



## Half term

We break up for half term today and return on Monday 28 October when it will be Week 2. It has been a very busy and productive first half term and everybody has settled into the swing of things. We held our Post 16 Open Evening on Tuesday which went very well indeed and parents appreciated the chance to speak at length to subject teachers and listen to current sixth form students. Applications for the sixth form need to be in by 19 December. If you have any questions about the application process, courses and options please contact Miss Wilson. If you have general questions about life in the sixth form, please contact Mr Reilly. Year 6 applications need to be in by 31 October.

## Progress 8

I am delighted to announce that our provisional Progress 8 figure was released yesterday and it is 0.60. This means that students at St John Fisher make more than half a grade more progress on average across eight subjects at GCSE than other pupils nationally. A score of 0.60 also puts us in the 'Well above average' category and in the top 15% of all state schools in England for Progress 8. Well done to all staff and students for their hard work.

## More information on the Progress 8 measure from the Department for Education:

Progress 8 scores shows how much progress pupils made between the end of key stage 2 and the end of key stage 4, compared to pupils across England who got similar results at the end of key stage 2. This is based on results in up to 8 qualifications, which include English, Maths, 3 English Baccalaureate qualifications including Sciences, Computer Science, History, Geography and Languages, and 3 other additional subjects. A score above zero means pupils made more progress, on average, than pupils across England who got similar results at the end of Key Stage 2. A score below zero means pupils made less progress, on average, than pupils across England who got similar results at the end of Key Stage 2.

## Year 11 PPEs

We have reached the end of the first week of Year 11 PPEs. Students have risen well to the challenge of revision and the tight schedule of exams - their conduct has been exemplary. The second week of exams will be straight after half term which gives students an excellent opportunity for intensive revision over the half term break.

## Red Day

We held the second of our House charity days on Wednesday which was Red Day. Students from Beverley house raised money in a variety of ways. The day went very well. My thanks to all who organised and ran the activities on the day itself.

## Parent Governor

We have a vacancy for a parent governor. If you are interested in this role, then please contact the school and ask for Angela Goulding to have a conversation with me about what is required. Have a good half term.

*Kate Pereira*

## Free School Meals

Are you eligible for free school meals? This saves families around £400 a year and gives £900 (per child) of additional funding to their school.

Your child will be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (without Working Tax Credit) and an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- If you are supported under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after your employment finishes or after you start to work less hours per week.

If you are unsure or would like to enquire about this please contact the school.

**Academic Tutoring**  
**Year 10:**  
**28 October - 8 November**

## Diwali – October 2019



Happy Diwali to our students, staff and their families who will be celebrating the festival of lights.

## Focus Day One: Friday 11 October 2019

### Year 7

On Friday we went to Belton House in Grantham. Belton House is a huge mansion built by a rich family in the 17th Century. We enjoyed a walk around Belton House as we watched deer jumping over fences and we also spotted a few flocks of sheep. Then we decided to explore the beautiful gardens where we went through a maze and entered a greenhouse with very pretty plants, we also saw a waterfall! My favourite part of the day was looking around the mansion itself where we got to see the study, the living room, the library as well as many other interesting rooms. The ceiling design was absolutely amazing! Finally, our last activity was going to the park which was great fun but then it started raining very heavily and we all got soaked but as we had a great day it was absolutely worth it!

Aya – Year 7

### Year 8

The Science department took some Year 8 students to the Natural History Museum in London. Despite all the traffic on the way home we had a wonderful day out.



*'The museum was very big and filled with all sorts of objects, from amethysts and pearls from deep underground, to dinosaur's skeletons and bones from millions of years ago. One of my favourite rooms was the dinosaur room where dinosaurs hung from the walls and ceilings. This trip was enjoyable and fun because it showed you things that you didn't know and things that you weren't even sure existed! There was so much to see and do. Personally I would recommend going there to everybody as I really enjoyed it.'*

Andre - Year 8

Year 8 students who stayed in school had an interesting day learning about the topical issue of plastic, particularly the effect it is having on our environment and how we can reduce our single-use plastics. Students were shocked by the scale of the problem and inspired to do something about it. The afternoon was spent coming up with new and inventive ways to re-use our plastic. A good day was had by all.

### Year 9

Year 9 had a day of crafting and competition at the same time as using recycled materials. During the day, they spent time weaving using looms, recycled wool and used a variety of materials as well plastic bags to make patches that will be sewn together to make a large art piece. Keeping on with the relaxation crafts, there was also the opportunity to see how many Suffolk Puffs they could make using small pieces of fabric. Again, these will be sewn together to make a wall hanging. To add to the competition, bridges were also built using paper and tape to see who could make the strongest and most efficient bridge. Huge congratulations to team Urmage who created a bridge weighing 109 grams that could carry a weight of 4.4 kilos before collapse – very impressive! Thank you Year 9 for all your hard work and keep a look out for your finished art work!

### Year 10

The Maths Faculty worked with Year 10 where we explored new ways of learning Maths. We used angry birds, a drawing class, rap, recorded plays, ate Smarties and encountered the bar model. Students were asked to write a review at the end. Some comments were, "I was not weak at Maths today", "I thought it was going to be boring but it turned out better than I thought", "today I have thoroughly enjoyed this". I think the staff all agreed the best student of the day was Marian Vasile. We hope to learn from this interesting experience and improve our lessons over time.

### Year 11

We were extremely honoured to welcome David Crystal OBE and his wife Hilary to our school on Focus Day. David is an eminent writer and lecturer on the English Language, with a worldwide reputation and over 100 books to his name. He is an honorary professor of Linguistics at the University of Wales and Bangor and he was awarded an OBE in 1995 for his contribution to the English Language. In the year 2000 he was made a Fellow of the British Academy (FBA).



We were joined by 120 Year 11 students from the Deepings Academy and our A-level students to listen to seminars on Shakespearean language and the value of Grammar. The experience of listening to a speaker of such calibre was an honour to those in attendance.

### Sixth Form

*"It was an amazing experience, having the opportunity to work with people from The Skills Service, helping me prepare for the real world. It was also helpful to get positive feedback from my mock interview, which I will definitely take with me when I go to university."*

Yolanda Fiuza

*"I really enjoyed today's assessment centre and found this very helpful as it gave me an insight into interviews in the real world and has helped me to prepare for the future. It has boosted my confidence and public speaking and communication skills."*

Alaina Lopez

