



Head Teacher's Message

Dear Reader,

Welcome to our Spring 2023 newsletter, the first that comes to you from our new single-site build on City Way. As I write, the last of the packing crates are being tidied away, students are going about their daily business of learning in classes, and we are making the final preparations for our opening ceremony on 17th March 2023.

Words cannot quite describe the joy that I feel at finally being in the new build. It is wonderful to know that staff and students finally have the world-class facilities that they deserve, and even better that we have finally been united into one physical community.

I look forward to inviting parents and carers in to see the build as the school calendar progresses. Our next in-school event will be Year 8 Options evening later this term. We have also placed a video online so that everyone can enjoy a virtual tour.

School life progresses apace. Earlier this month, we sent welcome letters to all Year 6 pupils who have been offered a place at SJF this September. I am delighted to welcome them and their families to our school community, and equally delighted that we expect to be oversubscribed, with a waiting list in every year group, in September 2023.

I wish you and your family a joyful Spring.

God Bless,
Mrs. Lennon



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



Move to City Way

We are delighted to report that we have finally moved into our wonderful new buildings on City Way!

Prior to February half-term, students completed a week of home learning to allow SJF staff the time to pack up Ordnance Street and Maidstone Road in preparation for the move. Our last day of teaching onsite offered one of the loveliest sunsets we've ever seen- a proper way to say goodbye.

Thanks to all the staff who worked so hard at packing the following week, all preparations were made in time for the removals company, Doree Bonner, to move the boxes onto City Way. Doree Bonner commented that we were among the most efficient schools they've ever worked with!

Staff returned on Monday 20th February, unpacking alongside running timed induction sessions for all students. These sessions offered students the opportunity to tour the building and see some of the fantastic new facilities before returning for normal lessons the next day.

We have now been in the building for two weeks, and everyone has found their way around. Students are enjoying the new school, particularly the multi-use games area and astroturf football pitch, both of which are available for use every lunchtime.



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.'



@st_johnfisher



@StJohnFisherMedway

www.stjohnfisher.school

We would like to thank everyone who has helped us in finally being able to move to City Way- from the staff who worked so hard during the packing and unpacking process, to the families who supported their children's home learning during that time. Special thanks also goes to the Department for Education, who funded the build, Wates, the Diocese, and Medway local authority for bringing it to life, and the many people who helped and advised us along the way. There are too many of you to name here individually, but you have our gratitude forever.



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.'

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



Duke of Edinburgh Update

We are delighted to report that this year's Duke of Edinburgh season has begun!

This year's season sees our largest ever group of Silver and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh participants hard at work volunteering in the community, learning new skills and taking up new sports! It is especially impressive that students have continued their work regardless of the disruption caused by the move to City Way.

Our Silver Duke of Edinburgh students are beginning the expedition season on the 1st April with a three-day practice exploring the Cobham estates. Starting at Trosely County Park, they'll be saying their goodbyes to staff and families before walking north to camp at Hopehill before walking another stretch to stay at the stately Cobham Manor.

Four weeks after that on 29th April, our teams get a real test of their skills with an assessed three-day long hike through Ashdown Forest, one of the most beautiful places on the planet at this time of year. Students will see dozens of cute baby farm and wild animals, soft grass and lazy streams on their journey.

Our Bronzes finish up the year with a practice on 20th May and an Assessed expedition on the 23rd of June. Year 9 adventurers may not have had much experience outdoors or know all the basics yet, but they soon will! Out on the North Downs, approximately six miles south of Sittingbourne, they will get a real taste of the garden of England.

If your child is one of those taking part this year, you must be as excited as the rest of the team are. In order to make sure that students are appropriately prepared for their trips, all Silvers will begin their expedition training on the 9th March in room 2.43, while Bronzes will need to attend similar training from 4th April onwards in the same place. More information via letter and email is to follow.

We are looking forward to watching our students develop their resilience and skills in this year's expeditions!

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.'

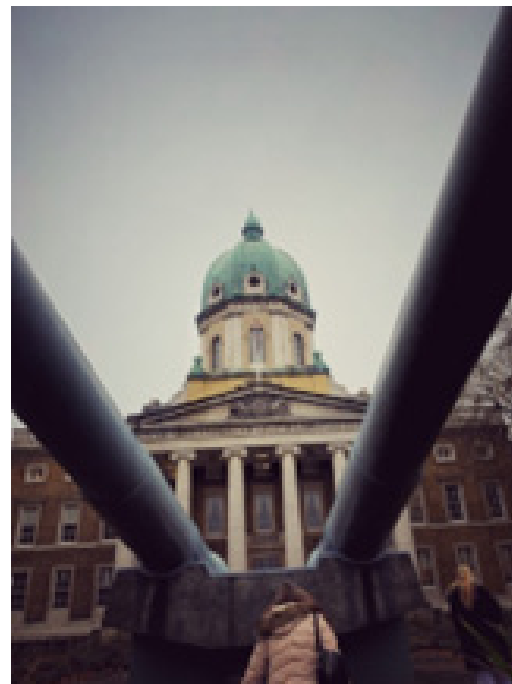


Visit to Imperial War Museum

The following account is written by Chelsea, a student who studies English Literature A Level in Year 12.

