Dear Parents and Friends of St John Fisher Catholic School,

Thank you for your patience during the worst weather for many years at the start of March. A special thank you to year 11 who coped exceptionally well with having class time to take their second set of PPE (Mock) examinations. Their results are back and show that the hard work that they are putting in is starting to pay dividends. They are being rewarded with a contribution from the school towards their very special prom. Year 11 students have their first GCSE examination immediately after the Easter holidays. I would ask you to please remember all our students taking examinations in your prayers and thoughts over the coming months. It is an incredibly stressful time for students and knowing that we are all supporting them will help.

I would like to also welcome Ms Walker to St John Fisher. She will join us as the Second Deputy Headteacher after the Easter holidays. She currently works at the outstanding St. Ursula’s Catholic School in London. Ms Walker will be responsible for leading the work on raising standards across the school, including Data and Examinations, Development of the Curriculum and the Marketing Strategy for the school. I am sure you will make her feel very welcome over the coming months.

Some parents have expressed concerns about social media. We use Parentmail, the website and occasionally the official Twitter account. We will never use other social media such as Instagram to contact your children so please treat any such requests as junk/fake requests. Please be aware of social media which allows the user to mask their identity.

There is a very comprehensive programme of revision lessons and extra help, called the Easter Forums taking place throughout the Easter holidays. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the staff for their continued excellent support for our students each and every day.

As we prepare for Easter, we have benefited from taking part in our Penitentials with Fr Baker and Deacon Jim, having the covenant players in to work with students in Years 7 – 9, special Masses with both Fr Tom from Rainham and Fr Sean from Gillingham. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all who are helping us to prepare fully for the Easter Triduum.

I wish you a very happy and Holy Easter and look forward to seeing all students back in school on Tuesday the 17th of April.

God Bless
Kind Regards

Mrs D Lennon

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St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School, Ordnance Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 6SG
Ph: 01634 543123 e-mail: office@stjohnfisherschool
News From Chaplaincy

Lenten Services

This year Lenten Penitential Services took place at St. Michael’s Church with Father Baker for year groups 9, 11 and 6th form. While our Lower School had their Penitential service led by Deacon James Coleman and the Chaplaincy team. During the Lenten service students were able to learn more about the Mercy Ships through a short powerpoint shown. These ships are essentially fully equipped floating hospitals, which sail around the world stopping at some of the poorest countries to carry out operations on children and the vulnerable who would not stand a chance of affording medical care. The powerpoint shown was part of the Penitential theme of putting others first.

Covenant Players

To continue our Lenten theme, Chaplaincy invited special guests The Covenant Players to come into school. They performed Lent related sketches for year groups 7, 8 and 9. All the year groups involved enjoyed the sketches, which all had a strong moral meaning. When asked to participate, all the students took an active role.

The Covenant players are Henrik Hansen, Brenda Hansen, Dale Norman and Naomi Norman.

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News From Chaplaincy

Lent – Foodbank donations

As briefly mentioned in our February article, throughout the season of Lent, St. John Fisher Catholic School will be supporting the food bank again by collecting tinned food. Over the past five years, there have been an ever increasing number of people throughout the whole of England who are requesting the aid of their local foodbanks. This year, we will be helping those in need by donating any tinned items of food. We will be accepting dried beans, dried fruit or pasta. All donations will be taken directly to the local Chatham Foodbank.

Any tinned food you wish to donate can be given to your Son/Daughter who will then pass the food on to a member of the Chaplaincy Team; Mrs Leach or Mr Jones.

Lenten Mass

Also during Lent, both Upper School and Lower School have been fortunate to have two of our local deanery clergy Father Sean O’Connor from the parish of Our Lady of Gillingham and Father Thomas McElhone from St Thomas of Canterbury in Rainham come into school to celebrate voluntary lunch time Mass for the school community. We are very grateful to both for their time and support for our school community.

Lenten Prayer

Come, all who are thirsty says Jesus, our Lord. Come, all who are weak, taste the living water that I shall give. Dip your hands in the stream, refresh body and soul. Drink from it; depend on it, for this water will never run dry. Come, all who are thirsty says Jesus, our Lord.

Let us not forget Holy Week,

Palm Sunday 25th March Maundy Thursday 29th March
Good Friday 30th March Holy Saturday 30th March
Easter Sunday 1st April

Also Divine Mercy on Sunday the 8th April.

