



Welcome back

Welcome to a new term. I hope all students and staff had a good break over the summer and we are looking forward to the term ahead. This week we welcomed our new Year 7 and Year 12 into school on Wednesday for an induction day and all students returned yesterday and our theme this week has been Belonging. As this is the first newsletter of the academic year, we have included some useful information about events in the calendar and some key reminders.

Kate Pereira

Exam Results 2023

We were very pleased with our results this year. They were a reflection of the hard work from both students and staff with exams back to pre-pandemic expectations. Congratulations to all students who sat exams. At A 'Level and Post 16 student headlines were 98.6% pass rate in all courses and at GCSE the 4+ Basics measure was 59.7%. Our Progress 8 figure will come out in November when the Department for Education have worked them out for all schools.

Duke of Edinburgh

At the end of last academic year we had a number of students complete their Bronze or Silver Expedition for DofE. We will be launching DofE with Year 9 students on Tuesday 12 September. It's a fabulous opportunity and one to be involved in.



Extra-Curricular Activities 2023-2024

A wide range of extra-curricular activities are on offer to all students at lunchtime and after school. We will shortly have a timetable of all clubs that are available.

Mrs Wilmore, Senior Deputy Headteacher

Uniform, Equipment and Standards

Students have made a brilliant start to the term. Standards at St John Fisher remain high, with this in mind please ensure all uniform is worn correctly and equipment present for the remaining year, as we have high expectation from all our students. I would like to remind you that the wearing of Hoodies and Sports Jackets are not permitted in school and will be confiscated by staff. Also not permitted is the wearing of nail varnish or false nails and jewellery. With regards to hair cut/colour, students should not have lines cut into hair or unnatural dyed colours. Sanctions will be issued if these rules are broken.

Attendance

Outstanding attendance means not only maximising classroom learning, it means creating positive habits that will stand our young adults in good stead when it comes to employment. The link between high attendance and high achievement is clear and the role of parent and carer in this process is every bit as important. Please continue to support your child in maintaining outstanding attendance. To maintain excellent attendance medical/dental appointments for students need to be made outside of school hours, where possible and we ask for proof to be provided if students attend appointments during school hours. If you have any concerns or require further support; please get in contact with your child's House Pastoral Team.

Mr Bates, Assistant Headteacher

New to You Uniform

As a school we are aware that the current cost of living is a concern for many of us. We are hoping to trial selling good quality second hand uniform 3 or 4 times a year. To be able to do this we are asking for any uniform your child has grown out of be donated to school. This can be sent in with your child or dropped off at reception. Obviously, it will take time for us to build up a good supply, so



when these sales take place will be dependent on how much uniform is donated. Hopefully this will benefit lots of our students and we will be very grateful for any items.



Mrs Reid and Mr Cowlin, Student Support Officers

| Upcoming Events | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 19 September | Year 7 Tutor Evening 4pm – 6pm |
| 3 October | Open Evening |

Breakfast - Free Bagels

Each morning we start the day with a breakfast club, why not join us for a filling bagel. Our Breakfast club runs every day between 8.10am and 8.30am all students are welcome to come and join us in the Dining Hall for a free bagel.



House Competition

All four houses compete against each other throughout the year to see who can win the cup and be proclaimed as The Best House. The competition starts the first week of term with the year 7's taking part in:

- Drama
- Music
- PE
- Science

Well done to all year 7's, see the results of their hard work below:

| House Competitions | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Rochester | 300 |
| Beverley | 200 |
| Cambridge | 180 |
| Westminster | 120 |

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2023-2024

Autumn Term

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|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 4 & 5 September | Training days |
| 6 September 2023 | Term Begins for Yr 7 & 12 |
| 7 September 2023 | Term Begins for all |
| 23 – 27 October 2023 | Half Term Holiday |
| 20 December 2023 | Term Ends |

Spring Term

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|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 3 January 2024 | Training Day (Disaggregated) |
| 4 January 2024 | Term Begins |
| 16 February 2024 | Training day |
| 19 – 23 February 2024 | Half Term Holiday |
| 28 March 2024 | Term Ends |

Summer Term

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|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 15 April 2024 | Term Begins |
| 6 May 2024 | Bank Holiday – school closed |
| 27 May – 31 May 2024 | Half Term Holiday |
| 19 July 2024 | Term Ends |
| 22 July 2024 | Training day (disaggregated) |

Free School Meals

Is your child eligible for free school meals? We are keen to make sure they get the support they need, both short term with meals / vouchers but longer term in terms of schools support via the pupils premium. If you think you may be eligible please complete the form online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals. Claiming Free School Meals not only provides your child/children with a meal allowance each day of £2.70 but also brings in valuable additional funding to the school.

Your child is entitled to Free School Meals if you are in receipt of one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

To apply for Free School Meals complete the Free School Meal Application Form on the website below: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals.

Diocese of East Anglia

At the start of the academic year Kate Pereira, Headteacher of St John Fisher Catholic High School in Peterborough, outlines the many positive reasons for sending children to a Catholic.

Young Catholics who attend Catholic schools speak very highly of their school experiences, citing regular opportunities for the celebration of Mass together and the centrality of prayer and liturgy supporting them on their faith journey. However, what echoes most often in the undercurrent of all Catholic schools is that special something that nobody can put their finger on, strong relationships, that feeling of warmth and welcome we are not afraid to proclaim as the presence of the Holy Spirit, at work in and through everything.

One huge advantage of attending a Catholic school is the centrality of Religious Education to the curriculum in Catholic schools. The recent publication of the new RE Directory for Catholic Schools provides a rich source of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith, and genuine encounter with other faiths within the current world in which we live. The amount of time dedicated to the study of RE also means extra time spent on developing the skills associated with the subject such as thinking skills, oracy, reading and writing skills, analysis and debate. Please see the link below for the full article.

<https://www.rcdea.org.uk/catholic-schools-offer-something-special-to-their-pupils/>

