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

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 our warm Catholic ethos and the ambition 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. SJF was established to educate the Catholic children of Medway, but we are a very inclusive community which welcomes students of faith and students of no faith. The school is split across two sites which is unique in Medway, allowing us to have just Year 7 and Year 8 together on one site. This, along with our 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.

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.

As the Headteacher of St John Fisher, I lead the drive to improve our school beyond our 2019 Ofsted ‘Good’ rating. It is a very exciting time to be at St John Fisher School as we continue our multi-million pound Government funded project to replace our buildings. I hope you will want to be a part of it.

Mrs D. Lennon
Headteacher

Mrs L. Bennett
Assistant Headteacher
Head of Lower School

We look forward to meeting you and inspiring you to take the next important steps to achieving your aspirations.
Lessons are purposeful and pupils settle into their work quickly. OFSTED 2019

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

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.

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OFSTED 2019

“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 and 8

We build on the excellent work of primary schools, setting 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 and 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 every day after school.

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

**The curriculum is broad and balanced.** **OFSTED 2019**

**The curriculum has been redesigned by leaders.** **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 (HOY) 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.

"Pupils are confident and self-assured."
OFSTED 2019

"The school’s work to promote pupils’ personal development and welfare is good."
OFSTED 2019

"Pupils are well cared for. Pastoral staff ensure that vulnerable pupils receive help when they need it."
OFSTED 2019

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"Pupils are confident and self-assured."
OFSTED 2019

"The school’s work to promote pupils’ personal development and welfare is good."
OFSTED 2019
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.

Our mission statement states that ‘St. John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School inspires students, spiritually and educationally, forming them through faith so that they can achieve their highest aspirations.’

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

OFSTED 2019

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 Religious Education, English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Double Science (including the option of the triple sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics), 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.

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

OFSTED 2019
UPPER SITE (YEARS 9-13)
Ordnance Street, Chatham ME4 6SG

There is a small amount of visitor parking as you drive through the main entrance; please use the yellow intercom as you drive in to speak to a receptionist and ask for the barrier to be lifted.

If the visitor spaces are full, the receptionist will direct you to the overflow carpark on Charles Street (drive out of the school, turn left, and it is the first driveway on your left hand side).

LOWER SITE (YEARS 7-8)
79 Maidstone Road, Chatham ME4 6DG

There is a very limited amount of parking in the front carpark on Maidstone Road; if you need to park in this area for accessibility reasons, it is strongly recommended that you contact reception and book a space in advance.

There is additional visitor parking on Scotteswood Avenue (drive out of the school gates, turn left, and it is the first driveway on your left). Having parked, you will need to walk out of the car park back along Scotteswood Avenue and Maidstone Road to Main Reception to sign in.