



**St John Fisher**  
Catholic High School

# **SCHOOL PROSPECTUS**

## **FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2010 / 2011**

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## MISSION STATEMENT

*"I have come that they may have life*

*and have it to the full"*

St John's Gospel Chapter 10

**St John Fisher Catholic High School provides a learning environment in which:**

- **the pursuit of excellence by each member of the community is recognised, encouraged and developed**
- **each individual is cherished as unique**
- **spirituality and a sense of God are nurtured**
- **service, responsibility and care for self and others are valued by all**

*Information contained in this section of the Prospectus relates to the Academic Year 2010/2011 and was correct as at September 2010 and is subject to annual review.*

Dear Parents

Welcome to St John Fisher Catholic High School. I hope that the information you find in this prospectus will help you in deciding whether or not to choose this school for your child. I hope that you do decide to choose us as we have a lot to offer.

St John Fisher is the Catholic secondary school for Peterborough and the western area of the Diocese of East Anglia. We appreciate the special role that we have to play in the delivery of a Catholic education for those young people who wish to receive one and are proud of the fact that we deliver this through a comprehensive status. This means that the school is inclusive and we welcome students from other faiths when space allows. We have students from a wide range of cultural backgrounds and are proud of the way that they integrate, learning and growing together in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

You may be aware that the school was recently in Special Measures. This meant that government inspectors from Ofsted judged that the school was not progressing as rapidly as it should and needed additional support. With the aid of this support and much hard work by the staff and governors an inspection in March this year judged that we were now providing satisfactory education and no longer required Special Measures; we had made sufficient progress a term quicker than Ofsted had expected. Indeed, almost half the grades in the report were Good. All of the inspectors' reports are available for you to read on the Ofsted website if you wish.

Significant changes have been made over the last two years and we were delighted that the GCSE results were the best ever for the school in 2009 and again in 2010. We have increased the number of teachers and now have specialist staff in every curriculum area and a much larger team of support staff working in the classrooms to help children make progress; many of these assist children whose first language is not English. We are also full and have a waiting list for all year groups.

If you are reading this brochure but have not yet visited the school I would urge you to do so. It is an impressive building and a wonderful place in which to learn. The rebuilding of the school in 2007-2009 cost over £14m, and the result is something that we truly value and appreciate, but the atmosphere cannot be accurately conveyed in words – you need to be here to do that.

2009 was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the school and we celebrated this milestone in style. We are determined that the next 50 years will see the school continue to flourish and deliver a high quality education to the children you send here.

If you have any further questions about the school after reading this booklet please contact us by one of the routes on the front cover.

**Sean Hayes**  
Headteacher

## How to Apply For A Place at St John Fisher Catholic High School

Parents wishing to apply for a place at St John Fisher Catholic High School should:

- Apply On Line at [www.peterborough.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/admissions) or complete the application form in the Admission to Secondary School Booklet 2011-2012 which is produced by Peterborough City Council
- Completed paper application forms should be returned to the Admissions Team at Peterborough City Council
- If you live outside Peterborough you must apply by contacting the Local Authority in which you live. You will find contact details for neighbouring Local Authorities in the Admission to Secondary School Booklet
- **You should also complete the St John Fisher School supplementary information form** which is available from the school. This should be returned to the Registrar, at the school by the closing date of 31 October 2010.

### ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Priority will be given to children with a statement of special educational needs which names the school. This will be in addition to any specific arrangements to specialist provision.

1. Baptised Roman Catholic Children in Care.
2. Baptised Roman Catholic children attending the feeder schools:  
All Saints' School, March  
St Augustine's School, Stamford  
St Thomas More School, Peterborough  
Sacred Heart School, Bretton
3. Other baptised Roman Catholic children.
4. Other Looked After Children.
5. Siblings of children attending St John Fisher Catholic High School at the time of admission.
6. Other children attending the feeder schools:  
All Saints' School, March  
St Augustine's School, Stamford  
St Thomas More School, Peterborough  
Sacred Heart School, Bretton
7. Children of other denominations and faiths.
8. Any other child whose parents support the ethos of the school.

In the event of oversubscription in any category, priority will be given to those living closest to the school measured by a straight line from the centre of the home address to the school using the National Ordnance Survey set points via the LA's computerised measuring system.

