Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

A very warm welcome to a new school year. It is a joy to see our school community gathered together once again, and I extend a special welcome to those who are joining us for the first time. As we begin this new chapter, we do so with hope, enthusiasm and a shared commitment to living out our Catholic values each day.

A new year is always an opportunity for a fresh beginning. It is a time to set goals, embrace challenges and strive to become the very best version of ourselves. At our school, we believe that success is not simply measured by outcomes, but by the effort, determination and resilience shown along the way. I encourage every student to approach their learning with a positive attitude, to work hard in every lesson and to always try their very best. When we give our best effort, we honour the gifts and talents that God has given us.

On that note, I also want to take a moment to recognise the wonderful achievements of our Year 11 and 13 students this summer. Our Year 11 outcomes are improved on last year, while Year 13's results were the best ever at SJF. These successes are the rest of much hard work by our students, their families, and our talented staff.

Excellent attendance and punctuality is also essential to success. Every school day provides valuable opportunities for learning, personal growth and friendship. Being present, punctual and ready to learn helps students achieve their full potential and contributes positively to the life of our school community. We ask parents and carers to continue supporting us in ensuring that attendance and punctuality remains a priority throughout the year.

Together, as staff, students, parents and governors, we can make this a year filled with achievement, kindness and faith. Let us support one another in a community where everyone feels valued, respected and encouraged to flourish.

Let us pray:

Loving God, bless our school family as we embrace this new year together. Guide us in our learning, strengthen us in times of challenge and help us to use our gifts in service of others. May we grow in faith, wisdom and compassion, and always strive to do our best in all that we do. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God Bless,
Mrs. Lennon

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Ofsted Good Provider

Year 13 Prom 2026: Celebrating the Class of 2026

On Friday 10th July, our Year 13 students came together for their much-anticipated Prom at Bridgewood Manor Hotel, marking a wonderful finale to their time at St John Fisher.

The evening was a fantastic opportunity for students to celebrate everything they had achieved together. After years of hard work, commitment and determination, they were able to enjoy a well-deserved evening with friends and staff.

Bridgewood Manor once again provided the perfect setting for the occasion. Students arrived dressed to impress and enjoyed an evening of music, dancing and plenty of laughter. More importantly, the Prom was a chance to celebrate our Year 13 students, their achievements, friendships and the contribution they have made to our school community throughout their time with us.



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A-Level Results Day 2026: Celebrating Our Students

Thursday 13th August was a very special day at St John Fisher as our Year 13 students received their A-Level and vocational results. There were plenty of smiles, celebrations and a few emotional moments as students, families and staff came together to recognise the culmination of seven years of hard work, commitment and determination.

We were delighted to see so many of our students achieve the results they needed to take their next steps. Whether progressing to university, apprenticeships, employment or other exciting opportunities, each student should be incredibly proud of what they have achieved.

Results Day is about much more than the grades themselves. It marks the end of an important chapter for our students and the beginning of a new one, and it was wonderful to share that moment with them.

A huge thank you must also go to our teaching and support staff for the guidance, encouragement and care they have provided throughout our students' Sixth Form journey. We are immensely proud of the Class of 2026 and wish every one of them continued success and happiness for the future.





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GCSE Results Day 2026: Celebrating Student Success

On Thursday 20th August, Year 11 students, their families and our staff came together to celebrate our Summer 2026 GCSE results.

* The average grade was a 4 (equivalent to an old C grade)
* 55% of students achieved a grade 4 in both English and Maths
* 31% of students achieved a grade 5 in both English and Maths

These outcomes show clear improvement compared to last year's results. We warmly congratulate all of our students on their achievements and recognise the commitment and perseverance that have contributed to their success.

Mrs. Lennon said ''We are extremely proud of our students and their achievements. These results reflect their hard work and determination, alongside the dedication of our staff and the support of parents and carers. It is particularly pleasing to see students of all abilities achieving positive outcomes reflecting our diverse inclusive community. We wish all our students every success in the next stage of their journey and look forward to welcoming many back to our sixth form in September.''

Head of Year Mr. Oni said 'Congratulations to all our students on their achievements. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and commitment over the last five years. I would like to thank our parents and carers for their continued support. We wish every student the very best of success in their future studies."

