



# THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

12 JANUARY 2024



## PARENTS/CARERS NEWSLETTER



FISHER SCHOLAR  
LECTURE



HOUSE AWARDS AND  
KENNEDY CUP



ALUMNI NEWS

'NURTURING YOUNG CATHOLIC GENTLEMEN.  
ASPIRING FOR ACADEMIC, CULTURAL AND SPORTING EXCELLENCE.'



# SCAN ME

## SEN support

# Managing Exam Stress Workshop



## Year 11 workshop for beating exam stress

Do you feel anxious, stressed or worried about your upcoming exams? If so, then sign up to this workshop designed to help you better understand what exam-based stress is, how we experience it and what we can do to cope better.

### What you'll learn



#### **Part 1 – What Anxiety is and How it is Experienced**

Discover what anxiety is, where it comes from and how anxiety impacts our thoughts, feelings, sensations and behaviours.



#### **Part 2 – Support Strategies**

Discover the ways you can better support yourself to manage exam-based stress when anxiety comes.



#### **Part 3 – Making Plans for Change (in 2-hour workshop only)**

Develop a personalized plan for tackling exam-based stress head on.

18th January  
9-11am

Sign up form on Satchel One or speak  
to Miss Carquez!

# The Week...

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a pleasure to welcome the boys back to school this week, and they have made an excellent start to the term. I have been particularly heartened by their positive response to the adjustments that we have made to behaviour expectations. In this regard, huge thanks are due to Mr Mawer for his work on leading the implementation of the new policy and ensuring that it runs smoothly.

This afternoon saw the latest in our series of 'Fisher Scholar' lectures, given by one of our Year 11 students, Angus H, to an audience of over 40 students and several staff. The title of the lecture was Navigating the Maze of Neural Networks: A Journey into the World of Machine Learning. This is an important and growing area of research which brings together a number of subject disciplines, notably mathematics and computer science. It is not an easy task to distil such challenging subject matter into a half-hour presentation but Angus did superbly well, making use of several ingenious computer simulations to help those of us with scant prior knowledge in this area (myself included) to engage with some very abstract concepts.

Activities such as the Fisher Scholar lectures are, I believe, more important than ever. One of the many benefits of the internet is that it makes a vast amount of knowledge accessible at the click of a switch. However, there is a corresponding risk that easy access to such a breadth of information lends itself to superficial scanning rather than in-depth study. One of the great benefits of these lectures is that they demand the deep mastery of a topic which will be increasingly important as Artificial Intelligence starts to loom larger in our lives. On today's showing, many of our students are already preparing well for this future. Well done to Angus, and thank you to Mr Gamage for organising a remarkable series of lectures.



It seems appropriate to finish with a prayer written by the patron saint of knowledge, St Thomas Aquinas, whose feast falls later this month.

*Grant us, O Lord my God, minds to know you, hearts to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you.*

With all good wishes,  
R.F.Teague  
Headteacher

**Mass Times  
w/b 15 January 2024**

|          |        |
|----------|--------|
| Tuesday  | 8.00am |
| Thursday | 8.00am |
| Friday   | 8.00am |

All are welcome !



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# JOIN THE JFA TODAY!

- Raise money for the school
- Organise events
- Collaborate with other parents
- Every student benefits from decisions!

## Initiatives include:

- School Fundraisers
- Christmas Hampers
- All Stars Rugby Match/Fete
- ... & more!

**Monthly  
meetings at  
Plough Lane!**

**Commit to as much, or as little, as you like.**

**Email [johnfisherassoc@gmail.com](mailto:johnfisherassoc@gmail.com) for more information.**

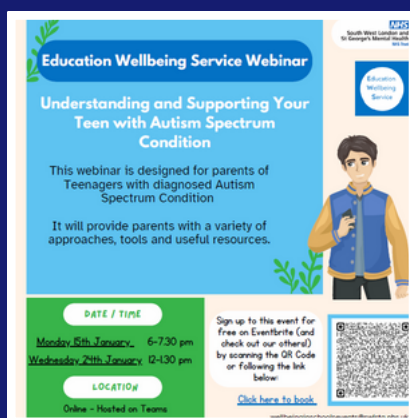


Thank you to those who supported the Christmas Tree sale and Hamper packing. The next meeting will be in January 2024. More information to come in the new year.

# FREE Webinar: Understanding and Supporting your Teen with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC)

Our NHS-led Education Wellbeing Service will be delivering a free parent/carers webinar with a focus on understanding and supporting your teenager with ASC on Monday 15 January at 6pm and Wednesday 24 January 12pm. The webinar is aimed at parents of children diagnosed with ASC and will provide useful resources, tools and approaches to best support your child during the teenage years.

