



The John Fisher School

Headmaster: Mr R F Teague

30 August 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family have enjoyed a restful and refreshing summer break. As we look forward to the start of the new academic year, I would like to share some key information and reminders to help ensure a smooth beginning for all students.

Start of Term Arrangements

The first week of term will begin with a staggered start for different year groups, allowing a smooth transition back into school routines.

- **Monday 1 September** – Staff training day (no students in school)
- **Tuesday 2 September** – Years 7 and 12 only (08:45 – 12:10)
- **Wednesday 3 September** – Years 7, 8 and 9 (08:45 – 12:00); Years 10, 11 and 13 (12:20 – 15:30); Year 12 not in school
- **Thursday 4 September** – Normal timetable resumes for all students

Please ensure your son arrives punctually and in full school uniform.

New Planners for Years 7–10

This year, students in Years 7–10 will each receive a new planner. The planner is an important tool for recording homework, monitoring progress and supporting good organisation. Please encourage your son to use it daily and take pride in keeping it neat and up to date. I would also be grateful if you could check and sign the planner each week.

New Parent App – My Child at School

Over the summer we have transitioned from SIMS to a new Management Information System (MIS), Bromcom. This will improve efficiency in many areas, although we ask for your patience as staff become familiar with it. As part of this change, *EduLink* will be replaced with a new parent app, *My Child at School*. This will give you easy access to information including attendance, behaviour, timetables, homework and school communications. Further details on how to register and log in will follow in the coming days.

Mobile Phone Rules

As part of our response to growing evidence about the risks of smartphones, we are tightening our procedures this term. As previously advised, students in **Year 7** are not permitted to bring a smartphone to school, although they may bring a basic 'brick' phone if



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they wish. Students in **Years 7–11** must keep phones switched off and out of sight throughout the school day.

I am pleased to see that some manufacturers are now producing phones with useful functions but without the more addictive features of smartphones. One example is the [Balance Phone](#) by Samsung, which allows access to maps, Uber and other practical tools. We have added this to the list of permitted basic phones for Year 7, and parents of students in other year groups may also wish to consider this option.

Uniform Expectations

At the start of this new academic year, I want to take the opportunity to remind all families of the importance of high standards of uniform. Wearing the school uniform correctly is not only a matter of pride in belonging to The John Fisher School, but also a sign of respect for the learning environment and for one another. Students are expected to arrive each day in full uniform, worn smartly at all times, including on the journey to and from school. This includes wearing shoes rather than trainers, shirts tucked in, top buttons fastened, and ties worn properly. Shoes must be black and capable of being polished. Earrings must not be worn in school. Please support us by ensuring that your son leaves home each morning meeting these expectations.

Celebrating Exam Results

I would like to congratulate our students in Years 11 and 13 on an excellent set of A Level, GCSE and BTEC results. Exam results inevitably bring mixed emotions—some disappointments alongside many successes—but what matters most is that each student fulfils his potential. By that measure, our students did exceptionally well.

At A Level, students achieved a value-added score of **+0.5**, meaning they gained on average half a grade higher in each subject than would be expected nationally. This compares very favourably with last year's strong result of +0.19, and is a remarkable improvement on the figure of -0.83 in 2023. This outcome is testament not only to the hard work of our students but also to the commitment of their teachers. I would particularly like to thank Mr Jackson, our Director of Sixth Form, for his leadership and the significant positive impact he has made.

At GCSE, progress measures are not being reported nationally this year (as this cohort did not sit SATs in 2020). Nevertheless, we were delighted to see increases in both our Attainment 8 score and in the percentage of top grades achieved. Last year, our progress was the most improved in both the borough and the Archdiocese; this year, we are confident that progress has risen still further. My thanks and congratulations go to our Year 11 students, their teachers, and to Mr Tomlinson, their Head of Year.



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Looking Ahead

We are excited to welcome your sons back and to build on the strong progress of last year. With your support, we look forward to another year of learning, growth and achievement—both in and beyond the classroom.

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R F Teague
Headmaster