The majority of our students have achieved the grades required to continue their education at SJF Sixth Form, while others will be progressing to local colleges or beginning apprenticeships.

We are proud of every student and the individual journeys they are now beginning. We wish them all every success as they take their next steps and embrace the opportunities ahead. They will remain in our thoughts and prayers as they begin this exciting new chapter.

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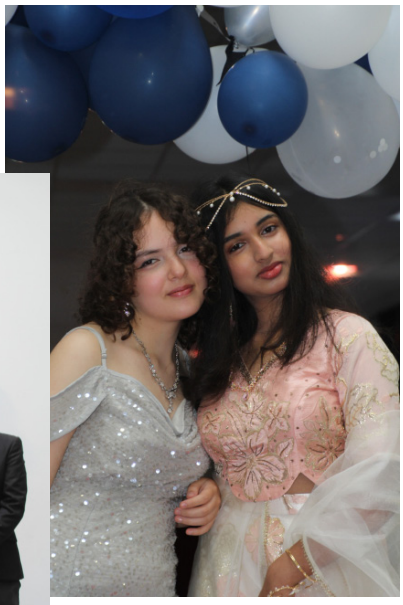




Year 11 Prom 2026: A Night To Remember

As the academic year came to a close, our Year 11 students celebrated the end of their secondary school journey at the Year 11 Prom, held on 26 June 2026 in the School Sports Hall. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for students and staff to come together in a relaxed and celebratory atmosphere, reflecting on achievements, friendships, and memories made throughout their time at school.

With everyone dressed in their finest attire, the hall was filled with excitement, laughter, and a real sense of occasion.







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Year 11 Retreat Days

We began the Summer Term with two days of in-house retreats for our Year 11 students. We were very fortunate to welcome NET Ministries Scotland, who sent a team of nine youth ministers to lead the days with the theme "Created and Claimed". They focused on identity, exploring: "Who are you, God?" and "Who am I?' Student groups were spilt across the two days and they took part in a variety of activities in their large community group and small group workshops. Activities included collective worship, discussion, testimonies, interactive games, and dedicated time for prayer and reflection.

The retreat days supported student well-being by providing space to pause and step away from daily pressures, helping students to process their thoughts and emotions, and reduce stress, which was particularly important in the context of the upcoming GCSE exams.

The retreats also helped to nurture spiritual growth through reflection and prayer, strengthening social well-being by building community through shared experiences and discussion. Students gained in confidence to go out in mission and evangelisation and commented that their favourite activities were prayer times, group discussion and the scripture games. We look forward to welcoming NET ministries again soon and thank Father Dermott O' Gorman and the Southwark Youth Service for helping us to make this possible for our students.



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St John Fisher Feast Day

On 19th June, we celebrated our annual St John Fisher Feast and Festival Day, one of the highlights of our school calendar. The day brought our whole school community together to celebrate our patron saint, deepen our faith, and reflect on the values that underpin our Catholic mission.

We began the day with a whole school Mass in the courtyard, celebrated by Father Neil Vincent. The choir's singing uplifted all spirits. In Fr. Neil's homily, he reminded us that we can all be like the saints, making time for Jesus in our lives and discovering what we are called to be. This powerful message encouraged us to consider how we can use our God given gifts in the service of others.

Following Mass, students took part in a wide range of activities that celebrated the many talents within our school community. From sporting activities and arts and crafts to games and opportunities for prayer and reflection, there was something for everyone to enjoy. One of the most anticipated parts of the day was the 'Showcasing SJF Talent' event. It was wonderful to see so many students confidently sharing their gifts and talents for all to enjoy. A special focus of the day was supporting Leo Parsons (now Year 11), as he continues to find ways to raise funds so that he can attend the 26th World Scout Jamboree that is taking place in Poland in the summer of 2027. Through the generosity of our school community, he raised £120, demonstrating our commitment to Catholic Social Teaching values of solidarity and the common good. Throughout the day, students and staff celebrated the gifts and talents that God has given them, recognising the dignity of every person and strengthening our school community The day also provided an opportunity to support a local food bank through food donations, demonstrating the generosity and compassion of our school community.



