



St. John Fisher
CATHOLIC COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS

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Welcome to St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School

This is an exciting time for all Year 6 students and your families. This prospectus aims to give you an insight into our school so that you can decide whether it is right for your secondary education.

Our Vision: what we will always strive to achieve

Nothing in this universe moves faster than light. It goes in straight lines, moving unstopably into the future, dazzling and bright.

SJF students are rays of light – they have limitless possibilities in front of them and represent infinite intensities of untapped potential. They all have different origins, and sometimes their light has come through dark places to reach us.

As a school, we want to be the prism refracting their light. This work is led by our enthusiastic staff, the lenses focusing our students' potential. Our staff have an overriding belief that all students' talents can shine with support, and they give their very best to our students.

Collectively, we are a galaxy of stars, each one's light amplifying the others. The light of our students will not only provide illumination for themselves; it will brighten our community for the benefit of others.

Students will change on their journey through our school, using their unique talents to explode out into a million different colours, representing a million different possibilities, moving out of the shining prism of our school, into the possibilities of their own glittering futures.

Our Mission: how we work towards achieving our vision

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

What This Means for You

SJF was established to educate the Catholic children of Medway, but we are a Catholic school that includes, inspires and involves everybody: we welcome students of all faiths and students of no faith and we believe in the power of the three C's: Community, Character and Curriculum.

Being a Catholic school, we are committed to educating the whole person, learning through faith so that students become their best selves, able to serve God or their **community** to their fullest once they leave us.

We are a proudly comprehensive school, providing the platform for students to explore their true potential. Our broad and balanced **curriculum** enables students to experience a wide range of subjects in Key Stage 3. This ensures that they can make appropriate choices for Key Stage 4, which we start in Year 10 to prepare our students fully for their GCSE examinations. Our sixth form creates opportunities for students to progress to university, further education, or take up high-quality apprenticeships. A grammar stream stretches our most able pupils.

Our Catholic ethos means that development of students' **character** is just as important to us as academic results. We have leadership roles for students of all ages and the older students act as mentors and inspiration for the Year 7 cohort, ensuring that every primary school student has a well-supported transition into secondary school. The best ambassadors for our school are our wonderful students and staff.

St John Fisher has transformed in the past few years, achieving a 'Good' Ofsted rating in 2019 and an 'Outstanding' Denominational Inspection rating in 2021. We are a popular, over-subscribed school with waiting lists for places in all year groups, and our new single-site school on City Way, which opened in Spring 2023, has only boosted that demand.

Welcome to St. John Fisher; we hope that we are the right school for you.

MRS D. LENNON



MRS D. LENNON
Headteacher

“The Catholic Life of the school is outstanding. The high level of inclusion ensures that no pupil is forgotten. Pupils of all abilities and backgrounds benefit from the care and support from staff in this safe, spiritual learning environment.”

Denominational Inspection 2021



“Pupils respond enthusiastically when challenged to think or share a thought.”

Denominational Inspection 2021

Academic Excellence

At St John Fisher School we are committed to building academic excellence. We ensure our students have the confidence to develop their own ideas and to challenge the ideas of the greatest minds in the world.

We also develop our students to have respect for all types of learning and to recognise that human beings are unique, therefore we can all learn from each other.

We seek to develop students who are engaged in their learning and have the ability to reflect on what they have learnt.

Students and staff know that in order to excel you have to continually develop. Everyone needs to act on the feedback given in order to make that improvement happen.

Our students live in an ever-changing world. We ensure all our students develop the skills and abilities to enable them to succeed. This is underpinned by academic knowledge which enables students to access the myriad of opportunities that will present themselves throughout their lives.

Grammar Stream

St. John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School's Grammar Stream offers our top ability students the opportunity to receive a grammar school curriculum in a mixed-gender, comprehensive faith school setting.

Students in the grammar stream will be set for all their classes in Years 7, 8 and 9, and for all subjects except for two options at GCSE level, in order to prepare them for studying challenging academic qualifications at GCSE level. Throughout their seven years at SJF, they will be offered a wide-ranging tailored programme of extracurricular activities and careers events to focus their aspirations and develop their talents. Our Sixth Form Oxbridge programme provides bespoke support to our very best students, helping them to achieve their full potential.

