



Dear Reader,

As I write, we are a few days away from the half-term holiday. Although it has been a relatively short term, much has been happening at St. John Fisher.

For example, one of our Key Stage 3 pupils, Kobie, has recently been selected to play the sport of korfbal for Kent; you can read all about his achievements inside. The RE department has provided an update about this term's lessons, and how you can help Year 11 students to revise effectively for exams; I was also proud to read about the £250 raised by our pupils for CAFOD's World Gifts programme. There have been several trips, including a Year 12 visit to see BAFTA-award winning film 1917, and a team of Year 7 and 8 students competing at the Medway Schools Sports Hall Athletics Competition.

This month's newsletter also includes articles about various parental engagement activities which have been going on in school. We held a successful Year 8 Parents' Evening; Year 7 parent and carer workshops to explain the workings of SJF are ongoing, and the end of January also saw our PTA's Annual General Meeting. I am delighted to welcome Mr. Ajay, one of our Year 7 parents, to join Mrs. Douglas on the PTA Committee. I am pleased to report the excellent results from the sixth-form GCSE retakes in November inside these pages. Sixth form recruitment continues, and I urge anyone who has yet to apply to do so before places are filled. You can find the application forms online at <https://stjohnfisher.school/home/sixth-form/sixth-form-admission/>.

Finally, I am saddened to report the death of Patrick Keogh in this month's newsletter. Patrick attended SJF from 1964-66 and was Head Boy from 1965-66. His family have provided an obituary for us, and I hope that you will join me in keeping them in your prayers at this difficult time.

God Bless,

Mrs. Lennon



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Applied Learning Student of the Month

January 2020

Student of the Month runs every month for students within Applied (BTEC) subjects. Each subject leader is asked to nominate one student from all their classes to be the student of that month. A board is located on the A floor which shows the students who have achieved student of the month for each subject, as well as an overall winner each month. The overall winner receives a fun USB from Mrs Simpson.

Applied Student of the Month January 2020

Lily Woodham



For producing excellent work in Sport Level 3 and overall commitment to the subject.

Student of the Month Nominees

Saffron-Jade Bailey



For producing excellent work in Business Studies and overall commitment to the subject.

Chantelle Cutler



For producing excellent work in Travel and Tourism and overall commitment to your work.

Sagy El Mosslimani



For producing excellent work in Hospitality and overall commitment to your work.

Ilmars Jankuns



For producing excellent work in Health and Social Care and overall commitment to the subject.

Nikolas Sivak



For producing excellent work in Science Level 3 and overall commitment to the subject.

Lily Woodham



For producing excellent work in Sport Level 3 and overall commitment to the subject.

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Kobie's Achievements in Korfbal

Kobie plays Korfbal for a team called Tornadoes. His team is part of the under 13s county league, where they are currently at the top of the table. Due to his ability, Kobie also plays up into the under 14s league for his club. Kobie's team competes at national level in Cambridge once a month, where his team are also top of this league.

Since November last year Kobie has been partaking in trials for the under 13s Kent squad and we were thrilled to hear after Christmas that he had made the team. Kobie represented Kent recently in Harrow, scoring over 10 goals.

Here are some awesome shots of Kobie in action!

Mrs S Kay



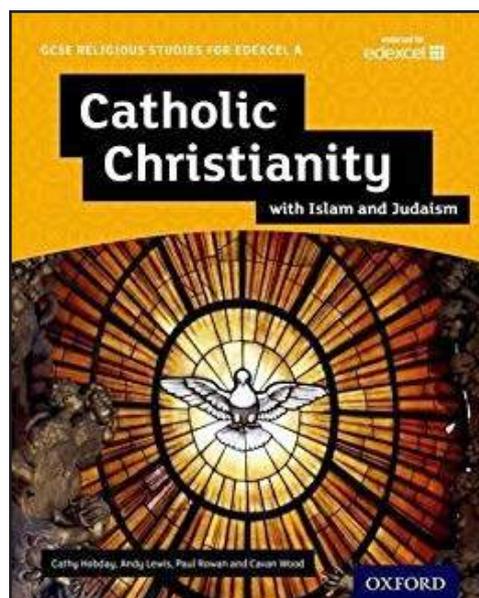
RE Corner

Throughout January 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 which 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 classroom and online.