**Admission Data for September 2010:** Number of Preferences – 255  
Places Awarded - 133

## Information for Parents

### Academic Progress

Academic progress is carefully monitored throughout a student's time at St. John Fisher. Subject teachers assess classroom learning and homework, grading every student they teach. In cases where students are not maintaining sufficient progress, parents are invited to discuss this with the relevant staff. Positive achievement is recognised through the school's system of rewards.

During the school year parents will receive three Progress Updates on their child's progress with information on attainment, effort, causes for concern and attendance – one report each school term. Parents' evenings are arranged in the course of the year when staff can discuss students' progress with parents.

As the monitoring of academic progress carried out by the school is considered so important, parental involvement is strongly encouraged and parents are welcome to contact the school at any time if they are concerned about their child's progress. All students have an Academic Tutoring Interview with their Form Tutor each term and notes of these meetings are sent home to parents.

### Attendance and Punctuality

Registration takes place each morning, and students should reach their form room by 08.40. When a student is absent from school parents are required to telephone the school notifying the school office that their child will not be in school that day. When a student returns to school a letter from parents is required to explain that absence. It is extremely important for everyone that it is brought into school as soon as the student returns. If an absence is likely to be prolonged, a letter or telephone call after the first three days is required.

If students fail to arrive at school and no message has been received from home we will contact parents; this is usually in the form of a text message. It is therefore important that we have correct phone numbers for all parents and emergency contacts.

We strongly discourage parents from taking their children out of school for family holidays during term time. Authorisation will only be granted by the school if there are extenuating circumstances. When holidays are taken without the school's permission, or when attendance is particularly poor, we do issue fixed penalty notices in conjunction with the Local Authority.

Whilst occasional lateness may be unavoidable, students who make a habit of arriving late without good reason will be required to make up the time in an official school detention which may be after school.

### Behaviour

Our Behaviour for Learning Policy follows the principles set out in the Mission Statement. At St. John Fisher students are expected to be responsible for their own behaviour. They should have respect for themselves, respect for others and also for the environment in which they work. This will be shown by high standards of behaviour, effort, punctuality, classwork, homework, organisation, attendance and uniform.

We aim for high standards of behaviour at all times. In class, students are expected to behave in a way that promotes their own and others' learning. Emphasis is on creating a well-ordered environment in which learning can be pleasurable and efficient. Good behaviour is also required outside the classroom whether in the courtyard or on the way to and from school. As many students use public transport, conduct on the buses must be an area of self-responsibility. While the school reserves the right to act to protect its reputation, parents are reminded that the primary responsibility for the conduct of their children on the journey to and from school is theirs. Anti-social behaviour is firmly discouraged. Parents receive a copy of our Behaviour for Learning Policy at the beginning of the school year.

Parents and students are asked to make a particular note of the following:

1. Students must never bring onto the school premises any type of weapon, in particular any type of knife (even a small penknife on a key ring), any type of gun e.g. toy gun, air pistol, Ball Bearing gun and such like. This also applies to travel to and from school.
2. Any form of bullying and intimidation is expressly prohibited. Students must never instigate or take part in any physical or mental abuse of other students.
3. Any form of racial abuse or harassment is expressly prohibited. Students must never instigate or take part in any physical or mental abuse of other students on the grounds of race, culture, or religious belief.
4. Students must never endanger the lives of other members of the school community by setting off the fire alarm without good reason, even accidentally.
5. Any physical or verbal abuse of staff or the use of abusive language in response to a request from a member of staff is expressly prohibited.

Failure to comply with the above could result in a fixed term exclusion and even a permanent exclusion.

### **Care of School Property**

We have a splendid school building that we need to respect and appreciate. Students are expected to care for the fabric of the school as if it were their own home. If damage is caused wilfully, the student(s) concerned will be expected to pay, in whole or in part, for the repair. Scientific and Technological equipment is particularly fragile and expensive. Breakages caused by foolishness or carelessness will be charged for.

### **Clubs and Activities**

A range of activities are offered at the school. Clubs vary from year to year, but all advertise their meetings on notices in the register and on the weekly students' bulletin. Details of club activities and results are regularly reported in the school newsletter.