Please visit <https://stjohnfisher.school/grammar-stream/> for more information.

“Pupils behave well in lessons and around the school. They have positive attitudes to their lessons and are keen to learn.”

Ofsted 2019

“Pupils develop their knowledge, skills and understanding well across subjects.”

Ofsted 2019



“The extra-curricular programme is wide ranging. Pupils appreciate the varied activities on offer.”

Ofsted 2019



Curriculum - Key Stage 3

Delivered in Years 7, 8 and 9

We build on the excellent work of primary schools, setting all students in ability groups for Mathematics and English only. Outside the grammar stream, our broad and balanced curriculum is delivered in mixed ability tutor groups for all other subjects. All subjects are taught by specialist teachers and we ensure that the curriculum is delivered in an interesting and academically challenging way.

Homework is set every night via Microsoft Teams which enables parents, students and staff to have a record of the work set and when it is due by. This ensures that students are working at the correct high standard from the moment they join the school. Homework support is available every day after school.

The curriculum we teach at Key Stage 3 includes Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, PSHRE, French, Latin, Design Technology, Art, Drama, Music, Computing and Physical Education. In addition, all students have Citizenship lessons as we believe that learning about ourselves and others helps us to be positive members of society by understanding the rights we have and the responsibilities we owe to others.

We have regular assessments where students are tested on what they have learnt and publish data to parents, carers and students twice each year. This is to ensure that students of all abilities are working to their potential. We organise extra support where we think students need it in order to ensure that they catch up with their peers.

Extracurricular Activities

There are a wide variety of extracurricular activities including sports, creative and performing arts to cater for a range of interests. Creative students enjoy Design Technology club; some students find daily homework club, staffed by our teaching assistants, to be very helpful. Sports clubs rotate throughout the year and several offer students the chance to represent the school in one of our teams. Peripatetic music teachers offer students the chance to build their musical skills in group or individual lessons, while further up the school, a thriving Duke of Edinburgh programme enables students from Year 9 upwards to work through their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

In addition to these opportunities, a programme of one-off trips and activities offers students the chance to build their

cultural capital. Students will explore local cultural opportunities, such as by visiting Chatham Dockyard or seeing a performance at the Brook Theatre. However, other trips, such as an annual visit to visit the World War One trenches in Belgium, offer students the chance to enjoy the world beyond their own area.

We encourage each student to try a variety of activities to ensure that they find at least one which builds on their unique talents.

“The curriculum is broad and balanced.”

Ofsted 2019

“Teachers use assessments to identify and target pupils who need support or extra challenge.”

Denominational Inspection 2021



“Teachers have secure subject knowledge. They provide interesting activities that enthuse pupils.”

Ofsted 2019



Curriculum - Key Stages 4 and 5

Delivered in Years 10 – 13

KEY STAGE 4 (Years 10 and 11):

We offer a two-year Key Stage 4 as we believe that it best prepares students for their GCSE examinations at the end of Year 11 while giving them a broad curriculum experience lower down the school.

The City Way site includes a plethora of specialist teaching spaces, such as laboratories, Art rooms with an amazing view of the Medway River and Design Technology classrooms fitted out with the latest equipment. Our chapel, complete with stained glass windows, opens out onto the Drama studio and Hall to create an amazing space for performances and liturgical events.

Students pick two different options at the end of Year 9. These are the subjects that they will study alongside their core curriculum at Key Stage 4. The subjects offered are a wide variety of traditional academic subjects as well as vocational and applied courses.

In addition to the two option subjects mentioned above, all students study Religious Education, English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Double

Science (including triple sciences for the more able: Biology, Chemistry and Physics), Citizenship and Physical Education. Regular assessments, including formal examinations, take place so that we can ensure that all students are on track to achieve their target grades. These targets are set according to the ability that the student has shown at primary school.

This ensures that no time is wasted on the transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 and students continue to work to the high standards we expect.

KEY STAGE 5 (Years 12 and 13):

In addition to our varied extracurricular programme, we offer a wide variety of academic and vocational subjects to ensure that there are ample opportunities for students of all abilities.

