



Headteacher's Message

Dear Reader,

Traditionally, this opening page is used to welcome you to another wonderful term of events here at St. John Fisher. Indeed, there are many such events within these pages, from sporting activities to theatre visits and more. We would also ask for your prayers for our Year 11 and 13 students as they began their final preparations for this summer's exams.

However, as this edition went to press, we received news of Pope Francis' passing. His life and work has touched our school in many ways, ranging from the example he set our students on a daily basis to the blessing for our new building which he signed and which is proudly displayed in our Chapel. We give thanks for his life and work, and ask you to join us in the prayer below.

God in Heaven

We thank you for the gift of Pope Francis and for all the wonderful ways he inspired us to build a better world.

Help us to continue his work by being Pilgrims of Hope, like he was.

May he rest in your peace.

Amen.

Pope Leo XIV will be a voice of wisdom in a fractured and divided world, as he continues the important work of leading the church in the world and providing spiritual and moral guidance to the global community.

God bless,
Mrs Lennon



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Chaplaincy

This year's 'Celebration of the Word' Chapel Services, which take place in form time, offer students the opportunity to be actively involved in their preparation. Each form group visits the Chapel over the academic year. During the service, students are asked to consider the scriptural readings based on our weekly Gospel theme, 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 year we are also celebrating with the Catholic Church across the world in unison. 2025 has been declared a Jubilee Year of Pilgrimage. Pope Francis asked us to be 'Pilgrims of Hope' and as a school we have planned a number of events to mark this Year of Jubilee, coinciding with our own School Jubilee Year as we celebrate 60 years of SJF school. The Jubilee Year of Hope was declared officially open by Pope Francis in his opening of the door of pilgrimage at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. We too marked the opening of the Jubilee Year by lighting our Jubilee of Hope candle during a Celebration of the Word Service.

We continued to mark this opening in all our Religious Education lessons, where students were able to consider how we might become Pilgrims of Hope reflecting on the Jubilee icon artwork, based on the Gospel passage of Luke 4:16-21, in bringing the Good News.



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We are working towards a Jubilee Pledge, where, as a school we commit to ‘stand in solidarity with the poorest communities, sharing hope and challenging injustice by pledging to take concrete actions to make our community, country and world a better place’. This will be combined with our SJF Feast Day celebrations in June. Watch this space!


For more information about how the Jubilee Year will be celebrated in schools, please visit <https://cafod.org.uk/jubilee-schools>

♥ **respond**




CAFOD
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

- What do you notice?
- What draws you in?
- Does the icon help you to see the story of the Gospel in a different way?




CAFOD
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What do you notice?



Four figures, representing everyone on earth, all different kinds of people from all different places on earth.

They embrace each other to show solidarity, friendship and that we should be one united, global family.

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Chaplaincy (continued)

We began our Lenten journey, as ever, in solidarity, as a whole school community. On Wednesday 5th March we held our Ash Wednesday Mass, using our Chapel/Hall space to accommodate a mix of year groups while the rest of our students simultaneously accessed the livestream from classrooms. Father Peter Ehinmiro from St. Michael’s Chatham celebrated the Mass for us, supported by parishioner Elsie. All students and staff were able to receive ashes and pause for reflection as one spiritual community.

Our Charity Ambassadors delivered assemblies to all year groups on our Lent theme and introduced our almsgiving activities. They also thanked everyone for their support and announced that collectively, we have raised over £4800 for our chosen charities. Thank you to all members of our community for your support.



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Tickets were very popular for our Easter Raffle and Mr. Harris led a fantastic and scrumptious bake sale. So far, the proceeds are over £160. Well done to Mr. Lockett, the lucky raffle winner, and thank you to all those who contributed.



Additionally, during Lent we held extra morning Masses. Thank you to both Father Peter Murphy from Parkwood Parish and Father Neil Vincent from Rochester Parish who kindly celebrated these morning Masses for us. Father Peter also gifted staff and students some rosaries to aid their Lenten journey, inspiring them to grow in generosity through prayer with Our Lady.



