

Fisher Focus

December 2020

Commitment - Aspiration - Respect - Excellence

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St John Fisher
Catholic Voluntary Academy



From the Editor

The term has passed so quickly and Christmas is almost upon us. It has been a very challenging term for staff, students and families and it is our fervent hope that everyone gets to spend some quality time with their family over the Christmas period. Despite the challenges this term, we have seen Years 11 and 13 complete PPE examinations and Year 7 have sat some initial assessments to establish their starting point. All the children in school have coped really well with masks, bubbles and staggered breaks, lunches and finishing times. Added to this was a programme of building works which is now complete. Students and staff alike have earned their holiday and on behalf of everyone at SJF we wish everyone a very merry, peaceful and joyful Christmas.

The Editor



The Season of Advent

The Advent wreath is created out of evergreens, symbolising everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. Advent candles are nestled in the evergreen

wreath. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their red colour points ahead to Jesus' sacrifice and death. Pine cones can symbolize the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary. The four candles traditionally represent hope, faith, joy and peace. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is rose-coloured. A fifth white candle is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Foodbank Donations

Since the end of October we have been accepting donations once again to support our local foodbanks. As we have progressed through Advent we are challenging the children to bring something in to help those less fortunate than themselves. Our last day will be wear a Christmas hat / jumper / hair decorations and bring a foodbank donation for the privilege. Let's have fun whilst supporting our community in need.



A Note from the Head



As we draw towards the close of what has been a very different start to any academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the families who have offered their support in these challenging times and have been so kind in supporting me in my first term in Headship. I hope that over the Christmas break you are able to spend some time with family and friends and I look forward to welcoming our students back on Monday 4 Jan remotely and physically on Tuesday 5 Jan. Wishing you all the blessings of Christmas and the New Year. Miss S Wilkinson



Day of the Dead Latin America 2 November

Year 7 have been developing their cultural knowledge in Spanish lessons by learning about the Mexican tradition of El Día de los Muertos. Despite its name, the Day of the Dead is associated with happiness and respect and is used to celebrate and remember the lives of loved ones who have passed.

El Día de Muertos, combines ancient indigenous Aztec traditions with Catholicism into a belief that the souls of the dead will come back to the living dimension for one day of the year, to be together with their relatives and friends that are still on Earth. Y7 made concertina books, decorated skull masks and discussed the Aztec civilisation.



Sixth Form Celebration Week



During the start of November, Year 11 were exploring Sixth Form options at St John Fisher. They were given our Sixth Form Prospectus, listened to a video talk from our Assistant Head 6th Form and had visits in their lessons from Sixth Form Ambassadors. The aim was to help students make the right choices next year. Each subject area engaged Year 11 students in an A Level type activity to enable them to get a 'taste' of studying that subject at A Level. There was also the opportunity to visit the Sixth Form stand outside the library to obtain further information about subjects or hear about life as a Sixth Former at St John Fisher.

Sixth Form Subject Fair

Year 11 attended a Sixth Form fair on 7 December to give them an opportunity to hear directly from subject staff about their courses and also to hear from C&K Careers about apprenticeships and other options post-16.

UK Parliament Week 2020

Sixth Formers embraced the opportunity to have their say on issues important to them as we celebrated UK parliament Week in November. Form time and Debating Club were devoted to encouraging students to discuss topics and issues affecting them and finding ways to make a difference in areas such as crime, homelessness and mental health. Students were also encouraged to register to vote.

#UKPW @YourUKParl



Year 11 Prefects

We welcome our Year 11 Prefects looking resplendent in their black Prefect tie. They are a credit to the school for their attitude and efforts and we look forward to working with them in their community role around school. Real role models!



Remembrance Day

The school said prayers and remembered the fallen on 11 November. Here are some of our Year 7 in the middle of their break-time at 11am observing a 2 minute silence.

The respect that all students demonstrated was exemplary.



Languages Vocab Express

School	Score
1 The Royal High School, Bath	157,485
2 Landmark International School	104,485
3 St Augustine's Priory, Ealing	75,305
4 Moyles Court School	48,180
5 Heathfield International School	44,025
6 Palmers Green High School	30,510
7 Copenhagen International School	19,460
8 The Hollins	10,750
9 St Ives School	6,305
10 St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy	6,235

My School's Spanish Challenge Cup Score: **6,235**
Start Time: 11th Nov 8:00am
End Time: 17th Nov 3:00pm
Last updated: 16.10.21

Congratulations to Stefan Dumitru in Y11 for winning the School Vocab Express league of Champions for Spanish! Students took part in the week-long event and all points accrued by participants led to the school taking 10th place on the Global leader-board for Challenge Cup Piccolo Spanish. Well done to all those that took part. Good fun and learning at the same time. At a time when the UK leaves Europe and begins to trade independently, there is sure to be more and more demand for foreign language speakers in business. It's one way to get ahead of the crowd in the jobs market!