Students in Years 9 and 10 have looked at several Catholic religious practices including sacraments, liturgical worship and funeral rites. Year 11 are preparing, not only for their March PPE, but for the GCSE exams – the first of which for Religious Education is on the 13th May. Students should attend intervention on Tuesday, Thursday evenings at 3.10-4.00pm or Wednesday mornings at 7.15-8.15am. They can access the textbook on kerboodle.com; additionally they have revision guides to assist in their home learning. All GCSE students can access the Edexcel Religious Studies A course on senecalearning.com for some recall revision.

As previously reported, the school raised money for CAFOD World Gifts for Christmas. The overall total raised, including funds from tag day and some private donations, is a grand total of £250! Clearly our school community has taken seriously the Gospel Values of compassion and servanthood as well as to the theme of Catholic Social Teaching of preferential option for the poor. We are making a difference to the world!

Miss J Turner



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MMA's Easter Music Courses 2020

Want to play in a huge band, sing, learn new music and meet new friends?



What?

Easter Courses include 3 separate courses which cater for Medway's Young Musicians:

- Easter Band Course
- Medway Junior Youth Orchestra
- Medway Intermediate Youth Orchestra

Where?

Rainham Mark Grammar School, Pump Lane, Rainham, Kent ME8 7AJ

When?

Easter Band Course:

6th – 8th April 2020

9.45 – 15:00 each day

MJYO/MIYO Course:

6th – 8th April 2020

9:00 – 15:00 each day



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

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More information

MMA runs three separate Easter Music Courses

Easter Band Course is open to anyone in Medway aged 7-18 (school years 3-13) who has been learning to play an instrument since at least the beginning of this academic year. We also welcome members of Music Centres and Medway Ensembles. The course will include opportunities for playing in small instrumental ensembles and a large mixed orchestra. Percussion, singing and fun general musicianship games and activities will also be included.

We also run two orchestral courses for more advanced musicians; Medway Junior Youth Orchestra (Grade 1-3) and Medway Intermediate Youth Orchestra (Grade 3-5). New members are welcome!

If you are not sure which course is right for you, we will be happy to help.

How to Apply

Please complete and return an application form as soon as possible and by **Saturday 14th March 2020** at the latest. Please include your payment with your application.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Application Form

You can find the Easter Music Course application form and details of where to send it on our website:

www.medwaymusicassociation.co.uk

If you need any more information, or have any questions, please email us at: info@medwaymusicassociation.co.uk



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Sports Hall Athletics Competition

ST. JOHN FISHER PE DEPARTMENT



Medway Secondary Schools Compete in local Sports Hall Athletics Competition

On Thursday 16th of January 2020, two teams of selected students from St. John Fisher 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 two year groups.

Boys and girls from St. John Fisher participated from Year 7 and 8.

This was an exciting event with a fun and enthusiastic feel across both teams.

Throughout the day the students worked as a fantastic team, helping each other to stretch and warm up as well as cheering each other on from the side lines.

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

All students received a Silver reward for all their efforts. Rebeccah Akinsanya and Prince Ojibah received Gold awards for their exceptional performance.

Mr S Gough

Students

Boys	Girls
Harry Elmer	Alice Drain
Rudy Maher-Waller	Chanel Baldock
Toby Araoye	Kamya Lewis
Cameron Graham	Maisie Gorthy
David Ngene	Rebeccah Akinsanya
Prince Ojibah	Comfort Olowosile
Kevin Horvath	Chloe Drain
	Jada Rose Cayenne



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Year 12 – 1917 Cinema Trip

Year 12 English Literature students complete a module in World War One Literature, and so, on the afternoon of Friday 24th January, they went to the Odeon Chatham Dockside to see a showing of the film *1917*.