Full details about our Sixth Form, including the admissions arrangements, can be accessed in our separate prospectus. Please ask if you require a copy.

“The curriculum is broad and balanced.”

Ofsted 2019

“The headteacher’s uncompromising vision of a high-quality education for all pupils has led to improvements in the quality of education.”

Ofsted 2019



“Pupils are well cared for. Pastoral staff ensure that vulnerable pupils receive help when they need it.”

Ofsted 2019

Our Child, Your Child

The school has well-established, clear systems of pastoral and spiritual support designed to encourage positive attitudes to learning and life. School structures and systems encourage all students to fulfil their potential and promote positive attitudes to learning. Students’ confidence is developed through student voice opportunities and student leadership programmes, within a challenging and supportive environment.

Young people need to feel safe and secure in order to thrive both academically and socially. Underpinning the success of pupils’ academic and personal development in the school are systems of spiritual formation and pastoral care.

Our school Chaplain is a source of support for all students in school as needed. In addition, we have a House System in each year group consisting of six houses, led by a Head of Year who is also a teacher. Students are organised into mixed tutor groups, with a tutor who will nurture their group for the whole of the academic year. The tutor prepares the students for their daily learning and liaises with parents and carers.

We encourage our students to play a positive role in contributing to the life of the school and the wider community. For example, there are many opportunities for pupils to engage with fundraising for local, national and international charities. An extensive student leadership programme offers the chance for students of all ages to take a range of leadership roles, from acting as a prefect to mentoring or supporting younger pupils.

“Pupils are confident and self-assured.”

Ofsted 2019

“A significant strength of the school is the transition process to guide primary pupils into a secondary community. A parent described it as ‘second to none’. Effective liaison with primary schools ensures that all pupils, particularly the vulnerable and those with severe needs, understand the values the school holds.”

Denominational Inspection 2021



“A Christian ethos permeates through the school’s values.”

Ofsted 2019

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

St John Fisher School recognises that the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) element of students’ education is crucial to their formation as an individual as well as their academic excellence. Our SMSC programme embodies our Catholic ethos by focusing on the development of the whole student.

Students are encouraged to develop their talents to help others, whether that be by acting as a peer mentor, delivering assemblies or being a representative on our Whole School Council. Across the school, students are actively involved in charitable work, both by fundraising and being involved in their local community.

As a school, we ensure that all staff are aware of their role in students’ formation, helping to develop their interpersonal skills, self-esteem and resilience in order to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. We develop students’ capacity to tackle moral and spiritual dilemmas, teaching them to reach independent judgments which reflect universal human principles. We also expect students to develop questioning, enquiring minds

and to live through Gospel values, which are relevant to Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

Celebrating student achievement at St John Fisher fosters a sense of community and ensures students are active participants. This is demonstrated through a wide range of events such as our annual Awards Evening. There are also termly Rewards Assemblies to recognise achievement, effort and participation in the school and the wider community. Our school’s reward system also encourages a culture of success and achievement for all.

“Pupils have a developed understanding of fundamental British values, such as tolerance and democracy.”

Ofsted 2019

“Pupils articulate great pride in their community and appreciate the praise and encouragement they receive.”

Denominational Inspection 2021

Our School Facilities

St. John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School moved to a purpose-built, single-site school on City Way during the 2022-23 academic year. We now have the world-class facilities that our students, staff and community deserve.

Situated at the top of the hill between Chatham and Rochester, with amazing views looking out across the River Medway, our school offers a wide range of outstanding teaching and learning facilities designed to support the delivery of our challenging curriculum. These include a multi use games area (MUGA), a football pitch, a large sports hall, a dance studio, a gym, and kiln room. State-of-the-art IT facilities are available throughout the build, including an interactive TV in every classroom, while a dedicated library space looks out over our beautiful courtyard, providing an inspiring place for independent study.

On the next four pages, you will see more images of the learning spaces at our wonderful school.



Gallery



Left Page: Student Communal Space, Sports Hall and Staircase.
Right Page: School Hall with Chapel, Science Labs, Astro turf Football Fields.

Gallery



Left Page: Sports Grounds, Design & Technology Room & Computer Suite.
Right Page: Chapel.