Mrs P Leach and Mr M Jones Chaplaincy Team.
Food and Cookery Crash Course

During term 3 and 4, a selection of Year 8 students have completed a Food and Cookery Crash Course with Mr Darby and with the help of Miss Collins. Students were given the opportunity to develop their cooking skills in case they choose Food Technology at GCSE. Students learnt a range of food preparation and cooking skills ranging from boiling an egg to cooking salmon. They learnt basic knife skills, peeling, grating, frying, boiling, baking, grilling and roasting and many more. They also learnt basic food hygiene rules and practices at industry standard and are able to identify common causes of food poisoning. Most students were sceptical trying new foods and recipes, like Mr Darby’s cheese and apple sandwiches or even salmon with green pesto, but they all fully enjoyed the experience and were all sad for it to be over.

The students said that they look forward to joining GCSE next year and have gone away being able to cook and prepare a number of healthy meals. Due to the success of the course the Creative and Performing Arts Faculty will be looking to offer the course again next year.

Mr A Darby

What the Students thought

“Helped me further develop my cooking skills.”
Lilly-Sky Johnson

“My mum said the course was well worth me going, not because of the food, but because I can clean up properly after myself.”
William Mengual

“The course helped me choose my GCSE options.”
Carmen Looker

“I now cook more at home.”
Pamela Gujdova

“I’ve learnt not to butter both sides of the bread...”
Tobey Fowler

“I can now clean up properly!”
Osbert Biskup

“It was fun and a good experience.”
Leah Jones-Bennet

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Ph: 01634 541223 e-mail: office@stjohnfisher.school

QA: Mar 18: EBA
Zimbardo Conference 2018, London

On Tuesday 20th March the A-Level Psychology students (including myself) went to London to attend an informative conference on a variety of different topics we have covered throughout the course. The day started off with a talk from Phil Banyard about whether or not psychology can save the world, this was a very entertaining and engaging talk. This was followed by another talk from Cara Flanagan who spoke about the nature versus nurture debate in psychology, this was an interesting and educating talk that, whilst providing no answers to the debate, encouraged us to critically evaluate the impact of nature and nurture. The next talk was from Professor Sergio Della Sala who discussed cognitive neuroscience and pseudo-science in particular.

The afternoon consisted of lectures by Dr Phillip Zimbardo. Zimbardo is a mainstay of social psychology and his controversial Stanford Prison Experiment is not only a key part of the psychology specification but has had far reaching applications in fields such as the military and the prison service. To hear Zimbardo speak about his research, as well as the personal implications that his research has had on him, was both inspiring and fascinating. During the Stanford Prison Experiment, Zimbardo created an environment of ‘pure evil’ which was something that he never wanted to replicate; he has since dedicated his life and work to inspiring everyday heroism and has conducted ground-breaking research into shyness. Zimbardo is a true icon in the field of psychology and it was an honour to hear the outcomes of his research.

The final psychologist to speak was Professor Christina Maslach. She is married to Dr Zimbardo and is often credited as the ‘true hero’ of the Stanford Prison Study as it was her insight that led to the study being (rightfully) terminated. However, this was not the focus of her research. She has conducted research into the phenomenon of burnout and has successfully worked with several major corporations to ensure that staff wellbeing is successfully maintained.

The conference was very enjoyable and beneficial to our studies and was a rare opportunity for us, as students, to talk to those we are studying and ask them any questions we may have had during our studies. The selfies with an icon were an added bonus!

Chloe Blackburn
Robot Wars

Since Arnold Schwarzenegger burst onto the big screen in 1984 and promised to “be back”, humankind has been enthralled by the prospects of artificial intelligence. Robotics has made great strides in this short time and, at the very forefront of this, are three young and intrepid St. John Fisher Students.

From an exceptionally strong and equally wide range of entries, our very own Chalita Thaworakun and Agata Bartos, have made it through to the next round of the “Robot Wars” competition, hosted by the University of Greenwich. With their hybrid “Unipup” design (part Unicorn and part Puppy), these budding young engineers are now looking forward to building their design using funding and equipment provided from the university and battling it out in September’s competition. Should they make it to the final, their battle will be televised nationally, with several students in attendance.

The Science department, and the school as a whole, are exceptionally proud of the accomplishments of our students, which not only showcase the exceptional talents and aspirations we have here at St. John Fisher, but demonstrate the growing range of enrichment and outreach programmes available to them.

I am certain the entire school community will join with me in congratulating these young ladies on their achievements and wishing them every success in the later stages of the competition.

Miss. V L Roberts, Science department
Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

RE: End of Key Stage 3 Graduation Programme

As a school we are delighted to introduce the ‘Key Stage 3 Graduation Programme’ which will result in a graduation ceremony towards the end of the final term of Year 8. The aim of this programme is to give Key Stage 3 its own identity and to encourage our students to do the very best they can by the end of their first two years at St John Fisher School.