Click here for more information and to book your free ticket: [Secondary Parents - NHS Wellbeing Workshops | Eventbrite](#)



## Children's Book Project

Thank you to all parents/carers, staff and students who donated pre-loved Children's books to this year's collection.

**We donated a whopping 523 books in total.**

These will be given to children around the country who do not have a reading book at home.



## JFA Christmas Hamper Raffle

Thank you to all the parents/carers who bought tickets for the Christmas Hamper Raffle Sponsored by *Tutor Doctor Tuition*. This raffle raised **£1,186** to support the ongoing support for Fisher Families at Christmas time each year. The winners were:

**1<sup>st</sup>** Miss Sayers   **2<sup>nd</sup>** Ms Blake   **3<sup>rd</sup>** Mrs. Sawyer

## Contact Information

**KS3 Administrator for Years 7, 8 & 9:**

Mrs. Maynard  
[h.maynard@johnfisherschool.org](mailto:h.maynard@johnfisherschool.org)

**KS4 Administrator for Years 10 & 11:**

Mrs Cody  
[m.cody@johnfisherschool.org](mailto:m.cody@johnfisherschool.org)

**KS5 Administrator for Sixth Form:**

Mrs Cooney  
[c.cooney@johnfisherschool.org](mailto:c.cooney@johnfisherschool.org)

**Finance:**

[finance@johnfisherschool.org](mailto:finance@johnfisherschool.org)

**General Enquiries:**

[johnfisherschool@johnfisherschool.org](mailto:johnfisherschool@johnfisherschool.org)  
Tel. 020 8660 4555

**Reception Opening Hours:**

Please note that Main Reception is open  
**from 7.30am until 4.00pm,**  
Monday to Friday  
during term time only.

You can find out more here  
[www.tutordocor.co.uk](http://www.tutordocor.co.uk)

or email Busola on  
[aolodimeji@tutordocor.co.uk](mailto:aolodimeji@tutordocor.co.uk)



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# Post-Christmas Clearout

If you had a post-Christmas clear out, please do remember our two clothing banks. One is on site at school, the other is at the playing fields on Plough Lane.



**CALLING ALL STUDENTS, PARENTS/CARERS & THE LOCAL COMMUNITY!**



# **DONATE NOW!**



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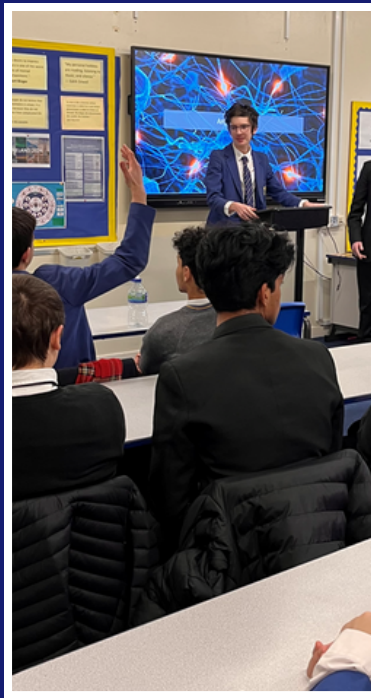
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# Fisher Scholar Lecture

Well done to Angus H. (Year 11) who gave a captivating Fisher Scholar Lecture this week on ***Navigating the Maze of Neural Networks: A Journey into the World of Machine Learning.*** Delve into the intriguing world of neural networks and the powerful genetic algorithm. He used the example of a neural network he created that learns to play the classic game of Snake to showcase these ground breaking concepts. He explored how this neural network is trained by the genetic algorithm and the benefits of using such algorithms in machine learning.



## Key Dates

### Friday 12 January

Drama Production, 'Little Red!',  
Main Hall at 5pm

### Thursday 18 January

Yr13 Parent Teacher Meetings

### Thursday 25 January

Epilogue, 4pm

### Monday 29 January

Yr11 PPEs start

### Thursday 1 February

Yr7 Parent Teacher Meetings

## King for a Day

Year 10 have started their new GCSE Food topic, Food Choice, which amongst other things looks at foods linked to religions and cultures around the world.

To mark Epiphany on 6 January, when the Three Wise Men visited Jesus, we have been celebrating the ancient French tradition of 'Galette des Rois' (King's Cake).

The cakes are made of brioche or puff pastry filled with apple or frangipane and each contains a hidden figurine or charm (a 'fève'). The person who finds the fève becomes the 'King' or 'Queen' for the day and wears a crown.