Overall, our Saint Day was a joyful celebration of faith, community and service. It reminds us that, like the saints, we are each called to use our unique gifts and talents to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

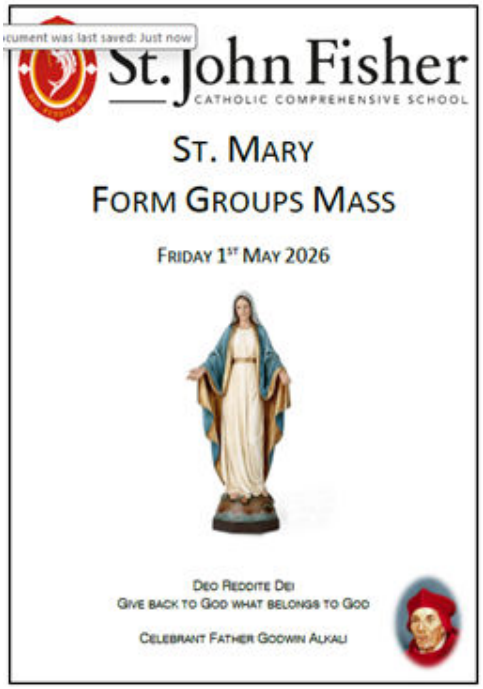
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Celebration of our Saints

Building on the successes of our small group Masses, we have begun to introduce form group Masses. The first of these was on 1st May beginning with the St Mary form groups; we have since also held Masses for St Francis and St Michael. Students have opportunities to sing, and lead in the congregation roles with the scripture and prayers of the faithful.

Form tutors work with their classes to plan and prepare their roles in the Mass. Father Godwin from Chatham celebrated the first Mass for us. These form group Masses help to enhance faith centred symbolism, and provide opportunities for greater awareness of the significance of our form group saints, further cultivating our living Catholic identity.

Other Masses this term have included the Feast of the Ascension, and, of course, our annual Year 11 and 13 Leavers' Mass.







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Celebration of the Life of Canon John O'Toole

The biography and photography below are taken from the Churches Together in England website, and can be read in full, alongside other tributes, at https://cte.org.uk/tributes-to-canon-john-otoole/

'Born in Dublin in 1950, John O'Toole moved to Chatham, Kent with his family when he was 8 years old. He attended both Catholic and non-Catholic schools and then went to King's College, London and gained a BA in History and an AKC (Associate of King's College) award in theology. He then studied at St John's Seminary, Wonersh and also at St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill where he gained a Postgraduate Certificate in Religious Education following which he became Head of RE at Richard Challoner Secondary School, New Malden, Surrey.

He was ordained a Priest in 1978. He spent most of his early career in parish ministry including joining the ecumenical clergy team at the shared Church of St Paul's as part of the Thamesmead Christian Community – a local ecumenical project involving the Church of England, Methodist, United Reformed and RC Church (1990 -1996).

In 2011 he was appointed as Dean of St George's Cathedral, Southwark and became a Canon of the Cathedral Chapter.

Canon O'Toole served the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales as National Ecumenical Officer and Secretary to the Department for Dialogue and Unity from 2015 to 2020. In 2020 he was appointed to the role of Episcopal Vicar for Kent.'

Canon O'Toole was, as the article says, a student at St. John Fisher, but he was more than that to us. A lifelong Fisherian and friend to the school, he was always willing to lend his support or provide counsel as we needed it. He is pictured below with students, staff, and other dignitaries at the City Way site groundbreaking ceremony in 2021.



Sports Day 2026

SJF Sports Day 2026 was a fantastic celebration of sport, competition and school spirit, as students from Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 descended on Medway Park for a brilliant day of track and field action, accompanied by our wonderful staff.

The atmosphere was electric from start to finish, with students representing their Houses across a range of track and field events. Our electronic scoreboard and live-action results system added to the excitement, keeping everyone up to date as results came in throughout the day.

There were some outstanding individual performances, including Student A and Student B, who stormed to victory in the Year 10 Boys' and Year 8 Girls' 100m races respectively. Both then demonstrated fantastic leadership by captaining their teams to relay gold, completing memorable doubles!

The final House competition went right down to the wire. After all the track and field results had been counted, St Mary and St Lucy finished joint second with 432 points each. Just three points ahead, St Rose finished with 435 points and were crowned the SJF Sports Day 2026 champions! It was an incredibly close finish that reflected the competitive spirit shown throughout the day.