### **Careers Guidance**

All students throughout the school are encouraged to find their God-given vocation in life. In Year 10, we complete a career profile to inform careers interviews which take place during Year 11. All students are given the opportunity to undertake a work experience placement in Year 10. A structured programme in Careers Education and Guidance is provided. The Connexions Service contributes to the school programme by offering careers information and guidance sessions to individuals and groups in Years 11, 12 and 13.

Careers advice for Sixth Form students includes help with UCAS and other applications and interview techniques. There are also opportunities to visit careers conventions and exhibitions. A wide range of careers information is available in the Careers library which is situated in the school library.

### **Charging and Remissions**

Our priority is to offer all students the opportunity to participate in activities provided as part of the curriculum to achieve to the best of their ability. In keeping with the Government legislation charges will be made for:-

1. Instrumental music tuition provided by peripatetic teachers other than as part of the public examination course.
2. Day and residential visits taking place out of school hours.
3. Finished products which students take home having made them using resources provided by the school.
4. Public examinations which students fail to attend without good cause supported by appropriate documentation.
5. Damage to equipment/building/environment resulting from unacceptable behaviour.

Voluntary contributions will be requested for day or residential visits organised during school hours.

Any queries or concerns about charging should be addressed to the Business Manager at the school.

### **Communication with the School**

The school is always open to parents. Initially, any question relating to a student's welfare should normally be directed to the Form Tutor but interviews can easily be arranged with the appropriate Student Support Officer. If the Student Support Officer feels that the problem is serious enough to be taken further, she will inform a senior member of staff.

A weekly newsletter is issued and sent home via students. This contains information about what is currently happening in school and important information for parents. It enables regular and frequent contact between school and home.

In all cases of emergency or accidents at school, the staff will endeavour to get in touch with parents but if this is not possible, the Headteacher will act on the advice of the Medical Officer consulted.

### **Complaints Procedure**

The Governors have established procedures so that the concerns of parents and others about the school curriculum and related matters may be considered and - where possible - resolved locally.

In the first instance a particular problem should be referred to the Headteacher who will endeavour to achieve a satisfactory outcome by informal means, if necessary through discussion with appropriate members of staff and the complainants. If however the issue cannot be resolved in this way, it may be referred in writing to the Governors at the school. Further details of the Governors' procedures may be obtained from the Headteacher or the Clerk to the Governors.

### **Educational Visits & Fieldwork**

A programme of visits and fieldwork will take place during the year. This includes: visits to galleries and museums, concerts and theatre visits, visits to universities; workshops and occasional opportunities for travel abroad.

### **External Examinations**

It is the school's policy to encourage as many students as possible to enter for external examinations at the appropriate level and in

the subjects where they have reached a realistic standard of attainment. All students who complete the requirements of their course of study will be entered for a public examination in that subject. Parents will be informed of the subjects that their child has been entered for. The school will accept private entries from students who attend the school.

### **Gifted and Talented Students**

*Please see **Inclusion** below*

### **Home-School Agreement**

All students and parents are invited to sign our Home School Agreement when starting at the school. We can only do our work if we work in partnership with the parents of our young people. We are delighted that parents have become very much part of our school and that they know we welcome all ideas and support they can give. A weekly newsletter is produced to give as much information as possible to parents with regard to how the school is working. Parent/teacher consultation evenings are held for all year groups. In addition, parents are welcome to contact or visit the school at any time.

### **Homework**

Homework is an important part of every child's education. We wish to encourage students to benefit from developing good study habits. Parents are asked to assist the school by providing a quiet area in which homework can be completed and by checking homework regularly. They are also asked to inspect and sign their child's Student Diary every week. Students are issued with a homework timetable at the start of each school year. Tasks set may involve:

- Extending knowledge
- Consolidating or extending work done in class
- Research for a forthcoming lesson
- Preparation for the next part of the course
- Revision for a test
- Production of a final version of work from drafts completed previously
- Practising particular study skills
- Developing the skills learnt in class
- An ongoing project.

