



The John Fisher School

Headteacher: Mr R F Teague BSc, MSc, MEd

8 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a pleasant and restful summer. I have spent some time familiarising myself with the school since July, and it has been great to welcome students back this week. They mostly seem to be in good spirits, in spite of the hot weather!

You will have had an opportunity to see our latest Ofsted report which we received this week. The report celebrates many of the school's strengths - which I have already seen for myself - while underlining the need for rapid improvement in certain areas. That is a challenge that we embrace with enthusiasm, and you can be sure that we will apply ourselves to it with determination and vigour over the coming weeks and months.



One of the greatest strengths of The John Fisher School is its commitment to all-round formation. Our aim is to help the boys in our care to become the best young men that they can be: intellectually, spiritually, morally and socially. If we get this right, success in one area will help to bring about success in other areas. For example, the more we can help boys to develop self-discipline, the better equipped they will be to fulfil their potential in academic and other areas. During the nearly thirty years that I have spent in teaching, I have come to see more and more that close partnership with parents and carers is crucial to achieving this aim. As I begin my role here, one of my greatest wishes is that your sons will benefit from that positive and fruitful collaboration between home and school.



It was a pleasure to welcome one of our alumni back to school this morning. Donal Denham has just published a book, *Nine Lives*, detailing his 41 years in the Irish Diplomatic Service. Donal was delighted to be back at The John Fisher School and commented on the vibrancy and positive atmosphere that he felt on his return.



Tomorrow, we have the Year 7 Welcome Morning, at which I hope to meet many new parents/carers, and rugby fixtures against Eton College. Several of our basketball teams will be in action against

Southborough, Whitgift and Wilson's during the week ahead. Open Evening is on Thursday, between 4:00 and 7:30 pm.

Today, we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lady, and so I have chosen an ancient prayer, dating from the first centuries, addressed to Mary.

*'We fly to your protection,
O holy Mother of God.
Despise not our petitions in our necessities,
but deliver us always from all dangers,*

R. Teague

O glorious and blessed Virgin'.

Best wishes for the weekend,

R F Teague
Headteacher

Summer Works

This summer we have been busy enhancing our school site, investing to keep improving the experience for our students. The Sixth Form Centre has had a complete refurbishment and is now a wonderful facility which supports the transition into the world of work and beyond. With a mixture of new study spaces, IT access and a common room, this is now a place our students can be proud of. This would not have been possible without the parental donations which so many of you so generously give each month.



Around school we have improved classrooms, with our investment in IT continuing. We have managed to invest just over £100,000 this year, much of which has come in the form of donated hardware and alumni donations. We have also installed 4 new water bottle fountains which have been welcomed additions particularly in this week's heat. They provide students the opportunity to refill bottles, reducing wastage and helping our environment.



Education Sunday, 10 September

This year, Education Sunday focusses on the promise given by Jesus in St Matthew's Gospel: *'Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'*

Education Sunday is an opportunity to showcase the work and fruits of our Catholic schools. From a priest speaking in his homily about a local school, to students wearing their uniforms at Mass, Education Sunday can be the reminder to all members of the Catholic community of the importance of education to the Catholic mission.

Open Evening, Thursday 14 September

The John Fisher School Open Evening takes place on Thursday 14 September 2023 and students will be dismissed earlier than usual on this day:

- KS3 students (Years 7, 8 & 9) will be dismissed after P.4, at 12.55pm (those students eligible for free school meals will be able to collect lunch before they leave).
- KS4 & 5 students (Years 10-13) will be dismissed after P.4, at 1.35pm.

There will also be a delayed start on Friday 15 September:

- KS3 students should arrive on site from 9.45am for a 10.00am start (P.2)
- KS4 & 5 students should arrive on site from 10.00am for a 10.25am start (P.2)

Some key dates for your diary:

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| Saturday 9 September | Yr7 Welcome/Information Morning, 9.00-10.30am (Main Hall) |
| Sunday 10 September | Education Sunday |
| Thursday 14 September | Open Evening, 4.00 – 7.30pm |
| Monday 18 September | Yr13 Information Evening, 5.30pm (Main Hall) |
| Tuesday 19 September | Yr11 Information Evening, 5.30pm (Main Hall) |
| Wednesday 20 September | Beginning of Year Mass, 10.45am (St George's Cathedral) |
| Wednesday 20 September | Yr10 Information Evening, 5.30pm (Main Hall) |
| Thursday 21 September | Yr7 Welcome Mass, 7pm (Chapel) |
| Thursday 21 September | Yr12 Information Evening, 5.30pm (Main Hall) |
| Monday 25 September | Yr8 Information Evening, 5.30pm (Main Hall) |
| Tuesday 26 September | Yr9 Information Evening, 5.30pm (Main Hall) |
| Wednesday 28 & Thursday 29 September | Yr7 Residential Bushcraft Trip |

Some reminders:

Contact Information, Key Stage Administrators

Parents/Carers are reminded to contact their son's Key Stage Administrator in the first instance if they have queries or questions regarding their son and to report absence should their son be unable to attend to school.

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| KS3 Administrator for Years 7, 8 & 9: | Mrs Maynard | h.maynard@johnfisherschool.org |
| KS4 Administrator for Years 10 & 11: | Mrs Cody | m.cody@johnfisherschool.org |
| KS5 Administrator for Sixth Form: | Mrs Cooney | c.cooney@johnfisherschool.org |

Reception

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

Finance

Any queries relating to ParentPay and free school meals should be directed to Finance by email at finance@johnfisherschool.org