Sports Day wasn't only about competition. Every student had the opportunity to tackle our wild and wacky inflatable obstacle course, while the summer sunshine and a well-earned ice cream helped create a real festival atmosphere around Medway Park.

A huge thank you to all the staff who worked incredibly hard across both days to make these experiences possible, and a massive well done to every student who competed, supported their House and embraced everything the day had to offer.

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Health and Wellbeing Retreat Day 2026

This was the second year we have held the Health and Wellbeing Retreat Day. The aim of the day is for students to have time to reflect on their year and then have some fun having a go at activities that are new, exciting or just a bit different.

All students came off timetable to fully experience the activities on offer. Every student followed a timetable with their form group which included and assembly with the theme of Peace.

During form time all groups wrote poems or intentions and made Doves of peace which will be formed into an art installation later this year. All groups took part in one outdoor physical activity ranging from rounders to parachute games and ultimate frisbee.

Each class took part in a fun science activity, making rockets and flying paper aeroplanes. Students all participated in an indoor activity, this had the widest range from baking cookies to African drumming, making bracelets, Irish dancing, singing and drama. Feedback was very positive; students and staff enjoyed the day and look forward to trying something new next year.







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Sixth Form Induction Day

In June, we were delighted to welcome our prospective Year 12 students to a fantastic Sixth Form Induction Taster Day.

The day began with a warm welcome from the Head of Sixth Form and the Year 12 Student Leadership Team, who introduced students to sixth-form life and shared helpful advice about making a confident and successful transition from GCSE study.

Students then followed their individual timetables and enjoyed three engaging lessons in their selected sixth-form subjects. There was a real sense of enthusiasm throughout the day as students met their future teachers, experienced advanced-level study and began to discover what life as a sixth-form student would offer.

After a complimentary lunch, the day concluded with a lively Subject Fayre in the Assembly Hall. This final session was a real highlight and a great success. Students visited the different subject stalls, spoke directly with current sixth form students, asked thoughtful questions and explored their options before confirming their course choices.

It was wonderful to see students approaching every part of the day with such enthusiasm, confidence and maturity. The atmosphere was extremely positive, and students also enjoyed meeting future classmates and beginning to form new friendships. We hope the experience helped them feel informed and excited about the next stage of their education, and we are delighted that they have now joined our Sixth Form community**.**

Parking Reminder

We would like to remind all parents, carers and students to help keep our school community safe at the start and end of each day. We have received a number of concerns regarding children running across the school car park to reach waiting vehicles, which creates a significant safety risk. Students should always use designated pedestrian routes and only cross where it is safe to do so. We also ask parents and carers to park considerately, avoiding blocking the school exit and ensuring vehicles pull in correctly on City Way rather than stopping in positions that may obstruct traffic or reduce visibility. By taking a little extra care and patience, we can all help to ensure a safe and smooth arrival and departure for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Welcoming Our New Year 7 Cohort

Starting secondary school is a significant milestone for both pupils and their families. It is a time often filled with excitement, anticipation, and, understandably, some uncertainty. At St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School, we recognise the importance of supporting this transition and work hard to ensure that every new pupil feels welcomed, confident, and prepared for the journey ahead.

On 2nd July, our incoming Year 7 pupils visited the school for a dedicated transition day. During their visit, they were given a guided tour of the school site, helping them familiarise themselves with their new surroundings. They also had the opportunity to experience a variety of subjects, offering an exciting glimpse into the broad and engaging curriculum that awaits them in September.

Lunch was provided by the school, giving pupils a chance to sample the wide range of nutritious and delicious meals available in our dining facilities. More importantly, the lunchtime experience helped pupils become familiar with the daily routines of secondary school while providing valuable opportunities to socialise, form new friendships, and build a sense of community with their future classmates.

Following the transition day, pupils and parents were invited to attend an information evening. This event provided an opportunity for families to meet members of the senior leadership team and learn more about the school's Catholic ethos, ambitious curriculum, and strong pastoral support systems. The evening also brought together a range of support services, including our catering team, SEND department, and colleagues from NELFT, all of whom were available to answer questions and offer reassurance about the support available to pupils throughout their time at St John Fisher. Their presence highlighted the school's commitment to ensuring that every child is supported academically, socially, and emotionally.

