were fortunate to visit the Houses of Parliament. Below is an account of the visit by Ventsi Lyubomirov, a Year 13 student, along with pictures from the day.

Earlier this term, Year 12 and Year 13 A-level Politics students from St John Fisher had the opportunity to visit the UK Parliament. This experience gave us a deeper understanding of the workings of the UK's political system and the role of parliament in shaping the country's laws and policies.

The visit began with a guided tour of the parliament building, where we were able to explore the historic chambers and corridors that have been the scene of some of the most important political decisions in the UK's history. We were able to see first-hand the ornate architecture and artwork that adorns the building, as well as the impressive scale of the parliamentary chambers themselves.

After we left Parliament, we went to Parliament Square where we saw the famous statues of key figures in UK Politics and UK History, such as Millicent Fawcett, Winston Churchill, Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. We also saw the Supreme Court building, which is responsible for interpreting and applying the law of the land. This experience provided a deeper understanding of the UK's political system and its historical context.



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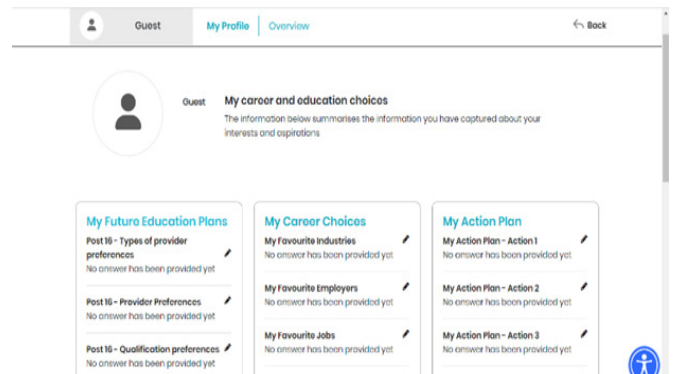
Careers Guidance and Support at SJF

Mr Kallend is available after school in the Careers Office from 3.05pm – 4pm in room 1.53 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Students are encouraged to see him at these times to discuss any questions they may have regarding careers. The activity is open to all students of all years and there is no appointment needed. After an initial meeting, should a student require a further in-depth interview, then an appointment during school time can be made. Remember: it is never too early to be thinking about jobs and careers.

This is also a great opportunity for students currently in the process of writing personal statements, CV's and applications to view their careers record at SJF and discuss how to incorporate what they have learned into these important documents.

I would also like to make you aware of the following website which gives accurate local labour market information to support you and your child in making informed choices about the future <https://kent.startprofile.com/page/home-page> .

Students can use the tools to plan future career and education choices, use an interactive map to look at future career developments in the local area, and explore apprenticeship and job opportunities in the local area.



Whether you want to live and work in the district you currently live in, or whether you are open to commuting across Kent, it is important to know what is driving employment in each area of Kent.

If you move around the map you will see the name of each district and be able to click-through to content relating to careers, education and training in any borough you are interested in.



Mr. Kallend - Careers Advisor



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Curriculum Focus Days

April and May included some exciting Curriculum Focus Days for our students across many year groups .

Year 7 participated in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Curriculum Focus Day. The day started off with students being introduced to the Importance of STEM subjects and the understanding of the benefits of pursuing a career in the STEM industries. Students then moved onto the NASA Moon Survival challenge. In this exercise, students had to imagine that their spaceship had crashed on the moon, leaving a number of objects intact. Groups had to agree a rank order of the items in terms of their importance in allowing the team to reach a rendezvous point two hundred miles away. This challenge helped the students to explore the fundamentals of effective teamwork and encourage group decision making- vitally important skills that would help them get ahead in the STEM industries. After break, students moved onto using their design and maths skills by having to invent a new Subway sandwich while calculating and trying to stay within the recommended daily intakes for each nutrient.

After lunch, students took part in the final session of the day. Again, students worked together in teams to build a bridge using straws, paper and tape. Their bridges needed to be self-supporting, over 30cm long and take as much weight as possible in order to be the winners. Students were able to purchase materials and so also learned to calculate their budget wisely. This exercise encouraged students to use their enterprise skills and consider which materials were most important to build their bridge. Throughout the day, some Year 10 students were also on hand to give a little guidance.