## **ICT**

The school has a substantial network of over 300 computers to which all students have access. Each is connected to the Internet enabling research and communication. Every classroom is equipped with a Smartboard and all our assessment records and student data is stored electronically. Registration is also completed electronically. Students are registered with various key websites which they will be able to use as they progress through the school and we are continually developing and expanding our intranet and our website. Parents may communicate with the school by email and we will increasingly use text messaging for urgent notices. All of our ICT facilities were new in 2009 but we are already planning for the next phase of their development.

## **Inclusion**

As a school we are concerned with the individual needs of every child. Inclusion comprises of provision for Learning Support, English as an Additional Language and Gifted and Talented students.

The Learning Support department exists to address the needs of any student who may be experiencing difficulties in accessing the full curriculum. The department assesses student needs and deploys support as appropriate. The majority of support takes place within the classroom, however the school also runs a full programme of literacy support in small groups or as individuals and a highly successful 'Reading Buddies' programme for Year 7. The department also runs Skills groups to support students in coping with all the demands of the school environment and has recently introduced a daily Sensory Circuit, which all students are welcome to attend. All students with Special Educational Needs have a link teaching assistant, who provides a first point of contact to deal with any difficulties.

A dedicated team of Teaching Assistants delivers support inside and outside the classroom, and the impact of the support is regularly assessed and reviewed in consultation with parents, in accordance with the SEN Code of Practice. Where appropriate, the department will also liaise with external agencies to identify or fulfil a student's needs.

The needs of Gifted and Talented students are also recognised and provided for, with a designated teacher leading a working group of teachers and students to regularly review provision and develop new activities to stretch and challenge students further.

The English as an Additional Language department has one member of teaching staff and a team of multi – lingual Teaching Assistants led by a Higher Level Teaching Assistant. The department provides intensive English support to students who have recently arrived in the country and also supports more advanced learners of English in lessons across the curriculum. All students are regularly assessed and monitored, and the department provides information and support to all members of the teaching staff, to ensure that all students are included and fully stretched during lessons. In consultation with the English department, students are withdrawn to engage in intensive language study, and students in Years 9, 10 and 11 all study for the EDEXCEL ESOL qualification, alongside their GCSE studies.

Students are strongly encouraged to continue the study of their home language, and the department works closely with the MFL department to ensure that students sit GCSE and A Level examinations in Polish, Portuguese, Urdu, Mandarin, Russian and any other language as appropriate. The department includes speakers of Italian, French, Urdu, Polish, Lithuanian and Portuguese, and can provide facilities for translation or interpreting when required.

## **Insurance**

Parents are advised that the school cannot be responsible for property brought on to the school premises. Loss of or damage to property is fortunately a rare occurrence. Nevertheless, parents may wish to consider extending existing policies or to take out new ones to provide cover. For this reason we do not allow students to bring personal music players or mobile phones to school.

### **Learning Resource Centre**

Our Learning Resource Centre is a comfortably furnished, bright and modern learning space, which is open from 8.00am until 5.00pm. The LRC houses our collection of 10,000 fiction, non-fiction and reference books, as well as the school archive. The LRC maintains subscriptions to a number of scientific, technological, and Catholic journals, and a selection of newspapers are delivered daily during term time.

There are 16 computer stations giving students access to an extensive range of in-house learning resources, and to the internet. Students can borrow books, CDs, and DVDs to take home; and a range of board games and card games are available for use at lunchtime.

The LRC manager and a number of teaching assistants are available before, during and after school to offer guidance with homework and research projects, and to recommend appropriate and progressive reading materials for their enjoyment.

### **Learning Support**

Please see **Inclusion** above

### **Make-up and Jewellery**

Make-up and jewellery are expressly forbidden with the exception of one ear stud or sleeper in each ear lobe.

### **Medical Matters**

Resident expertise is limited to the provision of basic first aid only. The school will assume that parents are in agreement with the provision of basic first aid unless written confirmation to the contrary is received. Parents are strongly requested to keep at home any child who complains of not feeling well at the beginning of the day. If a child suffers an accident at school, or is taken ill, parents will be informed immediately and will be asked to come to the school either to take the student to hospital or to escort him/her home - unless the accident or illness is of such seriousness that an ambulance has already been called. Staff are not permitted to drive sick children home, or convey them to hospital. Tablets and other prescribed medicines should only be brought to school if there is a sound medical reason for doing so.