Parents were also reminded about our much-loved Summer School programme. This popular initiative provides another opportunity for pupils to return to school before September, take part in a variety of enjoyable activities, strengthen friendships, and further develop their confidence as they prepare for the exciting transition to secondary education.

All of these carefully planned transition events are designed with one goal in mind: to ensure that every pupil feels happy, supported, and ready to thrive as they begin their St John Fisher journey.

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Work Experience Newsletter – June/July Programme

A Successful Blend of Online and In Person Experiences

This June and July, our Year 10 and Year 12 students took part in a varied work experience programme combining online activities with face to face placements. Using a dedicated digital platform, students signed up and completed a range of tasks designed to build workplace skills, explore career pathways, and develop confidence in a structured, flexible environment.

In addition to the online pathway, several Year 12 students attended in person placements with local companies and industries. These students gained valuable insight into professional routines, employer expectations, and real world working environments.

Strong Engagement and Positive Feedback

Engagement across both pathways was excellent. Students completing the online programme appreciated the independence, the variety of sectors available, and the ability to work at their own pace. Those attending face to face placements spoke positively about meeting employers, observing workplace practices, and experiencing different industries first hand.

What Students Highlighted

- Independence in managing tasks and deadlines
- A wide range of activities and career areas
- Real insight into workplace expectations
- Increased confidence from completing tasks and interacting with employers
- A modern, flexible approach suited to today's digital and professional world

Looking Ahead

This blended model has shown that both digital and in person experiences can be meaningful, engaging, and inspiring. Our students demonstrated maturity, resilience, and curiosity throughout the programme, and we are proud of their efforts. We look forward to building on this success and continuing to provide high quality work related learning opportunities.

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Year 12 Engineering and Design Pathway Visit – Jestico & Whiles, London

Jestico & Whiles were the architects responsible for designing our wonderful City Way site, and it has been a pleasure to continue making the most of their expertise for the benefit of our students.

Exploring the World of Construction, Design, and Innovation.
A group of our Year 12 students with interests in engineering, architecture, computer science, and marketing had the exciting opportunity to visit Jestico & Whiles, a leading architecture and design practice based in London. The visit offered students a first hand insight into the world of construction and the creative industries that shape the built environment.

During the visit, students learned about the different stages of architectural design, the role of digital technologies in modern construction, and the wide range of careers involved in bringing a building from concept to reality. They were able to ask questions, explore real project examples, and see how professionals collaborate across disciplines.

The experience was described by students as inspiring, eye opening, and incredibly valuable. Many commented on how it helped them understand the practical applications of their subjects and gave them a clearer sense of future career pathways.

A Follow Up Visit to Our School
In a wonderful continuation of the partnership, Jestico & Whiles visited our school shortly after the trip. They spent time with the same group of students, exploring how the knowledge gained in London could be applied in the classroom. This follow up session allowed students to reflect on their learning, share ideas, and begin thinking about how design principles and engineering concepts can influence their own projects.

A Meaningful Industry Connection
This experience has strengthened our commitment to providing real world learning opportunities for students interested in STEM and creative industries. We are grateful to Jestico & Whiles for their generosity, expertise, and enthusiasm in supporting our learners.

Religious Education – Autumn 2026

Welcome back to a new school year!

The RE Department is delighted to begin another exciting academic year, especially following the excellent examination results achieved over the summer. Six students attained Grade 9s, the highest possible grade, while many others met or exceeded their target grades. Congratulations to all our Year 11 students on their hard work and success.

Our A Level students studying Philosophy and Ethics also performed strongly, with the majority achieving excellent results. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and wish them every blessing and success as they take their next steps in education, training, or employment.

In the final weeks of the summer term, the Religious Education department collaborated with the wellbeing group to present a Peace retreat day in early July. Not only did the students have the opportunity to do physical activities like badminton and line dancing, but they also had the opportunity to focus on the meaning and importance of peace in their lives. Students wrote their thoughts and prayers about peace on an 'olive branch' which will be used to create an art installation commemorating the day.

