



**"Deo Reddite Dei"**

"Give back to God what belongs to God"

Parentmail 19.03.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your amazing hard work and efforts to help your children return to school. I am very pleased that the testing has gone so well. Your children have been amazing and have coped so well with the tests, the mask wearing and the changes we have had to put in place. I am very grateful for the dedicated team of staff and helpers who have supported and encouraged students to have their tests. Staff have been very pleased to welcome students back - the hum of learning and happy students are evident again in our buildings. We are in this together and we will get through this as a strong and caring community. I will continue to communicate each week by Parentmail and please also check our website for more details.

God Bless.

Mrs Lennon

## **Covid Testing: Lateral Flow Testing at Home**

We are approaching the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> lateral flow test for Covid-19 in school. We are incredibly proud of the way our whole community has come together to support this testing as part of a return to school. I would like to thank all the staff involved in the testing process, and all our students whose positive attitude made the process run so smoothly. We will be issuing the students with self-test at home and we will soon be providing all students with 2 boxes of home test kits.

Each box contains the items for 3 home tests and an instruction booklet. The following NHS video guidance is also useful in explaining how to conduct the test at home –

<https://youtu.be/S9XR8RZxKNo>.

It is advised that a test is conducted twice a week. We suggest the test is taken every Sunday and Wednesday evening. You are required to report the result of home lateral tests using the Covid-19 test result website (<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>), regardless if the test result is positive, negative or void.

As a school, we are also asked to track this information, so we ask that you please complete the following form to log your child's result – <https://stjohnfisher.school/wp-content/Covid-Result-Login/>. This is so that we can keep a record and advise you of the next steps if needed. Your child will need to use their normal school 'log-in' to access the site and their normal school password.

These lateral flow tests are for students with no symptoms only. If your child develops symptoms at any time, such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste, they must immediately self-isolate, and you will need to book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirustest>.

**If your child's result from a lateral flow test or a PCR test is positive, please ensure you contact the school's attendance officer immediately.**

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms.

**MRS D. LENNON**  
HEADTEACHER

**Upper Site** Ordnance Street,  
Chatham, Kent, ME4 6SG

**Lower Site** 79 Maidstone Road,  
Chatham, Kent, ME4 6DP

**t** 01634 543123  
**e** [headteacher@stjohnfisher.school](mailto:headteacher@stjohnfisher.school)  
**w** [www.stjohnfisher.school](http://www.stjohnfisher.school)

**f** @StJohnFisherMedway

**tw** @St\_JohnFisher



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By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

## **Year 10 Back to Business Day 26th March 2021**

We are extremely excited about the Back to Business day which is now only a week away. You should have received a parent mail letter including more details about the event. If you have not please email C Thompson who will be able to assist. Please be reminded the day will be a virtual event with pupils staying at home to access all the sessions and activities. If you have any questions, please forward them onto C Thompson ([c.thompson@st.johnfisher.school](mailto:c.thompson@st.johnfisher.school)) and S Bowers ([s.bowers@stjohnfisher.school](mailto:s.bowers@stjohnfisher.school)).

## **Year 9 Virtual Parents' Consultation Evening – Wednesday 24th March 4-7pm**

The Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening will take place on Wednesday 24th March. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this will be a virtual event, with parents and carers meeting teachers via an online platform rather than coming into school.

The Parents' Consultation evening booking is live, and parents are encouraged to book their appointment with subject teachers from the 12th of March. This is an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress and attainment with subject teachers who will be available between 4-7pm. We look forward to seeing you at the Year 9 Virtual Parents' Consultation Evening.

Further information on how the Parents' Consultation Evening will run will follow in a separate letter.