Directed by Sam Mendes, who was inspired by the war stories of his grandfather Alfred, the film recently won a Golden Globe and BAFTA for Best Picture. *1917* has been much praised, both for the way it appears to have been filmed in a single take, but also for the realistic staging and the way that the film attempts to convey the horrors of the war.

The students were impeccably behaved on the visit and really enjoyed the film.

Chloe Burton (Year 12) writes ‘The film was outstanding! They perfectly captured the brutal (not to mention realistic) depictions of war and the effects it had on the soldiers. We were able to feel on the same level as the soldiers and were given an insight into the constant anxiety they had. The film also showed brilliantly the repetitiveness of war and how when one situation had been dealt with, it was only a matter of time before something else happened. I would definitely watch it again and it would be amazing to reference in my work!’

Miss V Walker



Year 8 Parents' Evening

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our Year 8 Parents' Evening on the 22nd January.

It was a productive opportunity for staff to meet with parents and students to help drive student progress.

56% of parents attended. If parents missed the evening and would like an update could they please email Mr Joseph Fisher (j.fisher@stjohnfisher.school)

Miss L Clarke and Mr J Fisher

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Obituary: Patrick Keogh



18th August 1949 - 29th November 2019

Head Boy 1965/66

Patrick was born near to Carlow in Ireland in 1949. He was brought up in the family cottage on a smallholding, where the water was fetched from a well, and where electricity and gas were still strangers. His very first schooling involved a long walk across fields to get there. In 1956, just before Christmas, the family moved to England, finding a home in Gillingham. Here he went to St Mary's RC School, which was quite basic then, with its large, mixed-age classrooms. Pat had two brothers and five sisters, so going to school was always in a large family group then.

In 1964 St John Fisher School opened its doors, with St Mary's supplying it with many children of secondary school age, including Patrick. He settled in well and was variously known as Pat and Paddy in different groups of friends. Patrick did well at SJF, and, ever-practical, decided to make his family a large dining table in woodwork, which survived into the 2000's! SJF had a "5th year" (now Year 11) as its highest year, and in 1965 Patrick became Head Boy, an honour for him and his family. CSEs were still a new qualification then, and Patrick left SJF with these.

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Patrick then went on to work in a council job, cycling from Gillingham to Maidstone each day. Of more interest to him was completing his education, so he enrolled in a series of evening classes and achieved the A levels he wanted. With these, in 1970, he entered a teacher training college in Leeds, now Leeds Trinity University. Here he met Beverley, whom he later married in 1975.

Both Patrick and Beverley spent their entire working lives in education, with Patrick completing his probationary year teaching at Upbury Manor in Gillingham. He then taught maths at the Sacred Heart of Mary Girls School in Upminster, in Essex, where he and Beverley settled. Afterwards he taught at the Elizabeth Fry Special School in Newham, before moving to a position at Ravensbourne - a school for moderate and severe learning difficulties in Romford. Patrick's whole life was marked by his generosity and his willingness to help others, and he always went above and beyond the job to help those entrusted to him.

In later years, he became more active at Brentwood Cathedral, particularly in the Catenians. He was also very active in fund-raising and volunteering for the Marillac Neurological Care Centre in Brentwood.

Sadly, Patrick was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease in November 2017. From that point his mobility and muscle function deteriorated. However, his mind remained sharp and he only ever showed the man that many loved and looked up to. In fact, he often remarked that he was "lucky", because he had so many relatives and friends to visit him and help him. Patrick passed away peacefully on 29th November 2019, having received the sacrament of the sick two days previously. His funeral was held at Brentwood Cathedral on 17th December, and was attended by around 200 mourners, many of whom gathered afterwards as well.

Patrick leaves a wife, Beverley, three children, two grandchildren and seven siblings. He now rests.