Earlier this year, I and the other A-Level English Literature students visited the Imperial War Museum in London as part of our study of World War One Literature. We viewed several interactive sections of the WW1 exhibition, including getting to walk through an immersive trench experience, and spotting aircraft overhead. We also visited galleries containing numerous uniforms, letters from home written to soldiers fighting abroad, and Great War propaganda posters. All of these objects will help us with the understanding of context that we are required to show in our essays!

Overall, the day was a spectacular success as many of us believed it was eye opening and worth a visit in the future. One described it as “extraordinary and educational, as well as a nice day out”.



Sporting Achievements

Congratulations to Mia, Year 8, who recently represented Kent at Regional Finals of the National Sportshall Athletics competition. Mia achieved a Gold medal in the standing triple jump event, winning with a massive jump of 6m 81cm. This was a new Personal Best for Mia, and places her first in the South East for this event. Well done, Mia!

Boxing and Basketball Clubs

We are delighted to announce that we have partnered with Olympia Boxing to deliver boxing training for Years 7-13 every Wednesday afternoon in the gym from 2-3pm. Additionally, we are working with National League coaches from the Kent Crusaders to deliver basketball provision from 3pm-6pm every Friday! For more details, see the PE department.

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.’



Spring RE Update

In January, Year 7 studied the seven Catholic sacraments with a focus on baptism, and reconciliation. They are now learning about Lent and how it is practiced by Catholics. They have discussed what tempts them and why it is important to resist temptation. They will look at the important events that take place during Holy Week; developing their skills of empathy and evaluation when they study Jesus' Last Supper.

Year 8 have learnt about the importance of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). They have studied 7 core themes of CST which include: human dignity, option for the poor and care for the environment. Students have learnt that although these are called Catholic Social Teachings, the teachings apply to everyone regardless of belief. They had some engaging debates about who is responsible for ending social injustices and how it can be accomplished.

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. They have also studied Catholic social teaching but have focused on the reasons why it is important for Catholics to follow it.

Year 10s are very close to finishing the Judaism component (25% of the GCSE course). They have been studying topics that include the Jewish understanding of God and the Messiah. They have had the opportunity to debate whether the covenant of Abraham is more important than the covenant of Moses.

By the time that this newsletter is published, Year 11 will have sat their last PPE, and are almost finished the GCSE course. Students are encouraged to attend intervention on Tuesday 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.

Mission Statement:

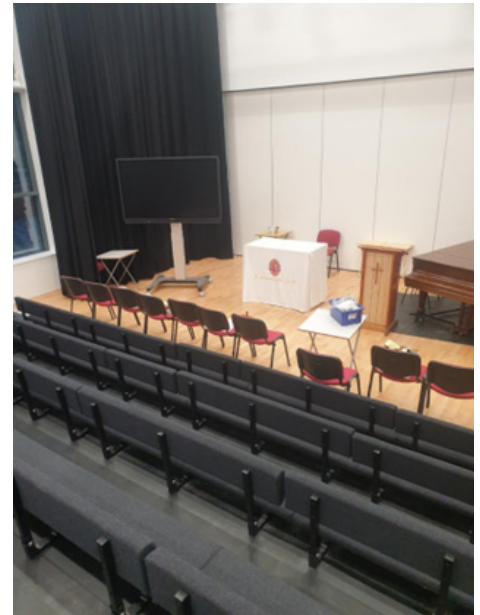
'St. John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School inspires students, spiritually and educationally forming them through Faith so that they can achieve their aspirations and contribute to their community.'



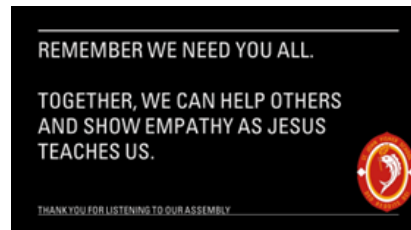
Chaplaincy Update

We had a fantastic start to the new term in Chaplaincy with the celebration of Mass on Ash Wednesday, marking the start of the Liturgical Season of Lent. Father Peter from St. Michael's celebrated the Mass for us. It was celebrated in our new Hall space, then live-streamed across the whole school.

All students who wished to, were able to receive ashes and Holy Communion during the Mass. Father Peter spoke in his homily of the positive actions we can undertake during Lent. Traditionally during Lent, Christians focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We are also pleased to be able to hold Morning Masses for staff and students weekly during Lent. We are very grateful to the local clergy who enabled this.



Year 8 have presented assemblies on the theme of empathy and launched our Lenten Charity Appeals. This year we will be supporting CAFOD World Gifts, the Syria/Turkey Earthquake Appeal and My Shining Star. Events will include a charity football tournament, tag day and Easter egg raffles. I look forward to updating you on these events in our next newsletter.