Gaming and E-Sports

Our very own Mr Ward joined the West Yorkshire mayoral debate at a 'round table' session talking about the gaming industry in our area and the skills required for these jobs. With the Fisher Falcons E-sports team having taken on the RAF and UTC Swindon so far this year, one of our squads – Overwatch – was chosen to represent the British E-Sports Association in a live streamed series of exhibition matches. This was a global event and our team of Imran Patel, Charlie McCabe, Kai Hampshire, Jacob Armitage, Mohammed Makda and Lucas Ellis are doing us proud.

Christmas Day Support

The Dewsbury Cares Community Group have asked us to pass this on to our families. For yourself, or for someone you might know that is in need.



CHRISTMAS DAY FREE LUNCH

As you are all aware and will appreciate things will be quite different this year so we will be offering 4 options.

1. **Have meal/gifts delivered to your home.**
2. **Collect a meal from Church**
3. **Book a table at the Church (there will be 2 sittings) this will mainly be for families.**
4. **Request a food parcel with all the things you would need to cook a Christmas dinner yourself.**

For all Bookings and donations please call to 34-34a Cloth Hall Street, Crackenedge Lane, Dewsbury WF13 1QE



Opening Days
Wednesday 10-2
Friday 10-2
Saturday 10-2

Alternatively ring
07398 735 530
Merry Christmas!

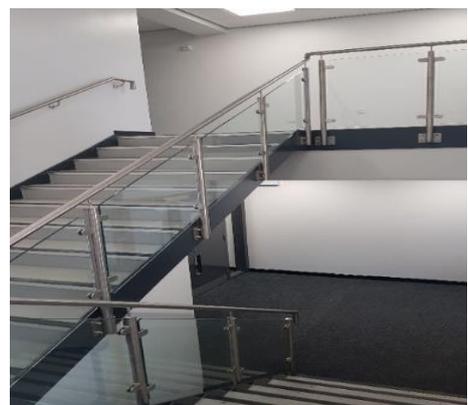
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Building Works

We will be opening our new staircases before Christmas, one at the canteen end of school, another at the opposite end and a third coming from Beverley block top floor. These will alleviate traffic and congestion on our top floors providing another route for students and staff to use. The building works have taken time, but the staircases look smart and modern and are a welcome addition to our school.



Christmas Cheer

We will be ending the term with activities for our Year 7 including a form afternoon writing Christmas cards, thank you letters and poems, jokes, drawings for the elderly. On the last day we will allow Christmas jumpers (under blazers), Christmas hats or hair decorations in return for a can or packet to the foodbank charity brought to their Form Tutor the day before. Finally, all Forms will have a party together before going home on the last day.



6th form students with their tree

End of Term and Start of New Year Arrangements

Just a reminder that students break up on Friday 18 December at 1.15pm and return physically on Tuesday 5 January at 8.55am. They should work remotely from home on Monday 4 January.

Support Services for Young People and Families (alphabetical)

Service	Offering	Phone Number	Email / Website
Catholic Care community response	Telephone support through school closure, shopping, chemist visits	0773 9975001 0773 9975008 0773 9975009	janet.kent@catholic-care.org.uk
CEOP Child Exploitation and Online Protection	National body supporting child safety online		https://www.ceop.police.uk
Chat Health (Kirklees NHS)	Message service for young people to discuss health concerns (not for Covid 19, use NHS 111 online)	07520 618866	
Childline	Support for young people who have concerns	0800 1111	www.childline.org.uk
Duty and Advice Kirklees social care	For reporting concerns around safeguarding	01484 456848 Emergency out of hours: 01484 414933	
ESCAYP	Emotional support for children and young people	01274 878117	escayp@yahoo.co.uk

Service	Offering	Phone Number	Email / Website
KIAS	Kirklees information and advice service for parents and young people with SEND	0300 330 1504	www.kias.org.uk/contact-us/
Kirklees Family Information Directory	Signposting to all family services	01484 221000	familydirectory@kirklees.gov.uk
Kirklees Special Educational Needs and /or Disability	Support for the education of children with SEND	01484 221000	https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/schools-and-education.aspx#special-education
Local Welfare Provision Kirklees	Help with food and essentials and signposting to Foodbanks	01484 414782	lwp@kirklees.gov.uk
PCAN Parents of Children with Additional Needs	An independent parent-led forum for parents of children with additional needs	07754 102336	info@pcankirklees.org
Pennine Domestic Abuse Partnership	Support for those suffering from domestic abuse	0800 052 7222	https://pdap.co.uk
Police Live chat	To report any non-emergency concerns. Not 24/7		https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/101livechat
PREVENT	Helping to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and support for those at risk of radicalisation	01924 483747	prevent@kirklees.gov.uk
The Base	Support for young people with substance and alcohol misuse	01484 541589	https://www.changegrowlive.org/young-people/the-base-kirklees
The Kooth.com	Online mental health support for young people		www.kooth.com
Thriving Kirklees	Health and mental wellbeing support for children	0300 304 5555	thrivingkirklees.org.uk

How to stay in touch with SJF:



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www.stjohnfisher.org.uk

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