Year 8 also participated in the STEM activities but also had an additional Curriculum Focus Day that focused on Diversity and Respect, looking at what makes us all different and why we respect all of our differences. The day started with a session called 'This Is Me: Summer'. Summer is a Year 7 student at the school and has the condition called MPS6, a condition whereby her body does not grow as fast as everybody else, needing extra time to grow. Summer delivered an amazing session and answered all questions from other students about her condition with confidence. The students then moved on to learning about people's right to equality, considering this from the perspective of our diverse community. After break, students looked at many legal aspects of people's protected characteristics, which involved looking at the Equality Act of 2010. Moving on, students then learnt about what a 'respectful relationship' looks like.

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Curriculum Focus Days (continued)

Year 10 participated in a Study Skills Curriculum Focus Day and started the day with an introduction into University Life. They looked at the myths versus the reality of and what university life is really like. This session was followed by learning how to revise. From this, the students gained an understanding of the importance of preparation and getting and being ready to revise. Revision strategies were also discussed. This learning will be extremely helpful to them for when they sit their PPEs in June.

Year 11 participated in a 'Prepare to Pass' Examination Ready Curriculum Focus Day. The day started with the students understanding the correlation between attendance and educational achievement, then moving onto a programme called Resilient Me- Strength through Understanding. Students began by looking at self-belief and examining their own reasons for wanting success in their exams. This was then followed by a comprehensive set of world-class revision techniques – a toolkit of different strategies so that there was something to suit everyone. Organisation, including pacing revision and balancing study with life, was next, with a rigorous look at how to maximise the impact of every revision session to boost exam results. The workshop ended by building confidence through a range of stress-management techniques.



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Sports Update

Medway Super 8 's Athletics Competition

On Tuesday 23rd May 2023, a team of Year 7 students from SJF took part in the Medway Schools Super 8's Athletics Competition at Medway Park. We took a team of eight boys and eight girls for their first experience of competing at an athletics meet against other schools in Medway.

The students were extremely proud and excited to be chosen to represent the school. For some of them, this was the first time they would be performing on an official athletics track.

As soon as we got to the venue, the students were straight into action with their warm ups. After a quick team talk, they were straight into their events. Each student competed in one track and one field event.

While all students did well, there was an outstanding performance from Tochukwu, coming first in the Shot Putt with a throw of 9.32m, nearly a metre more than the second place athlete! Special thanks also go to Oziegbe (Year 12) for acting as the team's manager on the day.



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Sports Update (continued)

Canterbury Christchurch University Dance Workshop

On Monday 22nd May, Students from SJF's dance class took part in a workshop at Canterbury Christchurch University. They were joined by two other schools from the Medway area.

On arrival, we were met by three of the university's ambassadors, who escorted us to the sports hall where we were introduced to the lecturers of the iBA (Hons) Dance and BA (Hons) Dance Education degrees.

The students were split into 2 groups: each group then took turns to participate in a workshop and tour of the campus. The workshop took our students out of their comfort zone as they were asked to demonstrate some of the more technical moves used in dance. They were then taught the beginning of a dance to a popular song taken from the film/musical 'Sister Act'. To conclude, students worked together to develop the final piece of the dance.

We finished the day by watching dances performed in the in the Anselm Studio Theatre, choreographed by the first and second year students. These amazing performances were the final pieces of work produced by the students for their end of year show.



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Sports Update (continued)

Year 7 Boys win Colm Murphy Rugby Tournament!

A team of Year 7 Boys, trained by Mr Nicholas, competed in the inaugural Colm Murphy Rugby Tournament at St John's Catholic Comprehensive School in Gravesend. The tournament was held in memory of Mr Murphy, who had been a long serving member at the school and played a huge role in the development of rugby at St John's and across Kent.

The St John Fisher team played an exceptionally exciting brand of running rugby, combined with impressive defensive play. The team won their first group match against St Edmunds, Dover 25-20, scoring some exceptional team tries and drew the second game with St George's 5-5 after an impressive defensive display. This resulted in the team qualifying for the final against the winners of Group B, Ursaline.