Key Stage 3 have recently completed a unit entitled Dialogue and Encounter. Throughout the term, students explored the importance of learning about different faiths and beliefs, helping them to develop curiosity, respect, and tolerance towards those whose views may differ from their own. The unit focused on Hinduism, one of the world's oldest religions. Students learned about key Hindu beliefs, including the idea that all living things are connected through a divine reality known as Brahman. They also explored how Hindus seek to achieve moksha (liberation from the cycle of rebirth) through good actions (karma), devotion, knowledge, and spiritual practice.

Year 10 students have been studying Catholic marriage and relationships in the 21st century and they will complete this chapter in September 2026. As they begin Year 11, they have just one remaining topic to cover before completing the content element of the GCSE course. To support their preparation, intervention tasks were assigned through Seneca Learning over the summer break. Students will receive a revision guide ahead of the PPEs from their class teacher. They also have continued access to the online textbook, providing a valuable resource for revision and exam preparation throughout the year.

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Core RE students, following the Dialogue and Encounter theme, spent the term researching and preparing presentations on a world religion or belief tradition. Students were encouraged to select a faith or worldview with which they were previously unfamiliar, helping them to broaden their understanding of others and develop a more informed perspective on the world around them. This is an important aspect of Religious Education, equipping students with the knowledge, empathy, and respect needed to thrive in an increasingly diverse and pluralistic society.

The Religious Education Department is excited to begin the new school year and looks forward to nurturing faith, encouraging thoughtful reflection, and inspiring students to live out the values they learn in everyday life.

Attendance Reward Trips

At St. John Fisher, we know that regular attendance is incredibly important when it comes to students' success. Simply put, students who attend school regularly are more likely to be happy and do well there, and that's what we want for every child in school.

In the summer term, we focused on accentuating the positives in school attendance. There was a draw with Amazon voucher prizes for the best attending students and a weekly form attendance competition, where form groups competed for either best or most improved attendance. The ultimate winners in each year group were rewarded with an hour on a bouncy castle obstacle course set up in the school grounds.

Additionally, in the last week before the holidays, hundreds of students who had either improved their attendance across the term or who maintained above 95% attendance were invited on trips to Thorpe Park, the cinema, or ice skating. It was a pleasure to celebrate their achievements with so many. Those who did not attend a trip came into school to complete work to support their learning in core subjects.



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E-scooters – are you breaking the law?



Can I ride my e-scooter to school or work?

No, it's Illegal...

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles and are required to be taxed and insured. It's not possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them.

Can I ride my e-scooter on the pavement?

No, it's Illegal...

You cannot use e-scooters on public footpaths, cycle lanes or roads.

What happens if I'm caught using my e-scooter in public spaces?

The scooter may be seized and as a result, destroyed.

If stopped by an officer, you may be asked to complete a breath and drugs test. You also risk a £300 fine and six penalty points on your licence for no insurance.

Kent Police

Think before you buy:

The number of electrical scooters being used on our streets has risen, as well as reports of serious injury and fatalities.

For more information and advice on the use of e-scooters visit **www.kent.police.uk/road-safety**

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St. John Fisher Newsletter Summer / Autumn 2026

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Term Dates for Academic Year 2026-2027

	START	TO	FINISH
TERM 1	Wednesday 2nd September: Years 7 and 12. Thursday 3rd September: Whole School	to	Friday 23rd Octover
Autumn Break	Monday 26th October	to	Friday 30th October
TERM 2	Monday 2nd November	to	Friday 18th December 2022
Christmas Break	Monday 21st December	to	Friday 1st January
TERM 3	Monday 4th January	to	Friday 12th February
February Break	Monday 15th February	to	Friday 19th February
TERM 4	Monday 22nd February	to	Thursday 25th March
Easter Break	Friday 26th March	to	Friday 9th April
Good Friday – Bank Holiday	Friday 26th March		
Easter Monday – Bank Holiday	Monday 29th March		
TERM 5	Tuesday 13th April	to	Friday 28th May
Bank Holiday	Monday 3rd May		
May Break	Monday 31st May	to	Friday 4th June
TERM 6	Monday 7th June	to	Friday 16th July
STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS/SCHOOL ACTIVITIES			
12th April, 19th - 21st July	Staff Development Days		

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