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ADHD



Information Sessions

Session 1

4th March 2020

10am - 12pm

Session 2

11th March 2020

10am - 12pm

You must be available for both sessions.

Tea and Coffee will be provided.

Spaces are limited and will need to be booked

Please contact us on 01634 566303

Or email us at: medwaysendas@family-action.org.uk

**SEN and Disability
Information, Advice
and Support**

**Medway
sendias**

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Sixth Form Admissions

Sixth Form interviews have been taking place throughout January, led by Mrs. Bailey and Mr O'Halloran. It has been pleasing to talk with over 90 students who have applied so far and to discuss their aspirations for the future. We look forward to these students joining us in July for our induction.

Sixth Form admissions are still open, applications for our next round of interviews close on 30th March.

Application forms can be found online at www.stjohnfisher.school

Mrs E Bailey



St. John Fisher
CATHOLIC COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL



Sixth Form Admissions

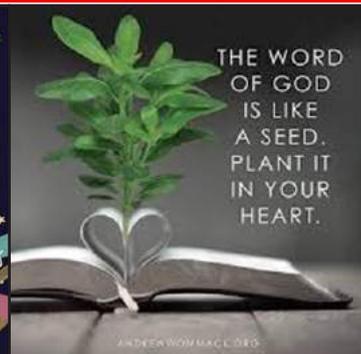
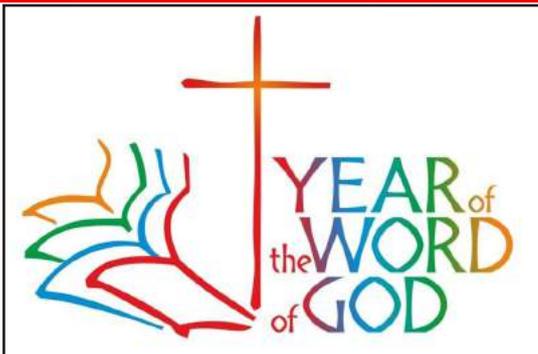
Phase 2 of applications deadline March 30th



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Chaplaincy

The Bishops of England and Wales have dedicated 2020 as a Year of the Word, to focus on the Bible and on 'The God Who Speaks'. This date coincides with the 1,600th anniversary of St Jerome's death and the 10th anniversary of Emeritus Pope Benedict's Apostolic Exhortation, Verbum Domini.

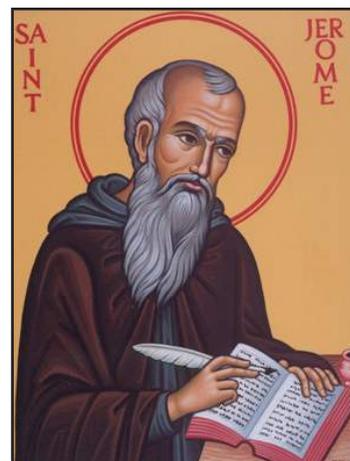
St Jerome is the patron saint of Biblical scholars, librarians, students and translators. He dedicated his vocation to translating the Bible, beginning his work whilst in Rome, under Pope Damasus. He spent his entire life translating the scriptures from Hebrew and Old Latin.

The Bishops' intention is to encourage us to celebrate, live and share the word of God in a more conscious way. They describe this as "... an opportunity to enrich current practice and to develop and explore new ways of responding to 'The God who Speaks'".

In order to embrace this initiative and further develop spirituality in the school, we have introduced our 'Celebration of the Word' weekly services. These take place within form time and offer students opportunities to be actively involved in planning them. Each form group will be visiting the chapels over the coming terms. 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 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.