Any prescription medicines which students need to take throughout the school day should be handed to the school receptionist by the parent/carer, clearly labelled with the student's name, form and details of the dosage and frequency, for distribution to the student at the prescribed times. These may be left at the school office for safekeeping but no member of staff can be asked to administer medicines. At no time is the school permitted to store or hand out non-prescription medication including paracetamol and aspirin.

The local Health Authority carries out various inspections, checks and medicals in school during the year such as Heaf Tests and BCG vaccinations in Year 9. Parents are asked to support its work by returning any forms etc., as soon as possible, when requested. Our school nurse visits the school regularly and operates a confidential drop-in session at which students can consult her on any health-related issues that concern them.

### **Meals**

Food is available for students to purchase before school (from 8.00), during morning break and at lunchtime. It is freshly prepared on the premises by our catering staff.

The school operates a Cashless Catering system. Students are responsible for loading cash onto their accounts using the cash loading machines in school. Parents are urged to impress upon their children the necessity of their personal responsibility for looking after their own money. If students wish to bring a packed lunch, this can be eaten in the Dining Hall.

Students are not allowed to leave the premises during the day, including lunchtimes, although arrangements for Sixth Form students do vary during the year. In exceptional cases, permission to leave the premises at lunchtime is considered. The Headteacher can only grant this on receipt of a letter from the family concerned and if there are good reasons for doing so. Legal responsibility for these students reverts to parents for the lunch-break. Parents should not request students to come home to lunch if the journey to and from home cannot be completed in the time available.

### **Photography of Children**

There may be times when children are photographed as part of normal school activity. Any parent not wishing their child to be included in this should make this known to the school in writing. This includes photos for display around the school, on our website or newsletter and in the local press.

### **Physical Education**

Physical Education is compulsory in the curriculum. We aim to encourage a positive attitude towards participation in physical activity. All students undertake a wide and varied sporting programme, culminating in an options scheme in the later stages of their school career.

In most circumstances, if a student is well enough to come to school, it is reasonable to assume that they are well enough to participate in some part of the P.E. programme, even if only in exercise of a limited kind.

Full details of our P.E. kit are included on the list of school uniform elsewhere in this prospectus.

### **Public Availability of Documents**

The Freedom of Information Act allows parental and public access to school documentation including statements on curriculum policy, DfE documents, HMI reports, syllabuses and schemes of work. Parents wishing to read documents should contact the Headteacher in writing.

Parents requesting a copy of their child's file will be charged an administration and photocopying fee. This will depend on the size of the file concerned. Full details are available upon request. Parents can request to come in and read their child's file. There is no charge in this respect. In both cases 10 school days' notice is required.

### **Racial Equality**

Racial prejudice is contrary to the school's Mission Statement and school Behaviour for Learning Policy. The governing body endorses the definition of a 'racist incident' and the definition of 'racism' as recommended by the Report of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry, which the Home Office has advised all agencies to use:

- A racist incident is any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person.
- Racism, in general terms, consists of conduct or words or practices which advantage or disadvantage people because of their colour, culture or ethnic origin. Its more subtle form is as damaging as its overt form.

Issues regarding racism should be brought to the attention of staff, as soon as possible, who will respond by investigating the matter, formally recording what has happened, and by taking an appropriate form of action.

### **Rewards**

We have many opportunities in the school day and during the school year to celebrate the success of students. These include a Merit system and the Annual Celebration of Achievement Evening. Merits are awarded for good work, behaviour, service, etc and the certificates are awarded for 25, 50, 100, 175, 250, 350 and 500 merits. We also have a rewards shop through which students can exchange their merits for reward items during the year.

### **Safeguarding**

It may be helpful for parents/carers to know that the law (Children Act 1989) requires all school staff to pass on information which gives rise to a concern about a child's welfare, including risk from non-accidental injury, neglect, emotional or sexual abuse. The staff will seek, in general, to discuss any concerns with the parent/carer and where possible seek their consent to a referral to Children's Specialist Service. This will only be done where such discussion and agreement-seeking will not place the child at increased risk of significant harm. Schools are encouraged to take the attitude that where there are grounds for concern they should be very cautious, and seek advice rather than to risk a child's safety. Occasionally, this duty on Headteachers means that a concern is passed on which is later shown to be unfounded. It is hoped that parents/carers will appreciate how difficult it is for schools to carry out this delicate responsibility, and accept that the Headteacher was acting in good faith and in the best interests of all children.