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Religious Education Department Update

In terms 3 and 4, Year 7 focused on the purpose and importance of the Incarnation for Christians. They also looked at the different aspects of Jesus: Son of God, His part in the Trinity, and Son of David. They learnt about the Paschal Mystery and how it is connected to the Seven Sacraments. Year 8 has been learning about the ministry of Jesus including the parables and His miracles. In term 4, they focused on the suffering of Christ and the importance of Lent for Christians today.

Year 9 have been studying how Catholics live their faith. This includes following the Seven Sacraments, the four parts of liturgical worship, Catholic funeral rites, the importance of different types of prayer, pilgrimage and evangelisation. Year 10 has completed the GCSE component on Judaism. They have focused on key Jewish beliefs about the Almighty, the Messiah; the importance of the covenants of Abraham and Moses as well as the sanctity of life and what Jews believe happens when they die. Year 11 have completed the GCSE course in RE. They sat their last PPE in February and have been revising key topics they find challenging. This includes topics on the Magisterium, Vatican II and the four marks of the Church. In preparation for the exams, all Year 11 students have been issued an RE revision guide, have revision resources on teams and can use Seneca learning or Kerboodle to assist them in independent learning.

Year 12 students have learnt about Kantian and Utilitarian ethics and have been applying them to business ethics. They have sat their PPE that covered Plato, Aristotle, arguments from observation and soul, mind and body. Year 13 have completed the A Level and are revising and preparing for the summer exams.

Miss Turner had the opportunity to attend Easter Sunday Mass at the Vatican and heard Pope Francis give his final blessing.



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We pray for the success of the Year 11s and 13s in their upcoming exams.
We remember in our prayers, Pope Francis leader of the Catholic Church, who has died.
Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace. Amen.

Year 11 Consultation Evening and Easter Forum: A Resounding Success

On the 26th of March 2025, our school hosted a highly successful Year 11 Consultation Evening, offering parents a valuable opportunity to engage with subject teachers and gain insights into supporting their children in the final stretch before GCSE exams. The event was well attended, demonstrating the strong commitment of parents and staff to ensuring the best possible outcomes for our students.

Throughout the evening, parents met with all subject teachers, discussing tailored strategies to help their children excel in their studies. Practical advice on revision techniques, exam preparation, and a booklet on managing academic pressure was shared, fostering a collaborative approach between home and school. The positive feedback received from parents reaffirmed the importance of such events in bridging communication and reinforcing support networks.

The consultation evening highlighted the dedication of both teachers and parents in guiding their children toward success. It was also an opportunity to advertise the Easter Revision Forum which took place over the following holiday period. Staff and students came together to revise key content and we were impressed by the dedication of everyone who attended.

With a shared focus on academic excellence and well-being, these events have strengthened the foundation for Year 11 students as they approach their GCSE exams with confidence. We look forward to the students achieving great results!

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Sixth Form Update

The Sixth Form Parents Evening took place on Wednesday the 12th March with almost 70% of families in attendance.

During this important evening, we shared assessment results, and families had a chance to meet subject teachers. Additionally, we shared exciting details about upcoming revision classes taking place as part of the Easter Forum and shared study skills resources across various subjects.

The event was a huge success and provided a final chance to empower our students as they prepare for their summer exams, ensuring they receive the guidance needed to perform at their very best.



Sixth Form Applications

I am thrilled to report that we currently have over 200 sixth-form applications for the 2025-26 academic year, a testament to our growing and vibrant community. Applications have now closed.

All students who have applied have been invited to attend our Year 12 Taster Day, which will take place in the Summer Term. This will form part of their interview and assessment process to gain entry to sixth form.

This event, of great significance, promises to be filled with engaging activities, including meeting our Student Leadership team and Head Boy/Head Girl. It also presents an excellent opportunity for students to connect with the Sixth Form Team, participate in dynamic team-building workshops, and potentially form lifelong friendships with their future classmates.

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Sports Update

During term 4, we once again took part in the Colm Murphy Catholic Rugby tournament, hosted at St. John's School in Gravesend. The tournament is named in honour of a teacher at that school who died in service. We are proud to have been first placed in both 2023 and 2024, but came away without a trophy this year. We would like to thank every student who took part in this event and we're looking forward to another attempt at glory next year!