There are extended opportunities for families and parishes to engage with 'The Year of the Word'. Details of these can be found at the following link: <http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/2020Word.htm>

Mrs. C. Drain



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Archdiocese
of Southwark

SATURDAY 27TH JUNE
MASS AT 12 NOON

FOLLOWED BY
Inspiring programme, BBQ and picnic

Aylesford Priory, Kent

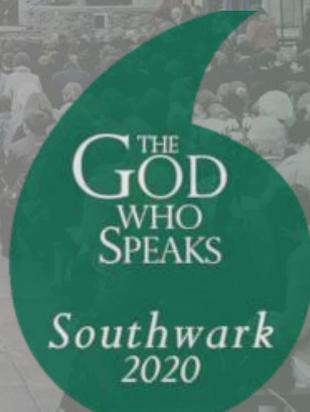
*'Your words are Spirit,
Lord, and they are life'*

(Psalm 18)

**THE YEAR OF THE WORD
DIOCESAN CELEBRATION**



ARCHBISHOP JOHN WILSON
warmly invites you and your
Parish community to join him for
this joyful celebration



For more details and bookings visit
<http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/2020Word.htm>

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Become a member of:

Abbey Court and District Young Farmers Club

for young people age 10 to 19 years

About us:

Abbey Court and District YFC will be based at the brand new Rural Activities Centre at Abbey court school. Here, we are on a 7 acre plot with 3 grazing paddocks, stables and a barn where we will have 2 donkeys, 3 goats, some sheep and cattle. We also have separate areas for pigs, chickens and rabbits, as well as a poly-tunnel and raised beds for horticultural activities.

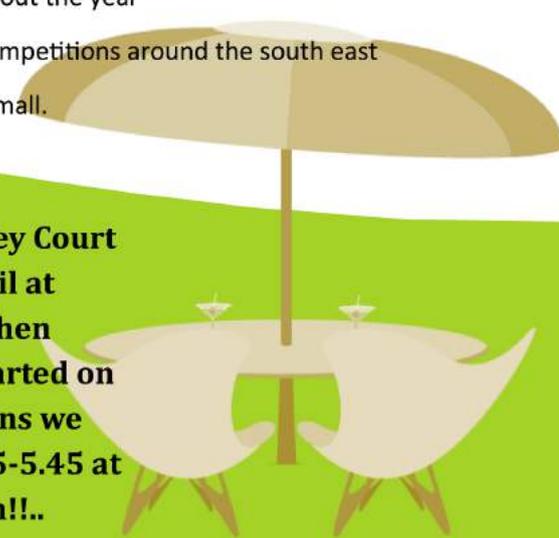
Is young farmers for you?

Young farmers is designed to have something for everyone whether you're an animal lover, an artist, sporty or just enjoy trying something new. It is not just a place to learn about farming, but a chance to also meet new people and try new things.

Join the largest youth organization in England and Wales for a whole new range of opportunities in both farming and other activities, such as:

- Sports and competitions days (incl. Football, rounders, arts and crafts, public speaking, dance and much more).
- Training and information days (animal husbandry, fencing and estate maintenance, livestock stock judging)
- Social events such as junior balls and parties held throughout the year
- The chance to show a variety of livestock at shows and competitions around the south east
- Get the chance to care and look after animals great and small.

Please register your interest by contacting Abbey Court School by telephone: 01634 338220 or by E-mail at office@abbeycourt.medway.sch.uk. You could then come along to one of our YFC sessions which started on 15th January, and find out more about what plans we have. Sessions are every other Wednesday 4.15-5.45 at our Cliffe road site. Come along and join the fun!!..



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Congratulations to Sixth Form Students

Nov 2019 GCSE Maths and English Examination Results

In November 2019, our students from the re-sit group sat the GCSE Maths examination. Paul-Ange Bayot got the highest grade in the Foundation Paper (Grade 5). 4 students (26.7 %) of the 15 students who received their results obtained at least a grade 4.

Following a very successful English GCSE retake, the English department would like to congratulate the eleven students (41%) who achieved a grade 4 or higher in their English language papers. This is a true testament to their drive, tenacity and positive attitude towards their studies.



Well done!