## Sanctions

If a student's conduct is outside the normal limits of acceptability, a student can expect to be reprimanded or punished, depending on the seriousness and frequency of the offence. Significant breaches of the school's behaviour policy are always recorded.

- Initially, or for minor offences of poor conduct or work, suitable punishments are given by a form tutor or subject teacher
- More serious and persistent offences are reported to and dealt with by the Subject Leader or Student Support Officer and this would be recorded on a student's file. If necessary a student may be placed in an after school detention for a period of an hour. When this happens the school will give parents advance warning at least 24 hours.
- If there is no improvement in behaviour or work, parents are invited into school to discuss the problem with the Form Tutor, Student Support Officer, Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher.

For serious breaches of the school behaviour policy a student may be excluded from attendance at their lessons for a given period of time. This is referred to as a 'fixed-term exclusion.' This may be applied in two stages.

- A student who would normally be subject to a fixed-term exclusion from school may, in the first instance, be internally excluded. If this is the case, they will be withdrawn from timetabled lessons to work with a designated member of staff. The student concerned is then able to continue with their studies for the duration of their exclusion.
- If there are further serious breaches of the school's behaviour policy a student may then be subject to a fixed term exclusion from the school.

There will be exceptions to this usually when members of the school community are at risk. For instance, a serious act of violence or a serious act of vandalism. These would normally result in fixed-term exclusion from school for significant periods of time. Equally well, unmitigated sexual or racial harassment would not necessarily be dealt with as part of an internal exclusion. In extreme cases, or for persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy, a student may be permanently excluded from the school.

## Sex Education

The Church recognises that it is the privilege and responsibility of the family to inform and educate their children in all matters pertaining to human growth and development. However, it also recognises that parents need a major commitment from schools to support them in this role.

St. John Fisher School has a developmental programme of personal, social and moral education which aims to help our young people to have a properly formed conscience, to enable them to make right judgements and to take the right actions in the many and varied situations in which they may find themselves. The information our students are given is in the context of the Christian community and with Christian values and based on sound moral principles within the framework of the Catholic Church's teaching.

## Special Educational Needs

Please see **Inclusion** above

## Term Dates 2011-12

### Autumn Term

Starts	Weds 7 September 2011
Half Term	24-28 October 2011
Ends	Fri 16 December 2011

### Spring Term 2010

Starts	Weds 4 January 2012
Half Term	13-17 February 2012
Ends	Friday 30 March 2012

### Summer Term 2010

Starts	Tuesday 17 April 2012
May Day	Monday 7 May 2012
Half Term	4 – 8 June 2012
Ends	Friday 20 July 2012

These are the agreed dates for Peterborough Schools. Staff Training days will be identified by the school before the start of the academic year. A full list of dates for the year is issued to parents each September.

### **Timing of the school day**

The bell rings at 8.35am to signal that students should go to registration; they should be in class by 8.40am.

08.40	Registration and Assembly
09.00	Lesson 1
10.15	Break
10.35	Lesson 2
11.50	Movement time
11.55	Lesson 3
1.10	Lunch
2.00	Lesson 4
3.15	School Ends

The length of the taught week is 25 hours arranged as 40 periods of 75 minutes per fortnight.

### **Transport**

The school provides cycle racks for the benefit of those students who wish to cycle to school. Although we make strenuous efforts to protect bicycles, it is strongly recommended that they be securely locked to the racks provided, as bicycles are left on the school site at the owners' risk. While the school cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to bicycles, it will do all it can to minimise problems. Parents are advised to ensure that bicycles are covered by their own personal insurance.

Information about home school transport can be obtained from the School Transport Officer at your local education authority:

Peterborough City Council - 01733 317455

Cambridgeshire County Council – 0345 045 5208

Lincolnshire County Council – 01522 782020

### **Tutor Groups**

On entry, students are placed in a tutor group and this forms the basis of pastoral care in each year group. We try to ensure that these remain constant during a student's time at the school. Tutor groups are allocated a form tutor who is responsible for their students' welfare. Each tutor group has a patron Saint who was either an Educator, A Missionary, A Pastor, A Doctor or a Martyr. These five groups form our school Houses. Tutor groups attend one assembly each week which may be with other tutor groups in their year or may be with other tutor groups in their house.