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.'



Medway Light Nights Parade

The Art and Design department was extremely fortunate to have been asked to participate in the Medway Lights Parade this year. Year 7 students and their families helped to 'Light up' Chatham town Centre and celebrate the 'We love Chatham' theme. It was estimated that 54,000 people visited Chatham Centre on the two nights 10th and 11th February, so this was an amazing opportunity for everyone involved!

Students attended workshops alongside artists and practitioners which allowed them to build their artistic knowledge and develop new skills. By the end of the workshops, students had created three-dimensional lanterns using materials such as wicker and tissue paper. They had to think strategically about attaching areas together and solving issues when the makes did not go according to plan.

Both visiting artists and tutors were extremely impressed with the level of skill displayed in the final outcomes. If you would like to get a flavour of the event, please watch this short film created by Cohesion Plus and Ideas Test about the lantern parade available online at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGybXAFoXZ8&feature=youtu.be>



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.'



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.'

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



Attendance Update

Regular school attendance is crucial for proving your child with the best possible beginning in life. Please aim at your child attending 100% of the time.

Children who stay out of school often do fall behind with their work and do less well in their GCSE/A Level exams. Good attendance also enriches your child's CV as it shows future employers that a young person is reliable. It is also the case that children who attend school regularly are at less risk of getting involved in antisocial behaviour or crime.

It is also crucial that your child arrives at school on time so that they are ready to start the school day. Senior leaders and the pastoral team are on the gate every day ready to welcome your child to school; we also offer breakfast from 8am so students can arrive early if that is helpful. Even arriving shortly after the bell every day can have a huge impact, as the graph below shows:



SJF rewards good attendance and punctuality with praise points and prize draws. As well as this, we regularly give out rewards to the form and year group with the best attendance. Students whose attendance does not meet expected standards will be invited to discuss reasons for this with their Pastoral Care Leader. If their attendance does not improve, their parent or carer will be asked to provide medical evidence for any absences before attending a Serious Attendance Concerns meeting.

Any child who is late to school will have a conversation with a member of staff about the reasons for this and the importance of maintaining good attendance and punctuality. However, if your child is late to school without a good reason, they will receive a ten-minute detention after school the same day. You will be notified by the pastoral team if your child has a detention. If your child fails to attend this detention, they will receive a longer detention the next day or during the week. Parents and carers will be notified if this is the case. Repeated late arrivals after 9am or absences can lead to the parent or carer receiving a penalty charge notice or being referred to court.

If you have any queries about attendance, please email Mr. Issaka, Lead Practitioner for Attendance, at s.issaka@stjohnfisher.school.

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.'



MedwayGo Easter Programme Monday 3rd – Thursday 6th April

If your child is aged between five and 16 years old and receives benefits-related free school meals, they are eligible to attend some of the exciting activities and events running over the Easter holidays across Medway.

MedwayGo is working with Medway Sport, Street Games, Icon Theatre, Street Soccer Foundation, Wham! Theatre School, Fuzion Active, Sendtivate and Hoo Sports as well as lots of other local groups to offer free sessions, events and activities for you to join. Because all children are different, each club will offer different fun activities. These include performing arts, music, sports, swimming, learning about animals and other exciting opportunities for children to try new things.

Register Now! Bookings open from Monday 6 th March 2023! If you are eligible for free-school meals, visit the website <https://go.medway.gov.uk> to register yourself and your child and you can book on to the huge range of activities available from Monday 6th March 2023.

Please note, parents will be required to enter their national insurance number when booking. This is so we can check your child is eligible to attend the activities free of charge. If your child is not eligible for free school meals, don't worry – there will be information on other provision that is accessible.

If you have any enquiries about the MedwayGo Easter programme, please email go@medway.gov.uk and we will be happy to help. We look forward to seeing you in our activities from Monday 3rd April 2023!

Kind regards, MedwayGo - Holiday Activities and Food Programme, Medway Council



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.'



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 24th October 2022	to	Friday 28th October 2022
TERM 2	Monday 31 st October 2022	to	Friday 16 th December 2022
Christmas Break	Monday 19th December 2022	to	Friday 30th December 2022
TERM 3	Tuesday 3 rd January 2023	to	Friday 10 th February 2023
February Break	Monday 13th February 2023	to	Friday 17th February 2023
TERM 4	Monday 20 th February 2023	to	Friday 31 st March 2023
Easter Break	Monday 3rd April 2023	to	Friday 14th April 2023
Good Friday – Bank Holiday	7th April 2023		
Easter Monday – Bank Holiday	10th April 2023		
TERM 5	Monday 17 th April 2023	to	Friday 26 th May 2023
Bank Holidays	Monday 1st May 2023 and May 8 2023		
May Break	Monday 29th May 2023	to	Friday 2nd June 2023
TERM 6	Monday 5 th June 2023	to	Wednesday 19 th July 2023
STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS/SCHOOL ACTIVITIES			
TERM 1	Thursday 1st September 2022 – CPD in school		

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.’