



ST JOHN FISHER HARROGATE

Headteacher Bulletin

9th October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Open day

We were delighted to welcome over 800 visitors to our Sixth Form and Main School Open days on Saturday 3rd October. We had over 200 student volunteers who supported our visitors in finding their way around the school site and sharing their experience of belonging to the St John Fisher community. We know that our students are our greatest ambassadors and that proved to be the case again last Saturday. As a token of my appreciation for their hard work and efforts, students who supported the Open day will be joining me for a Headteacher's breakfast.

Thank you to the parents/carers who provided lifts to and from school on Saturday and/or rearranged their weekend plans to enable their child to support our Open day. Your on-going support for the school is very much appreciated.

School Admissions 2027

If you wish to apply for a place in Year 7 or Year 12 for September 2027, please go to the home page of the school website. Further details of the admissions process can be found under the admissions tab of the website.

Year 7 Form Tutor Consultation Evening Wednesday 14th October 2026

This online event provides an opportunity for year 7 parents/carers to meet with their child's form tutor to discuss their transition to secondary school. Appointments will be available to book until 4pm on Tuesday 13th October 2026. Please use the link to Schoolcloud which was provided in the letter to parents from Mr Hussey, Head of Year 7.

I would like to take this opportunity to say how impressed we have been with how Year 7 students have embraced their transition to secondary school. At the first assembly of the year, I encouraged them to get involved in as many aspects of school life as possible, and to try something new. I am pleased to report that most of the year group have responded positively to this request and this is evident by the large numbers who are participating in sports, music, clubs and student leadership activities. All forms have participated in their day retreat at Harlow Carr and we will be formally celebrating their transition to St John Fisher with a Mass of Welcome on Tuesday 20th October.

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

St John Fisher Catholic Academy, Hookstone Drive, Harrogate, HG2 8PT

Headteacher: Mr Mort, B.A. (Hons), NPQH

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CAFOD Fundraiser

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our annual CAFOD soup and roll event to raise awareness of the challenges experienced in many parts of the world in getting access to nutritious meals and clean water. A special mention to our sixth form students who helped with the organisation and oversight of the event. As a result of the generosity of our school community, we raised over £400 to support some of the poorest communities in the world.

SEND Years 10 and 11 Parent Information Evening

On Wednesday 14th October the SEND department will be hosting a parent information evening in the main hall for the parents/carers of our SEND students in Years 10 and 11. During the evening there will be a presentation on how to support your child's study skills in preparation for their examinations, and a Careers input from Mrs Jackson, our whole school Careers Lead.

School Development Plan

The school development plan outlines our strategic priorities and targets. Please find below the overarching strategic priorities from the plan. In future bulletins, I will provide details of the actions which we are currently undertaking to meet these priorities.

- 1. Catholic Life and Mission** - To maintain and further develop the distinctive Catholic identity of St John Fisher as a 'Community of Faith' and 'Place of Learning'
- 2. Inclusion** - To ensure our whole school mainstream inclusion provision effectively meets the needs of all pupils and any barriers to learning and /or well-being are swiftly and effectively addressed; paying particular regard to disadvantaged pupils, those with SEN, those who are known to (or previously known) to children's social care, and those who may face other barriers to learning and/or well-being.
- 3. Curriculum** - To ensure leaders and staff provide a high quality and ambitious Catholic curriculum for all pupils: paying particular regard to disadvantaged pupils, those with SEN, those who are known to (or previously known) to children's social care, and those who may face other barriers to learning and/or well-being.
- 4. Teaching** - To ensure all students experience daily high-quality and adaptive teaching resulting in exceptional outcomes and closing of attainment gaps for all groups: paying particular regard to disadvantaged pupils, those with SEN, those who are known to (or previously known) to children's social care, and those who may face other barriers to learning and/or well-being.
- 5. Achievement** - To ensure all pupils receive a high-quality education that gives them the necessary knowledge, skills and qualifications to succeed in life and equips them for the next stage of their education, training or employment: paying particular regard to disadvantaged pupils, those with SEN, those who are known to (or previously known) to children's social care, and those who may face other barriers to learning and/or well-being.



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6. **Attendance and Behaviour** - To ensure all leaders and staff establish a culture that is highly conducive to learning resulting in exceptional standards of behaviour and attendance for all pupils: paying particular regard to disadvantaged pupils, those with SEN, those who are known to (or previously known) to children's social care, and those who may face other barriers to learning and/or well-being.
7. **Personal Development** – To provide a broad and coherently planned programme of personal development (through both the taught curriculum and the wider opportunities and experiences provided for pupils) which makes a positive difference to pupils and enables them to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally
8. **Leadership and Governance** - To ensure leaders and those responsible for governance are committed to raising standards of education and care which enables every pupil to thrive and improves the lives of all pupils, especially those who are disadvantaged, those with SEND, those who are known (or previously known) to children's social care, and those who may face other barriers to their learning and/or wellbeing

Training Days

Please note that school closes to students **in all year groups** at 3.25 p.m. on Wednesday 21st October as Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd October are staff INSET days.

Access to the school site

To ensure the health and safety of students and staff, please note that vehicles are not permitted on the school site between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and 4pm. All visitors and students arriving on foot (during the school day) must use the pedestrian gate. Therefore, if you are in a car, please drop your child at the layby in front of the pedestrian gate.

Communication

For **ALL** correspondence with the school please use one of the following email addresses:

For students in years 7-11: office@sjfchs.org.uk

For students in years 12 and 13: 6thform@sjfchs.org.uk

Please refer to our school website and follow us on our social media platforms, (Facebook, and Instagram), where you will find the latest school news, updates, and information relating to future school events.

Yours sincerely

Mr Mort
Headteacher



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This week's Collective Worship Theme is **'Look Around, Look Within'**
'Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer' **Romans 12:12**

October Key Dates

- 13th York Theatre Trip Years 11 – 13
- 14th Year 7 pastoral Information Evening (form tutors)
- 14th Years 10 and 11 SEN Parental Information Evening (Study Skills)
- 20th Year 7 Welcome Mass (periods 5 and 6)
- 21st SEND Parents Forum
- 22nd INSET Day 2 School closed to all students
- 23rd INSET Day 3 School closed to all students