Arise, King Subomi!



## Alumni News: George Skivington (2001)

Gloucester Head Coach, and John Fisher Alumni, George Skivington will take charge of the England men's A team for their first fixture in eight years when they play Portugal in February.

Having captained England A team as a player, George said it was 'a massive honour' to be asked to lead the team.

We all wish him well in his new role alongside the work he continues to do at Gloucester.



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# Kennedy Cup & House System Bulletin



Spring 2024

Welcome to the second termly bulletin providing you with news and updates on The John Fisher School House system and progress of the Kennedy Cup for the 2023-24 academic year. Since the first bulletin in September we have seen over 10 House events take place, 800+ students participating, 7 House assemblies held and an end-of-term Kennedy Cup celebration...it has been a busy first term! So now to bring you up-to-speed with some of the results...

## Results from the autumn term

During the first term we saw House competitions from Sport, I.T., Art and Year teams, covering events such as basketball, chess, quizzes, the Bebras challenge and a design a Christmas card competition.



## House cross-country

The opening House event each year is cross-country. Cross-country continues to shine at The John Fisher School, competing nationally as one of the top 5 state schools in the country. Cross-country is one of the toughest sports at the school, competing in all weathers, in fields, forests, sometimes through rivers and over gates. In the House competition every student is strongly encouraged to participate in the event to earn points for their House and almost everyone does.

Overall results for 2023 are on the right with Bede triumphing - and I have included the results for 2022 alongside, to show that Bede came 6th last year, which goes to show it's not always the same foregone conclusion!

| 2023     |           |
|----------|-----------|
| Position | Overall   |
| 1st      | Bede      |
| 2nd =    | Challoner |
| 2nd =    | More      |
| 4th      | Newman    |
| 5th      | Fisher    |
| 6th      | Becket    |
| 7th      | Teresa    |

| 2022     |           |
|----------|-----------|
| Position | Overall   |
| 1st      | More      |
| 2nd      | Becket    |
| 3rd      | Newman    |
| 4th      | Fisher    |
| 5th      | Challoner |
| 6th      | Bede      |
| 7th      | Teresa    |

Year-by-year results are shown here too with congratulations to Bede in Years 7 and 9, More in Year 8, Fisher in Year 10 and Becket in Year 11, with Challoner being steady across the board finishing joint 2nd overall with More.

| Position | Year 7    | Year 8    | Year 9    | Year 10   | Year 11   |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1st      | Bede      | More      | Bede      | Fisher    | Becket    |
| 2nd      | More      | Teresa    | Challoner | Challoner | Bede      |
| 3rd      | Newman    | Newman    | Teresa    | Bede      | Challoner |
| 4th      | Becket    | Becket    | Newman    | More      | Newman    |
| 5th      | Teresa    | Challoner | More      | Newman    | Fisher    |
| 6th      | Challoner | Bede      | Becket    | Becket    | More      |
| 7th      |           |           | Fisher    | Teresa    | Teresa    |

In the always hotly-anticipated House Rugby, Teresa took the honours overall after winning the A team competition in Year 10 and B team competitions in Years 7 and 9, with last years winners Newman a close second and More a close third.

| Position | Overall   |
|----------|-----------|
| 1st      | Teresa    |
| 2nd      | Newman    |
| 3rd      | More      |
| 4th      | Fisher    |
| 5th      | Becket    |
| 6th      | Bede      |
| 7th      | Challoner |



*'Nurturing young Catholic gentlemen. Aspiring for Academic, Cultural & Sporting Excellence'*



Competition is always fierce and excitement heightened in Year 7 and there have been a couple of extra events for them this term with a weekly House quiz, mainly decided by participation points rather than skill and knowledge, and an Ultimate Frisbee event. Well done to Teresa on the quiz and More in the Ultimate Frisbee.



### Quiz rounds

|                  | B | C | K | M | N | T |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Gen Knowledge | 4 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 2. History       | 5 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 3. Films         | 6 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 4. Picture       | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 5. Sport         | 5 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 6. Geography     | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 7. USA           | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 |

### Overall Quiz

| Position | Year 7    |
|----------|-----------|
| 1st      | Teresa    |
| 2nd      | More      |
| 3rd      | Newman    |
| 4th      | Becket    |
| 5th      | Bede      |
| 6th      | Challoner |

### Ultimate Frisbee

| Position | Year 7    |
|----------|-----------|
| 1st      | More      |
| 2nd      | Newman    |
| 3rd      | Becket    |
| 4th      | Bede      |
| 5th      | Teresa    |
| 6th      | Challoner |

The Art department held a Christmas card competition for Year 7, with the winning entry going to production and used as the school's Christmas card this year sent to parents, carers, staff, governors and more. Huge congratulations to Sam B. from 7C for his excellent entry opposite.