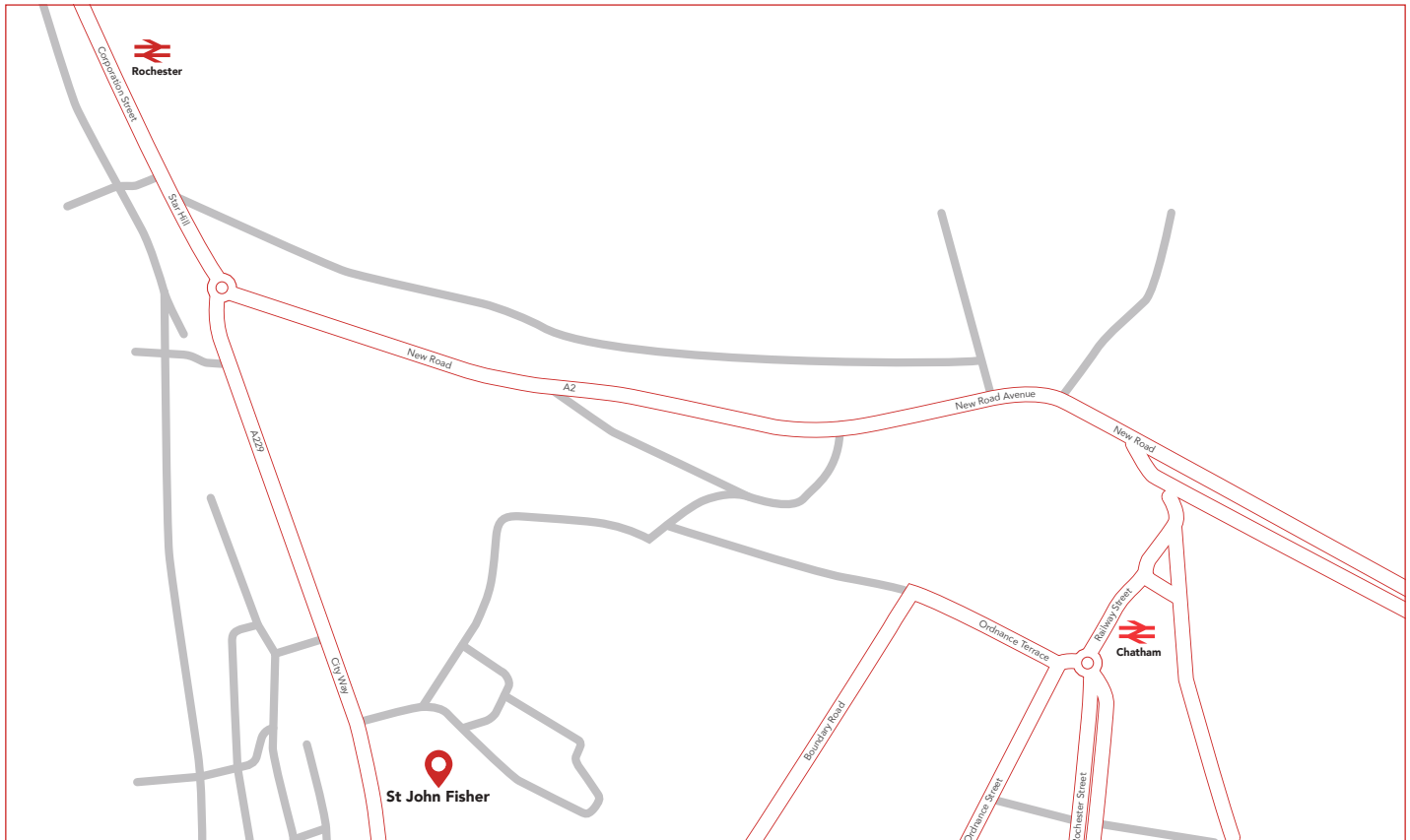
St. John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School

City Way, Rochester

Please use the intercom as you drive in to speak to a receptionist and ask for the barrier to be lifted.

Visitor car parking is clearly signposted close to the front of the school.

For information about booking a tour, please visit <https://stjohnfisher.school/home/admissions/>



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