The programme focuses on developing the skills and attributes that have been identified as essential for success such as leadership, communication, organisation, initiative and taking responsibility. The programme sets a number of high targets and challenging activities, such as 96%+ attendance, achieving targets in subjects, representing the school, attending pre-university lectures, leading learning in the classroom and getting involved in extra-curricular clubs and activities. Furthermore, differentiation has been built into the programme, with students able to graduate with a Pass, Merit or Distinction. Every activity must be signed off by a member of staff.

To pass the programme at a ‘Pass’ level and attend the graduation ceremony your child will need to select and complete 10 actives from a list of 16 activities from the Graduation Booklet. This booklet can be viewed on our website at https://stjohnfisher.school/ks3-graduation-programme.

To pass the programme with a ‘Merit’ and attend the graduation ceremony your child will need to select and complete 10 activities from a list of 16 activities from the Graduation Booklet and then a further activity from 4 separate categories that can be found on page 25 and 26 of the booklet.

To pass the programme at ‘Distinction’ level and attend the graduation ceremony your child will need to select and complete 10 activities from a list of 16 activities from the Graduation Booklet, one of these activities must include activity 6 (achieve target levels in at least 6 different subjects) and then a further activity from 4 separate categories that can be found on page 25 and 26 of the booklet.

We are very keen to use the Graduation Programme to recognise achievement and skills that our students do that are not necessarily linked to exam success, and to give credit for the activities that good citizens do which helps students grow. We hope you agree this looks like an exciting programme. We are looking forward to following the challenges our Key Stage 3 students will be completing.

Your child has received information about the Key Stage 3 Graduation Programme through an assembly (this presentation can be viewed on our website) and will work weekly on the programme with their Form Tutor. We would encourage you as parents/carers to look at the booklet on our website with your child and encourage them in their endeavours.

Year 7 students will be recognised for their effort working towards their desired end of Key Stage 3 goal of the programme during their celebration assembly which is planned for last week of this academic year. Further information about the Graduation Ceremony will follow shortly.

Kind regards,

Miss Crouch
Raising Standards Lead for Key Stage 3
End of Key Stage 3 Graduation Programme

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Please see our website to access a copy of the Graduation Booklet.

Key Stage 3 Age 11-13 Term by Term Curriculum Overview

The Key Stage 3 curriculum guides your child’s learning in the first two years of Secondary School education. At St John Fisher School we provide a wide range of subject experience to allow your child to develop a broad spectrum of skills and knowledge.

For a more detailed term by term overview of both Year 7 and Year 8 curriculum learning please see the website.

Miss L Crouch

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Year 10 trip to the University of Oxford

On Thursday 22nd March, a small group of year 10 students travelled to Hertford College, one of thirty-five colleges that make up the University of Oxford. On arrival, the students enjoyed an insightful lecture on the changes of global manufacturing by Professor Steve New. The themes of the lecture included discussing the effects of Brexit, Donald Trump and new technology on manufacturing, and the students were commended for asking interesting questions at the end.

After the lecture, we were introduced to three current University of Oxford students, who took us to the dining hall in the college for lunch; this provided the students the opportunity to learn what life is like for university students. The current university students then took us on a tour of the college and the Bodleian library which is next door to the college. Once the tour had finished, we had an admissions talk in a seminar room from Dr Lynn Featherstone, the college’s admissions tutor. This talk gave lots of useful information for how to apply to Oxford and which A levels to pick for specific university courses, and it was excellent to see the students scribbling lots of notes!
Finally, the current university students who gave us the tour came back for a Question & Answer session. This was perhaps the best activity of the day as it allowed the St John Fisher and University of Oxford students, rather than the teachers, to lead the conversation. Most importantly, the university and school students were able to relate to each other which taught the St John Fisher students that with hard-work and motivation, they can study at the University of Oxford too.

Mr J Williams

A photograph of the old block in Hertford College

The St John Fisher Medical Society

Medic Mentor
Motivating Medical Minds

St John Fisher are working with the organisation Medic Mentor to launch the school’s first medical society. The society has been set up to better inform students on the routes to medicine, dentistry, nursing, veterinary medicine and a range of other healthcare careers. Students have been encouraged to apply in their science lessons, and we have received many quality applications. Students who successfully gain a place in the society will be invited to a monthly meeting afterschool in which they will discuss career plans, current medical issues in the news and undertake a problem-based learning exercise in which they have to diagnose the symptoms of an imaginary patient.