The final proved to be the boys' best performance yet, as they rose to the occasion and played with fantastic intensity to open up an early lead. There was a spirited fight back by their opponents, but again, the defensive effort was outstanding, and the team were victors 15-10, narrowly missing another try in the dying seconds.

As well as the fantastic rugby played by St John Fisher, the team ethos was wonderful. The encouragement and positivity that they boys showed to each other was astounding and they were deserving winners of this amazing tournament. We would like to thank the organisers and officials for hosting such a great day; we are already looking forward to next year! Any students interested in playing rugby can attend our after school club on a Thursday evening with Mr Jones and Mr Jennings.



Our team captain, being presented with the winner's trophy by Mrs. Murphy, widow of Mr. Murphy

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Sports Update (continued)

Under 13 Girls Cricket Tournament

A team of Year 7 and 8 girls competed in the Kent Cricket Beginners Softball tournament at St Lawrence and Highland Court Cricket Club. The tournament was organised as a fantastic opportunity for those schools that wish to give students their first experience of cricket while providing the chance to play at one of the most famous and picturesque cricket clubs in Kent.

The girls played four close matches against Simon Langton A, Simon Langton B, Leigh Academy Rainham and Folkestone Academy. The girls showed huge improvement throughout the day, performing with determination and resilience as they developed their gameplay, worked together well as a team and demonstrated the spirit of the game. We hope that the girls will now attend our cricket club starting in term 6 (on Thursdays at 3.05-4.15pm with Mr. Gough), and perhaps bring some friends along too!

Medway Schools Dodgeball Competition

In March 2023, a team of selected students from Year 7 took part in the Medway Schools Dodgeball Competition at the Howard and Rainham School for Girls.

The team had been training for the competition: however, this being their first competition, they were very nervous on the journey to the venue. On arrival, they soon forgot their nerves, organising themselves into a warmup and running practice drills to get themselves physically and mentally ready for the day.

The team played extremely well considering this was their first competition and, in particular, were extremely pleased to beat the team from Chatham Grammar. Many of the teachers from the other schools commented on how well our team had competed and their exceptional behaviour, which was wonderful to hear. Congratulations to all involved!

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Sports Update (continued)

Capstone Park Orienteering Event

On Thursday 11th May, a group of selected students from SJF took part in the Medway Schools Orienteering Competition at Capstone Park. This was the first time we had entered the competition.

Year 8 boys and girls participated in two teams of four students each. Each team had to complete two courses of between 2-2.5km long, each finding six stations along the way. This was an exciting event with students working as a fantastic team, helping each other to complete the course and cheering each other from the sidelines.

Sea Cadets

Congratulations to Harry (Year 8) who has been given an opportunity to travel for a week at sea with his sea cadet corp for a week in November later this year.

This is an amazing opportunity for a Harry where he will spend the week learning seamanship skills, how to manoeuvre the vessel, discipline and teamwork. We look forward to reporting on his experiences in a future newsletter!

Year 6 Tours

It has been a pleasure to welcome Year 6 students and their families for tours of City Way this term. Each visit is designed to show parents and pupils what SJF is really like so that they feel comfortable in accepting their places. We will offer a next set of tours in Autumn 2023 - please keep an eye on our website at <https://stjohnfisher.school/autumn-2023-year-6-open-mornings/> for further details.

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Duke of Edinburgh Update

Here at SJF, the Duke of Edinburgh Award is part of our culture and ethos. Every year, our students use the award to gain a qualification recognising the leadership and resilience they earn by completing its sections, following which are the famously anticipated expeditions.

To kick off the season, Year 10 braved a couple of days of rain and wind. The students impressed us with how tough and unphased they were by the conditions. Regardless of the weather and hardships, our students powered on through and enjoyed the beautiful sunshine on the last day.

Fortunately, the Assessed fared far better for weather, having the opposite problem of being nearly too hot!



On this expedition, all seven teams were perfect. Each team had a well-planned route, (complete with rest breaks and hazards marked out) and plenty of food. On at least two occasions, our students ate better than the staff! Each team made a breeze of what I would consider a very challenging hike through the depths of Ashdown forest.

