



# THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P E McCullagh BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

Peaks Hill  
Purley  
Surrey  
CR8 3YP

9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week it was a pleasure to welcome back our student body after a well-deserved summer break. In a week with so many positives, it is with the greatest sadness that we join the country in mourning the passing of Her Majesty The Queen.

The Queen's own deep faith has been an inspiration for so many – demonstrated throughout her life in her words and actions. She leaves behind a legacy, which champions friendship, inclusion and promoting tolerance.

At the centre of both national and international mourning, there is a family grieving for the loss of their much-loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. I am sure you will join me in keeping all members of the Royal family in your thoughts and prayers.

In celebration of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, we planted a tree and had the portraits painted by our students blessed, which are now on display around the school. Next week we will use Collective Worship to commemorate and celebrate the life of Queen Elizabeth II, alongside Form time and some lessons.



*'Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.  
May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.'*

**Amen**

**Some important messages for you:**

## **Sporting Fixtures - Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September**

In line with guidance from the RFU, all rugby fixtures will be going ahead tomorrow. Good luck to all our students and staff as we play Eton and Dulwich College.

### **Welcome to our new cohorts in Years 7 and 12**

This week saw The Fisher Family welcome new cohorts into Years 7 and 12. It can be unnerving for students when they join a new school and I want to congratulate them for settling in so quickly. In particular, Year 7 have transitioned across to secondary education with maturity, supported by the Year 7 team of Tutors, Director of Learning and the wider staff body. Thank you to all those involved in making this such an enjoyable week. All students have come back from their summer break with enthusiasm and focus and should be congratulated for their efforts around school. We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 parents/carers on site tomorrow morning for our welcome event.



### **Education Sunday: Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

The theme of this year's Education Sunday is 'Enlightening the Mind' and is based on the Gospel acclamation for that day: "May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten."

This day offers an opportunity for us to pray to Almighty God for all people involved in Catholic education, to celebrate the achievements of the past and to ask Our Lord to bless the work of the year ahead.



### **Open Evening**

Thank you to all the students and staff who contributed to the success of our annual Open Evening. We welcomed prospective parents/carers to school to give them an insight into what makes The John Fisher School unique. With over 200 students helping on the evening, we were able to provide parents/carers with tours around the

school and the opportunity to join in with activities/conversations in the different subject areas. We look forward to receiving their admission applications ahead of the deadline which is Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

### **The JFA (Parent Association)**

All parents/carers are warmly welcome to join our first JFA meeting of the school year on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September. The meeting will take place in the Sixth Form Centre on site between 7.30pm and 9.00pm. Those parents/carers attending the new Year 7 Welcome Mass will be able to join the meeting straight after Mass has finished as it is very nearby.

The JFA is a vital group for the school, bringing parents/carers together in a fun and social environment, whilst helping to raise money for the school, which directly benefits our students.

Please do support them if you can.

### **UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award: Silver**

Just before the summer break, we received our accreditation visit for our Silver Award. The assessor met with students, staff and governors to discuss the impact the process has had on the wider school community. We were delighted to be awarded the Silver Award. As we await the final report, I am pleased to be able to share some of the feedback we received from the assessor:

*"There is a strong ethos with a culture of inclusivity"*

*"Staff and pupils' level of knowledge on the Rights of a Child is excellent"*

*"Mental and physical health provision is excellent"*

*"The school has respectful and strong relationships throughout"*



### **IT Investment**

You may remember that last year we ran a fundraising campaign to help support the school in its investment into key areas such as the boilers, IT server and Plough Lane. There has been some work completed over the summer on our pavilion at Plough Lane. The inside has been painted and some essential repairs have been carried out on the toilets and serving area. The focus for the remaining funds was IT across the school. We are very grateful to Peter Bennett (Alumni, 1969) who generously matched the remaining sum, which resulted in an investment of over £100,000 on IT this summer. As part of our 3 year plan, we now have new PCs in three IT suites, improved bandwidth and server speed, additional server space and improved infrastructure. We are determined to continue our work in this area and will be asking the JFA to support our investment this year.



### **Some key dates for your diary:**

- **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September:** Year 12 Welcome Evening 6.00pm-7.00pm (Main Hall)
- **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September:** Year 8 Information Evening 6.00pm-7.00pm (Main Hall)
- **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September:** Year 11 Information Evening 6.00pm-7.00pm (Main Hall)
- **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September:** New Year 7 Welcome Mass 7.00pm-8.00pm (Chapel)
- **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September:** JFA Meeting 7.30pm-9.00pm in the Sixth Form Centre  
All parents/carers are warmly invited to join the JFA and help raise much needed funds for the school, as well as enjoy the social side of organised events. New Year 7 parents/carers are especially welcome and will be able to join the meeting at the end of Mass.
- **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September:** Year 9 Information Evening 6.00pm-7.00pm (Main Hall)

### **Final Prayer: A message from Archbishop John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark**

The announcement of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is a cause of great sadness for her beloved family, for the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth, and all people of goodwill.

We give thanks to Almighty God for Her Majesty's life of unfailing dedication and the outstanding example of Her Majesty's service, faithful unto death.

As a devoted disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, Her Majesty witnessed to the Gospel of God's love for all people and worked tirelessly to strengthen harmony, to defend justice and to promote peace. We now pray for the repose of her soul, remembering the promise of Christ, who is the Resurrection and the life:

*'I am with you always, even until the end of time.(Mt 28:20) May Her Majesty rest in peace and rise in glory.*

*We pray for our King, for the Queen Consort and for all the Royal Family at this time of bereavement. We offer to them our deepest sympathy and condolence.*

*Let us also pray for our United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, grateful to God for Queen Elizabeth II's remarkable life and selfless commitment to the promises she made at her Coronation. Her Majesty has been a part of all our lives and we shall miss her deeply.*

*We beseech you Almighty God, that your servant Elizabeth, who by your mercy received the government of this realm, and who dedicated her life entirely to the service of her people, may now rest from her labours in the peace of Christ which surpasses all understanding. Through the same Christ our Lord.'*

**Amen.**

Yours sincerely,



P E McCullagh  
Headteacher