## **Ofqual Announcements**

As we explained in last week's ParentMail, Ofqual (the governing body responsible for qualifications in the UK) has announced the process for deriving GCSE, A Level and vocational grades. You can read the full outlines here:

- GCSE and A Level: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/965005/6747-1\\_decisions\\_-\\_GQ\\_consultation\\_on\\_awarding\\_grades\\_in\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/965005/6747-1_decisions_-_GQ_consultation_on_awarding_grades_in_2021.pdf)
- Vocational qualifications: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/964973/6748-1\\_-\\_Decisions\\_-\\_VTQ\\_Consultation\\_on\\_awarding\\_grades\\_in\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964973/6748-1_-_Decisions_-_VTQ_Consultation_on_awarding_grades_in_2021.pdf)
- Functional skills: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/awarding-of-functional-skills-in-2021>

It is clear from reading the documents that teachers are being asked to submit a 'current' grade representing what students can do at the point of data submission, rather than a 'predicted' grade

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which considers what might have happened without the pandemic. It is, therefore, very important that students return to class next week, complete the work set and continue with coursework assignments if they have them; this work will contribute to their final result.

We will write to parents in more detail when the exam boards have published their requirements in response to the Ofqual consultation. For now, Mrs. Bailey and Miss Walker have filmed an assembly for students in which we explain the broad outline of what is happening for students. You can find this on our website at 12pm tomorrow.

## **Year 8 Online Options Evening – 31<sup>st</sup> March**

Please note that our online Options evening has been postponed from Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March to Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March.

The evening will enable you to listen to staff talking about the different option choices on offer which will help your child to make informed choices when selecting their options, followed by how to navigate the process of selecting options.

Live Teams Option Choices Assemblies have begun. (please see the last parent mail for the timetable of subjects). Assemblies will run through to 30<sup>th</sup> of March and will be held each weekday starting at 8.35am until 8.55am. These Options Assemblies will ensure your child has had detailed information about each of the subjects they are considering.

Also, Year 8 parents and carers should have been emailed the Options booklet, over the next few weeks it is important that you look at the Options booklet with your child and discuss the choices that they might want to make. A copy of the Options booklet can also be found online at <https://stjohnfisher.school/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/KS4-Curriculum-Booklet-2018-to-2019-V418-jan-19.pdf>.

Our Options Evening will go live on 31<sup>st</sup> March 6pm, whereby you will receive detailed information about the Options process, further information about the different subject option choices, how to log on to the system and making Options choices via Parent Mail.

Our Online Options Selection Window will launch on 1<sup>st</sup> April at 10am. Parents and carers will have until the 23<sup>rd</sup> April to make Options choices when the window will close at 3.05pm. After this, any parent or carer who has not made Options choices will be contacted by the school to make their selections.

Please note: It is our hope that we can support all students' selections, however, each course has a maximum and minimum number of student allocation. When options are over-selected, students will be allocated one of their reserve choices or an alternative option. Similarly, if choices are under

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selected, these options will not run and again students will be allocated a reserve choice or an alternative option.

Making the transition into Key Stage 4 and ensuring that your child has the best start to their GCSEs is extremely important to us, so I do hope that you will take the time to attend this event and listen to as many subjects as possible with your child. It is important to realise that the best grades possible will increase career options in the future.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact Upper Site Reception and ask to speak to Mrs. Bennett, or email [l.bennett@stjohnfisher.school](mailto:l.bennett@stjohnfisher.school)

### **Chaplaincy update**

The fourth of our weekly Lenten reflections is available to view. This week we hear from Fr. Tom McElhone on the theme of discrimination and the story of The Samaritan woman at the well. Please view these services through Microsoft Teams in the Whole School Chaplaincy group, on your child's account.

Our school Lent challenge 'March, a month of kindness' continues, students are tasked with completing daily acts of kindness and sharing these with their form groups.

This week we have celebrated the feasts of SS. Patrick and Joseph. You can learn more about the lives of these saints here:

<https://youtu.be/6QhyWUizr24>

[https://youtu.be/E8FAcs6lh\\_A](https://youtu.be/E8FAcs6lh_A)

### **A message from South Eastern**

Southeastern have put together a video, specifically aimed at older children and teenagers who will be returning to the railway next week.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l4qj2ldk3XE>

It is 1-minute long and highlights the guidance, step-by-step through a typical journey to school/college. They would very much appreciate it if you could share this with your child.

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