Last year the Art department ran a competition to design a logo for each House which you can find displayed below.





House chess made a welcome return after a few years absence with Becket coming out top of the pile overall after closely-fought events in Years 7, 8 and 9. In a slightly more raucous atmosphere and just as tightly-contested, Newman won the House basketball after impressively triumphing in 5 of the 9 individual events (A to C teams in Years 7 to 9).



### Chess

| Position | Overall   |
|----------|-----------|
| 1st      | Becket    |
| 2nd =    | More      |
| 2nd =    | Newman    |
| 4th      | Teresa    |
| 5th      | Bede      |
| 6th      | Fisher    |
| 7th      | Challoner |

### Basketball

| Position | Overall   |
|----------|-----------|
| 1st      | Newman    |
| 2nd      | Bede      |
| 3rd      | More      |
| 4th      | Becket    |
| 5th      | Teresa    |
| 6th      | Challoner |
| 7th      | Fisher    |

### Autumn term attendance

| Position | Overall   |
|----------|-----------|
| 1st      | More      |
| 2nd      | Becket    |
| 3rd      | Bede      |
| 4th      | Newman    |
| 5th      | Challoner |
| 6th      | Teresa    |
| 7th      | Fisher    |

Finally two results which can definitely be helped by a gentle push from home - attendance and achievement! More came out on top overall on attendance this term (although very tight across the board) and the achievement results are below year-by-year and overall - well done More and Becket again, Fisher need to up their game!

| Position | Year 7    | Year 8    | Year 9    | Year 10   | Year 11   |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1st      | More      | More      | Newman    | Becket    | Becket    |
| 2nd      | Challoner | Becket    | Teresa    | Challoner | Teresa    |
| 3rd      | Newman    | Teresa    | Bede      | Bede      | Newman    |
| 4th      | Becket    | Challoner | Becket    | Newman    | Challoner |
| 5th      | Teresa    | Newman    | Challoner | More      | More      |
| 6th      | Bede      | Bede      | More      | Fisher    | Fisher    |
| 7th      |           |           | Fisher    | Teresa    | Bede      |

| Position | Overall   |
|----------|-----------|
| 1st      | More      |
| 2nd      | Becket    |
| 3rd      | Newman    |
| 4th      | Challoner |
| 5th      | Teresa    |
| 6th      | Bede      |
| 7th      | Fisher    |

### Standings at end of autumn term:

So, as presented in the Kennedy Cup celebration assembly on the final day of term, it is currently very close at both ends of the table, with More taking top spot from last year's overall winners Newman. Last year's competition clearly showed though that nothing is won at Christmas (or even Easter!) and that there are still plenty of points to play for across many more events over the spring and summer terms - in fact I think the winners may well have to top 1000 points this year to see off their rivals.

|                 |
|-----------------|
| More (241)      |
| Newman (214)    |
| Becket (207)    |
| Bede (163)      |
| Teresa (142)    |
| Challoner (123) |
| Fisher (90)     |



## House event schedule for spring term

Below is a taster of some of the activities for the coming term - please encourage your child to get involved and also for them to let us know if there is any event that we may not usually run that they think would be a good idea!



- House Football
- House Table Tennis
- House Dodgeball
- English: World Book Day
- Maths: Pi Day
- IT: E-safety week competition
- Careers: Apprenticeship week competition
- Tutor-time House events and competitions



We finish each bulletin by introducing one of our House hymns and prayers - and for this bulletin we will go with More to celebrate their rise to the top of the rankings. Thank you for reading.



**MORE**

### Perseverance

**"Guide me, O Thou Great Redeemer"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5J48TLIRb4Q>

#### VERSE 1

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
Hold me with thy powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven  
Feed me till I want no more.  
Feed me till I want no more.

#### VERSE 2

Open thou the crystal fountain  
Whence the healing stream shall flow;  
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through:  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer  
Be thou still my strength and shield.  
Be thou still my strength and shield.

#### VERSE 3

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side:  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee.  
I will ever give to thee.



*"God of truth and justice, by whose grace your servant, Thomas More, in his Perseverance stood out as a champion of your Church in this land, grant us, we pray, by his example and prayers, that following always a good conscience and holding fast to the truth, we may at last meet with him and share in the inheritance of your saints in light. Through Christ our Lord, Amen."*

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