Our Year 7 boys did well in the Secondary School Games this year, competing against several other Medway Schools in the SSG Dodgeball tournament and winning the fair play award at the end of the day. We're proud of the resilience and the respect that our students displayed to other schools and we're pleased with how they you all performed. Our Year 8 and Year 9 football teams performed very well in term 4, with both teams winning their quarter final matches against Thomas Aveling (Year 8) 2-1 and Hundred of Hoo (Year 9) 4-0. We're proud of every student who played in these matches and we wish you the best of luck going into the semi-finals of this Medway Cup tournament.

CAPA Showcase

Earlier this year, the Creative and Physical Arts Faculty held its first ever CAPA Showcase, celebrating student talents in DT, Art, Drama, Music, Food Technology and Physical Education. The event was attended by St John Fisher parents, staff, and governors. Visitors looked at D.T., Art and Food Technology exhibitions taking place in the canteen, then attended Music and Drama performances in the school hall. The CAPA staff were incredibly proud of the students, who exhibited their talents brilliantly, and we look forward to hosting another showcase in the near future.



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Student Leadership

Student ambassadors play a crucial role in fostering a vibrant and engaged school community, leading by example through assemblies that inspire, educate, and empower their peers. These ambassadors embody the values of service, generosity, and talent development, preparing themselves for future leadership while nurturing a culture of inclusivity and excellence within our school.

This term, our Prayer Ambassadors reinforced the virtue of generosity, guiding their peers through assemblies that reflected on the importance of giving. They cited Luke 21:2-4, explaining that we could give kindness, time, or resources, emphasising the power of our community's generosity. Their messages highlighted how generosity strengthens not just the school community but also our wider society, shaping students into thoughtful and selfless individuals.



Elsewhere, our Sixth Form Choir exemplifies the beauty of nurturing one's talents. By leading an assembly on artistic expression and personal growth, they encouraged students to embrace their skills and explore their potential. Their presence is a testament to the school's commitment to fostering creativity as a vital part of holistic education.



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Our Student Council has now set up a dedicated stall in the canteen, providing students with a regular platform to voice their ideas, issues and concerns. Once a week, all students will have the opportunity to offer suggestions, identify issues, and contribute to meaningful discussions on school improvements. This initiative reinforces our commitment to student leadership, inclusivity, and active participation, ensuring that every voice is heard in shaping the future of our school community.



Finally, the Culture and Diversity Ambassadors delivered a powerful message on unity in diversity. Their assembly highlighted the significance of celebrating differences while embracing the shared foundation of Catholic faith. In a world rich with varied backgrounds and perspectives, they emphasised the importance of mutual respect, acceptance, and developing the value of understanding which prepares students to thrive in diverse environments beyond school.

By harnessing these talents and leadership opportunities, the school continues to equip students with invaluable skills for their future roles. Whether in charity work, spiritual guidance, artistic performance, or cultural advocacy, these experiences shape well-rounded individuals who carry forward the principles of empathy, collaboration, and excellence into their adult lives.

Theatre Trips

We have had two really exciting theatre trips across the last two terms! Year 7 went to see the Lion King and the drama club and Year 9 GCSE drama saw a ballet version of Romeo and Juliet. The students thoroughly enjoyed the theatre experience, commenting that it was 'epic'. Theatre is educational in many ways and we have been pleased to help so many students to enjoy this experience. The school is very excited for the future theatre trips already in the pipeline - we look forward to reporting on the details in a future newsletter!

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Culture and Diversity Day

The school proudly celebrated its 2nd Culture and Diversity Day on 2nd April 2025, a spectacular event organised entirely by our Culture and Diversity Student Ambassadors. Their dedication and vision brought together students, staff, and parents and governors in a vibrant showcase of heritage, talent, and unity—reflecting the Catholic values of community, respect, and inclusion.

Throughout the day, students embraced their roots by wearing traditional attire, turning the school environment into a colourful tapestry of cultural pride. The evening event was a resounding success, welcoming over 230 guests who experienced a breathtaking display of talent and tradition. The showcase featured students from diverse backgrounds singing, dancing, reading poetry, and playing instruments, while staff and students collaborated in an harmonious musical performance that embodied the spirit of togetherness.