If you would like to apply but have not already done so, please write a summary (no more than one page of A4) of why you would like to be part of the society and why you would like to follow a career in healthcare, and send it to the following e mail address: j.williams@stjohnfisher.school

Mr J Williams
Medway Schools Basketball Competition

Two boy’s teams from St John Fisher entered the Medway Schools Basketball competition on Thursday 10th March at Medway Park. The Under 13s teams consisted of 6 players from year 7 and 8 and the under 15s team consisted of 7 players from year 9 (players’ names can be seen below).

The U13s played in the pool game beating the Greenacre School 4-0, the Victory Academy 2-0, The Thomas Aveling School 3-0 and the Hundred of Hoo School 6-2. Due to their successes, the boys qualified through to the semi-finals. The team came face-to-face with a very professional and well-organised team from the Rainham Mark Grammar School, who eventually beat them 4-0. This could be seen as a moral victory as Rainham Mark Grammar School went on to win the tournament. In the 3rd and 4th play-off game, the came up against The Thomas Aveling School, previously beating them in the pool game. The boys did themselves proud, but the score line was switched this time losing 2-0. The team can be proud of their 4th place.

The U15s came up against last year’s winners in their first pool game Robert Napier, losing 16-4. Robert Napier went on to be the only school the U15’s lost to during the competition. The team rallied after this game, winning fixtures against Rainham Mark Grammar School 16-2, The Thomas Aveling School 7-5 and Greenacre 8-5. Due to their dominate play, the team went through to the semi-finals as pool runners up. In the second of the semi-finals, the boys played a very strong team from the Howard School. Battling hard to the final whistle, we ran out 4-2 winners. Meaning we would have one final game to try and beat Robert Napier in the final. Confidence was high before the game due to the team recent success. Although a fine performance from all players the game finally finished 10-4 to the Robert Napier School, securing a Silver medal.

I would like to thank the boys for their hard work, dedication and above all the impeccable sportsmanship they conducted throughout the tournament. The Physical Education Department is extremely proud of your commitment to the school and the PE Department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Under 13s Team</th>
<th>Under 15s Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deondre Jacodie</td>
<td>Marcus Hernandez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayzal Adeyemi</td>
<td>Marcel Kaleja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaquille Costello</td>
<td>Isaac Shofela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Owusu</td>
<td>Gian-Luca Byrnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osbert Biskup</td>
<td>Joel Senior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Carberry</td>
<td>Ionut Neag</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr S Gough

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Annual General Meeting & Ofsted / CQC Inspection Feedback

A representative from Medway council will be attending to provide feedback on December’s SEND inspection.

Wednesday 28th March 2018
At
King Charles Hotel,
Brompton Road, Gillingham
ME7 5QT
10.00 am to 1.00 p.m.

To confirm your attendance please email medwaypcf@googlemail.com

(Refreshments Provided)

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YELLOW ZIG ZAG LINES - POLITE REMINDER TO PARENTS/CARERS

For the safety of all our students please **do not** park on the **double yellow line** or the **yellow ‘zig-zag’ lines** outside the schools’ main entrances. These are located in Ordnance Street and Scotteswood Avenue. Please also refrain from parking on the pavements as this makes it difficult for students to get passed the cars.

School Keep Clear road markings were initially introduced in the 1964 Traffic Signs Regulations. They originally consisted of broken white lines that formed a box containing the words ‘School Entrance’.

In 1975 these markings were changed to the current yellow zigzag lines with the words ‘School Keep Clear’ placed between the zigzag lines.

Due to the success in helping to prevent accidents between motorists and children, these yellow zigzag lines are now seen at the majority of school entrances and exits throughout the UK.

Yellow zigzag lines can also be found at the entrance or exits of hospitals, fire stations, police station or ambulance stations and are used to indicate the length of road where you should not wait, stop or park a vehicle.

Yellow and white zigzag road markings are placed to show that the area must be kept clear to allow an unrestricted view for approaching drivers and riders or children wanting to cross the road.

Double Yellow lines mean no waiting at any time, unless there are signs that specifically indicate seasonal restrictions.

These restrictions apply to the carriageway, pavement and verge.

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Star of the Month

Congratulations to the following students who received the highest number of positive points this month:

1st Place
Jessica Jessup Year 8
162 points

2nd Place
Sebastian Rosu-Donciu Year 7
152 points

3rd Place
Barbara Da Silva Year 7
140 points

4th Place
Inesa Skliutaite Year 8

5th Place
Hazhan Danyar Year 7

6th Place
Tracey Larrey Year 7

7th Place
Kalea Elsdon Burnett Year 8
and Konrad Picewicz Year 7

8th Place
Evan Hasmore Year 7

9th Place
Karolina Stalioraityte Year 10

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