



**ST JOHN FISHER**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**PROSPECTUS**  
Achieving aspirations



# Welcome to St John Fisher

Welcome to St John Fisher School. This is an exciting time for all Year 6 students and your families as you try to make the decision as to which school you wish to attend for your secondary education. I hope to give you an idea of the ambition and ethos we have for all of our students through this prospectus. The best ambassadors for our school are our wonderful students and staff and I invite you to meet them at our open events in September and October.

We are a very inclusive school which welcomes students of faith and students of no faith. My vision for the school is that we are the school of choice which educates and inspires our community. We are a two site school which is unique in Medway, allowing us to have just Year 7 and Year 8 together on one site. This, along with our very comprehensive curriculum, ensures that every primary school student has a well supported transition into secondary school. We know this enables them to continue to work to the best of their ability.

We are a very ambitious school and we work hard to develop our students as disciplined, inquisitive and caring young people in conjunction with their families. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum as it is very important that students experience a wide range of subjects in Key Stage 3. This ensures that students are able to make appropriate choices for Key Stage 4, which we start in Year 9 to prepare our students fully for their GCSE examinations.

As the Headteacher of St John Fisher, I lead the drive to improve our school and our facilities as we continue to be part of a multimillion pound Government funded project to improve our buildings. It is a very exciting time to be part of St John Fisher School.

**“ We look forward to meeting you and inspiring you to take the next important steps to achieving your aspirations. ”**

  
MRS D. LENNON

  
MRS L. BENNETT



MRS D. LENNON  
Headteacher



MRS L. BENNETT  
Assistant Headteacher  
Head of Lower School



**“For most pupils, their attitudes to learning are improving because their aspirations are rising.”**

**OFSTED**



## Academic Excellence

At St John Fisher School we are committed to developing 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.

**“Teachers value the training they receive with its clear focus on delivering outstanding teaching.”**

**OFSTED**



**“Disadvantaged pupils are making more rapid progress in their learning. Their progress is similar to that of other pupils in the school.”**

**OFSTED**



**“In Years 7 and 8, most pupils, including the most able, are making good progress in a range of subjects regardless of their starting points.”**

OFSTED



# Curriculum - Key Stage 3

## Delivered in Years 7 and 8

**We build on the excellent work of primary schools. We set students in ability groups for Mathematics and English only and teach our broad and balanced curriculum in mixed ability tutor groups for all other subjects. All subjects are taught by specialists and we ensure that the curriculum is delivered in an interesting as well as an academically challenging way.**

Homework is set every night via Show My Homework 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 everyday after school.

The curriculum we teach at Key Stage 3 is English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Religious Education, PSHRE, French, Design Technology, Art, Performing Arts (including Drama and Music), Information Technology and Physical Education.

All students have PSHRE (Personal, Social, Health and Relationship Education) lessons as we believe that learning about ourselves and others helps us to be positive members of society. We also study Religious Education to ensure that we learn about the Catholic faith as well as learning about other faiths so that we are able to discuss and debate in an open manner.

We have regular assessments where students are tested on what they have learnt and publish data to parents, carers and students three times 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.

There are a wide variety of extra-curricular activities including sports, creative and performing arts. We encourage each student to try a variety of activities to ensure that they find one which they are interested in.



**“ Students make good progress because teaching is consistently strong and the curriculum is well matched to their needs. ”**

OFSTED



**“Pupils are proud of their school.”**  
OFSTED



## Our Child, Your Child

Under new headship the school now has well-established clear systems of academic and pastoral care designed to encourage positive attitudes to work and learning.

New structures and procedures have been implemented which 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 is care, guidance and support. Ofsted 2017 stated that ‘Pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain through personal, social, health, religious and economic education’.

We have a House System in each year group consisting of six houses, led by a Year Group Progress Leader (YGPL) 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.



**“ The culture for safeguarding pupils is strong. ”**

OFSTED



**“Assemblies challenge pupils’ thinking and pupils confidently make presentations on topics such as racial discrimination to their peers.”**

OFSTED

## 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 academic excellence and their development as an individual. SMSC is about the values students are encouraged to hold, their attitude towards learning, knowledge and society. SMSC is fundamental in preparing students for our multicultural society, allowing them to take their rightful place in the community as local, national and global citizens.

Students are encouraged to develop the capacity to tackle moral and spiritual dilemmas and to try to reach independent judgments which reflect universal human principles. We also expect students to develop questioning, enquiring minds and learn how to express their ideas appropriately.

As a school, we ensure that all staff are aware of their role in developing students’ interpersonal skills, self-esteem and resilience in order to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Celebrating students’ 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.

Students are encouraged to contribute to the school by developing their leadership roles through planning and delivering assemblies, as Mentors, Buddies and by democratically electing Year Group and Whole School Council Representatives.



“Pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain through personal, social, health, religious and economic education.”

OFSTED



“Subject knowledge is strong, teaching meets pupils’ needs, pupils are engaged in their learning and make good progress.”

OFSTED



## Curriculum - Key Stage 4

### Delivered in Years 9, 10 and 11

#### KEY STAGE 4:

**We offer a three year Key Stage 4 as we believe that it best prepares students for their GCSE examinations at the end of Year 11. This enables students to spend more time studying subjects that they really enjoy.**

On both sites there are specialist teaching spaces, such as laboratories, Art rooms and Design Technology workshops, as well as general teaching classrooms. We also have a library and a chapel on both sites.

Students pick three different options at the end of Year 8. 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 three option subjects mentioned above, all students study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Double Science (including the option of the triple sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics), Religious Education, PSHRE and Physical Education.

Regular assessments, including formal examinations, take place so that we 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:

**We work in a consortium at Key Stage 5 with two other schools, Fort Pitt Grammar School and The Robert Napier School. This ensures that there is a wide variety of subjects and ample opportunities for our students to engage in academic and other extra-curricular activities.**

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



“Effective leadership from the new Headteacher is leading to stronger accountability and rapid improvement in teaching, learning and assessment.”

OFSTED

# NOTES