The celebration continued with a taster session, offering the audience the chance to explore flavours from around the world—an opportunity to appreciate the richness of global cuisine all prepared by members of our community including parents and staff. This hospitality also celebrated one of our core Catholic values. The grand finale was the Cultural Fashion Show, where students took to the catwalk, proudly presenting their heritage through exquisite traditional outfits, demonstrating the beauty of diversity and shared human dignity.

This unforgettable event reinforced the school's commitment to embracing differences while standing united under the Catholic faith. Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Culture and Diversity Student Ambassadors, the event was a true reflection of how faith guides us to celebrate one another and work together in harmony.



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Extracurricular Activities Term 6 2025

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Lunchtime Singing Club <u>G.22</u> Chess Club <u>1.34</u> Film Club <u>1.40</u>	Keyboard Club <u>G.22</u> Psychology Club (Yr7-10) <u>2.65C</u> Film Club <u>1.40</u>	Lego in the Library <u>Library</u> Chess Club <u>1.34</u> Film Club <u>1.40</u>	Health and Wellbeing club <u>1.45-2.10 - 1.57 (Fortnightly)</u> Eco-Ambassadors <u>1.45-2.10 - 1.57 (Fortnightly)</u> Film Club <u>1.40</u>	Chess Club <u>1.34</u> Music Practice <u>G.22</u> Film Club <u>1.40</u>
	Afterschool Homework club <u>3.15-4.00 - Library</u> Library Book Club – Yr7, 8, 9 <u>3.15-4.15 – Library</u> Cricket Club <u>3.30-4.30 – 3G</u> Rounders Club <u>3.15-4.15 – School Field</u> KS4 and KS5 Art Clinic <u>3.15-4.15 – 2.22</u>	Homework club <u>3.15-4.00 - Library</u> Library Book Club – Yr10, 11 <u>3.15-4.15 – Library</u> Drama Club – Yr7, 8, 9 and 10 <u>3.15-4.15 – 1.11</u>	Dance club (Right Step Dance Company) <u>Activity Studio</u>	Homework club <u>3.15-4.00 - Library</u> Library Book Club and Study support - Yr12, 13 <u>3.15-4.15 – Library</u> Year 7, 8 and 9 Football Club <u>3.15-4.15 – 3G</u>	Homework club <u>3.15-4.00 - Library</u> KS5 Football club <u>3.15-4.15 – 3G</u>



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Year 10 PPE Assessment Week

Prior to the Year 10 PPE (Pre-Public Examination) assessment week, a special assembly took place where examination expectations were clearly outlined. During this assembly, we provided detailed guidelines on examination expectations and the importance of academic integrity. This session was instrumental in ensuring that students were well-prepared and confident as they approached their assessments.

Overall, the assessment week concluded successfully, showcasing the dedication and hard work of both students and teachers. Throughout the week, a good percentage of the students demonstrated their academic prowess across various subjects, reflecting their commitment to excellence.

The collaborative efforts between students, teachers, and parents played a crucial role in the smooth preparation and execution of the assessment week. Communication and feedback ensured that everyone was on the same page and working towards common goals.

World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day with a day full of reading, creativity, and fun! Students came dressed as their favourite book characters, taking part in exciting storytelling sessions, and enjoying book-themed activities throughout the day. Staff and students had the opportunity to share their love for books and were encouraged to inspire a lifelong passion for reading!



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Term Dates for Academic Year 2024-2025

	START	TO	FINISH
TERM 1	Monday 2nd September	to	Friday 18th October
Autumn Break	Monday 21st October	to	Friday 25th October
TERM 2	Monday 28th October	to	Friday 20th December
Christmas Break	Monday 23rd December	to	Friday 3rd January
TERM 3	Monday 6th January	to	Friday 14th February
February Break	Monday 17th February	to	Friday 21st February
TERM 4	Monday 24th February	to	Friday 4th April
Easter Break	Monday 7th April	to	Friday 18th April
Good Friday – Bank Holiday	18th April		
Easter Monday – Bank Holiday	21st April		
TERM 5	Tuesday 22nd April	to	Friday 23rd May
Bank Holidays	Monday 5th May and and Monday 26th May		
May Break	Monday 26th May	to	Friday 30th May
TERM 6	Monday 2nd June	to	Friday 18th July
Please note that in accordance with the local and national guidelines, St John Fisher <u>do not</u> authorise holidays during term time.			

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