I wish all our Bronzes completing their practice expedition on the 20th May the same fortitude and luck with the weather. Initially, they'll be hiking with teachers and guides, learning the navigation skills necessary to walk on their own. Then, from the Sunday onwards and for their assessed the following month, they're on their own entirely. Thank you to all the SJF staff who make this opportunity possible for our students.

Perhaps most importantly though, this month marks the completion of the Cookham Wood Prison Duke of Edinburgh program led by Alan Tranter and Paul Ralph. As part of their volunteering, they have raised £500 for our school DofE Resilience fund! Alan and Paul have led a pioneering Duke of Edinburgh program at Cookham Wood, allowing a dozen young men to access an opportunity they would not otherwise have. In turn, those young men have also used their volunteering sections to raise money for us to use to provide opportunities for our students. Everyone involved in Duke of Edinburgh at SJF would like to thank them for our efforts.

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Student Artwork

Congratulations to Finn (Year 7) who has been very busy with his artwork in recent months!

Having designed many examples of beautiful digital art, Finn ran a stall at the Medway Gaming Festival, an event which took place at Chatham Dockyard in early July. He has been selling his digital art as A4 prints, postcards, greetings cards, badges, stickers and clothing.

We are very proud of Finn's artistic talent and his entrepreneurial spirit!



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Message from Arriva

Do you or your child travel to University, College or School by bus? If so, we've got the perfect solution!

Arriva Student and Child Saver tickets are valid for anyone in full time education and, is a cost effective and flexible way of paying for travel costs.

Unlimited Travel - You'll get unlimited access to travel on any Arriva bus, at any time, across all routes in your chosen area.

No Restrictions - The Saver tickets will cover your travel to and from University, School or College, evenings, weekends and throughout the holidays too at any time of the day.

Flexible Payments - Arriva's Direct Debit scheme allows you to spread the cost of your ticket over affordable monthly payments. It's an easy way to pay for travel and there's no contract involved, making it an ideal way to get reduced bus travel for the whole Academic year, without paying upfront.

Sign up in advance – Either set your direct debit a future date for when you need the ticket or, you can start your ticket now to get used to the local bus routes

Plan your journey – Please use our 'Plan a journey' tool on our website to work out which bus you require or, download our app on the Apple Store or Google Play

It's a simple process to apply, to arrange your Direct Debit please visit the website below and, select the region the school, college or university is in
www.arrivabus.co.uk/monthlytickets

Once registered you can select either to receive your monthly pass by post or sent to your mobile phone, so you won't have to worry about paying every time you board the bus.

This ticket will rollover every month for as long as the direct debit remains active.

For any queries regarding the scheme, please email: talktous@arriva.co.uk

*Our tickets do not cover Arriva London/TFL routes

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Monday 31 July – Friday 25 August 2023

#MedwayGo #HAF2023

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**Term Dates for Academic Year 2022 – 2023**

	START	TO	FINISH
TERM 1	Friday 2 nd September 2022: Years 7 and 12. Monday 5 th September 2022: Whole School	to	Friday 21 st October 2022
Autumn Break	Monday 24 th October 2022	to	Friday 28 th October 2022
TERM 2	Monday 31 st October 2022	to	Friday 16 th December 2022
Christmas Break	Monday 19 th December 2022	to	Friday 30 th December 2022
TERM 3	Tuesday 3 rd January 2023	to	Friday 10 th February 2023
February Break	Monday 13 th February 2023	to	Friday 17 th February 2023
TERM 4	Monday 20 th February 2023	to	Friday 31 st March 2023
Easter Break	Monday 3 rd April 2023	to	Friday 14 th April 2023
Good Friday – Bank Holiday	7 th April 2023		
Easter Monday – Bank Holiday	10 th April 2023		
TERM 5	Monday 17 th April 2023	to	Friday 26 th May 2023
Bank Holidays	Monday 1 st May 2023 and May 8 2023		
May Break	Monday 29 th May 2023	to	Friday 2 nd June 2023
TERM 6	Monday 5 th June 2023	to	Friday 14 th July 2023
STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS/SCHOOL ACTIVITIES			
17th - 19th July	Staff Development Days		
Please note that in accordance with the local and national guidelines, St John Fisher <u>do not</u> authorise holidays during term time.			

Autumn Term 2023 begins on Tuesday 5th September - please see our website for more details

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