Mrs E Bailey

Medway PSG ADHD 2020

For parents of children with ADHD
& linked issues
Monday. Cost £1

Monday Afternoon & Evening

12:30pm & 7pm

13th Jan: Prince's Trust & Early Help

3rd Feb: 'Get Together'

2nd March: Youth Workers in Medway

Subject to school holidays

Share a coffee with people who listen

Chatham Grammar School for Girls, Rainham Rd. Gillingham ME5 7EH

Tel: Lesley Lucock: 01634 851312 email:lesley.lucock@btopenworld.com

www.medwaypsgadhd.wixsite.com/adhd

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Year 7 Parent/Carers Workshops January 2020

Throughout January we have been offering workshops to parents and carers so that we can share a greater insight in to the learning at the school. Some workshops have been about our general approach to teaching and learning, while others have shared information about specific topics such as curriculum subjects or year group learning.

The aim of the workshops is to help parents and carers understand the rationale for our approach to learning, while also offering practical advice about ways to support their child at home.

We still have workshops on the topics of Safeguarding against Child Criminal Exploitation, Catholic Social Teaching and the Importance of Citizenship in Today's Society.

If you would like to attend, please visit our school website where you can book a place or alternatively, contact lower school reception to book your place.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and carers who have attended to date. As this is a programme that we will continue to develop, we will provide more information in future newsletters.

Mrs L Bennett

Year 7 Parent/Carer Workshops Programme 2020

To book your place, please go to our school website (All workshops will take place on our Lower Site Maidstone Road)

Workshop	Date /Time	Staff	Workshop content
Assessment and Data Reporting What does it all mean?	Friday 17th January 9.10-9.30am	Miss Walker	This workshop will take you through your child's assessment and data reporting processes
What happens in St John Fisher Lessons?	Friday 17th January 9.35-9.55am	Mr Jordan	This workshop will help parents understand what happens in a normal lesson, how students are supported by assessment and feedback, and how parents can support learning at home
Out of school learning and Show my Homework	Friday 24th January 9.10- 9.30am	Mr Roberts Mr Willsher	This workshop examines how parents and carers can help their child's learning at home, the school's expectations around homework, and how to maximise your child's potential as a result
Literacy and Accelerated Reading	Friday 24th January 9.35- 9.55am	Miss Michaelis	Find out how you can help your child develop their reading and writing skills, which will enable them to improve their progress across all subjects. The workshop also includes strategies to support our Accelerated Reader programme at home
Numeracy	Friday 31st January 9.10-9.30am	Mrs Ali	Find out how you can help your child develop their numeracy skills, and how you can support their learning at home
Online Safety	Friday 31st January 9.35- 9.55am	Mrs Baxter	This workshop is for all parents and carers who would like to find out more about children's online lives, internet safety, the key risks and how to support your children to stay safe online
Safeguarding against Child Criminal Exploitation	Friday 7th February 9.10-9.30am	Miss Chapman	This workshop will provide information on identifying key indicators of involvement in criminal activity specifically County Lines
Catholic Social Teaching	Friday 7th February 9.35- 9.55am	Miss Turner	This workshop will enable parents and carers to learn about Catholic Social Teaching which underpins the Catholic Ethos of the school
Citizenship	Friday 14th February 9.10-9.30am	Mr Thompson	This workshop will take you through the programme of learning and explain why citizenship education is becoming increasingly important

Where there are workshop Power Point slides, these will be uploaded to the 'Parent Workshop' area of the school website following the session.

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Some comments from survey completed by parents attending Year 7 Workshops

1) Have you found the workshops useful?

100 % of parents said yes

Understanding how things are done in the school

Practical information about how the school works

Explanation and details of how school and education works. I have got a better idea now

Great presentations

2) What was the best bit about the workshops?

Getting a great understanding of how school works with their expectation will help

This will help me to know the area she needs help and how the homework is being assessed

Know who to talk to, and where they are struggling

The explanation and clarification of how assessment is done

3) How will the workshops help you support your child?

I will attend all of them, the subject is not important as much as the contact with the school

Will come in for the next one

SENCO and special needs support at St John Fisher

Will be coming to all to find out

4) Are there any other workshops you would like information on?

Really great idea! A good way to give parents an insight in to the workings of my child's school

The workshops were very impactful. If the time could be changed to after work it would be great

Thank you for engaging with us parents

Good information presented

5) Any other comments?

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PTA NEWS



On January 23rd we hosted our first Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Some of our Year 12 students were on hand to welcome guests and provide some refreshments and wellbeing activities as part of their Hospitality course and they did a great job!



The aim of the AGM was to outline why we believe parental engagement through PTA is beneficial for our students, families, whole school and local community. We also wanted to highlight the different ways that friends of SJF can be more involved with the school without having to commit a lot of time or resources.

Letters were sent out prior to the meeting inviting people to nominate themselves or another for specific committee roles. On the evening it was agreed that Mrs Douglas would remain chair of the PTA and Mr Ajay would take on the role of secretary. This will now enable us to sign a formal constitution and open a PTA bank account to enable easier management and access to the money raised through PTA activities.

We would still like to appoint a Treasurer to the committee. If you are interested in this role and would like further information, please email Mrs Douglas j.douglas@stjohnfisher.school

As always, we enjoyed having the opportunity to have a chat with parents and carers over a hot drink and cake. We are looking forward to working together and would like to take this opportunity, once again, to thank you for your continued support. Everyone is welcome to come along at any time to the meetings, or to get in touch using any of the methods below:

@St_JohnFisher

@StJohnFisherMedway

Next meeting dates:
27th February 20 - 6-7pm upper site
19th March 20 - 6-7pm upper site

Mrs J Douglas



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Star of the Month

Congratulations to the following students who received the highest number of positive points this month:



1st Place

Cristyan De Azevedo Martins Year 10

192 points



2nd Place

Sara-Nikol Erolova Year 8

153 points



3rd Place

Comfort Olowosile Year 8

142 points

4th Place Tasfia Amir Year 8

5th Place Tilly Wade Year 7

6th Place Penny Machin Year 7

7th Place Tyler Hewson Year 7

8th Place Olamide Soyinka Year 8

9th Place Kamyia Lewis Year 7

and Jacob Pearson Year 10

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**Term Dates for Academic Year 2019 – 2020**

	START	TO	FINISH
TERM 1	Monday 2 nd September 2019	to	Friday 18 th October 2019
Autumn Break	Monday 21st October 2019	to	Friday 25th October 2019
TERM 2	Monday 28 th October 2019	to	Friday 20 th December 2019
Christmas Break	Monday 23rd December 2019	to	Friday 3rd January 2020
TERM 3	Monday 6 th January 2020	to	Friday 14 th February 2020
February Break	Monday 17th February 2020	to	Friday 21st February 2020
TERM 4	Monday 24 th February 2020	to	Friday 3 rd April 2020
Easter Break	Monday 6th April 2020	to	Friday 17th April 2020
Good Friday – Bank Holiday	10 th April 2020		
Easter Monday – Bank Holiday	13 th April 2020		
TERM 5	Monday 20 th April 2020	to	Friday 22 nd May 2020
Bank Holiday	Friday 8 th May 2020		
May Break	Monday 25th May 2020	to	Friday 29th May 2020
TERM 6	Monday 1 st June 2020	to	Tuesday 21 st July 2020

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS/SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

TERM 1	Monday 2 nd September 2019 – CPD in school Open Day - Saturday 12 th October 2019 – In school School closed to Teachers - Friday 18 th October 2019 in lieu of open day
TERM 2	Friday 20 th December 2019 - School Closed
TERM 6	Friday 17 th July 2020 - School Closed
TERM 6	Monday 20 th July 2020 - School Closed
Term 6	Tuesday 21 st July 2020 - 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 will achieve their highest aspirations.'