### **Uniform and Appearance**

All students are expected to wear correct school uniform as it plays an important part in establishing a community spirit and also encourages students to take a personal pride in their own appearance. They are expected to wear it on the way to and on the way from school each day. Details of our uniform are given in this prospectus. The school expects that the appearance of all students will reflect credit on the individual, the family and the school itself. Outrageous appearance will not be permitted e.g. body piercing, shaved heads, body tattoos, dyed or colour rinsed hair. Patterns etched into extremely short hair are also not permitted. Only with the co-operation of parents can a high standard of personal appearance be maintained. Students arriving at school without the correct uniform will usually be required to attend a lunchtime detention.

# HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT

## PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

We acknowledge that as parents we are the first educators of our children and have a fundamental role to play in supporting our child's education at school.

### Therefore we will:

- ensure that our child attends school on each school day, on time and suitably equipped wearing the school uniform;
- support the Catholic values of the school;
- give my child the opportunity to study at home, support homework and sign the school diary each week;
- support the school's policies and code of conduct;
- inform the school of any concerns or problems that might affect my child's behaviour;
- attend parents' evenings and discussions about my child's progress;
- encourage my child's enthusiasm for study and enjoyment for school;
- encourage my child to show kindness and consideration to others;
- talk to my child about his or her experience in school and encourage her or him to do his or her best.

## SCHOOL'S EDUCATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

We acknowledge our responsibility to support parents in their task of nurturing their children towards human wholeness within a Christian community.

### Therefore we shall:

- provide a friendly welcome to your child and a secure, stimulating, Christian environment in which to learn;
- ensure that your child is valued for the person whom she or he is and helped to make good progress in his or her spiritual, moral, emotional and academic development;
- treat your child with the dignity and respect she or he requires, encouraging him or her to full human wholeness;
- demonstrate our faith and our school's foundation in the teachings of Jesus Christ, by what we teach and the way we live and pray in our school;
- provide the best possible education for your child and teaching rooted in our beliefs and values;
- provide you with information about your child's progress and provide you with opportunities to talk to teachers;
- keep you well informed about school policies and activities through regular letters and newsletters;
- set and mark homework;
- send home an annual report of your child's progress;
- inform you of any concerns regarding your child's attendance, punctuality, behaviour, work or health;
- challenge your child to strive for the highest standard of intellectual development and aim for excellence in all she or he does.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

I acknowledge the different and unique talents which God has given me and my responsibility to use them wisely.

### Therefore I will always:

- be polite and courteous to others in my words and actions;
- help other students to excel in their studies and in everything we do in school;
- take pride in my appearance, wearing our school uniform well and represent the school to my best at all times;
- take care of school property and other people's belongings;
- show care for the environment particularly by disposing of all rubbish in bins;
- arrive punctually at school and at lessons;
- come to school properly prepared for lessons with the correct books and equipment;
- eat only in the School Dining Room.
- Move around the school in a quiet and orderly fashion, keeping to the left in corridors;
- Leave valuable items and large sums of money at home.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

We are proud to belong to St John Fisher Catholic High School where we believe that each member of the community is created in the image of God. Therefore in our school we must always treat one another with respect. We must ensure that each person is able to develop his/her God given talents to the full. These simple rules follow from this principle.

1. We will always be polite and courteous to everyone in our words and actions, take care of one another, and never do anything which puts another person's safety at risk.
2. We will always help one another to excel in our studies and in everything we do in school.
3. We will take pride in our appearance, wearing our school uniform well and representing the school to our best at all times.
4. We will take care of school property and one another's belongings.
5. We will show care for the environment particularly by disposing of all rubbish in bins.
6. We will arrive punctually at school and at lessons.
7. We will always come properly prepared for lessons with the correct books and equipment.
8. We will eat only in the School Dining Room.
9. We will move around the school in a quiet and orderly fashion, keeping to the left in corridors.
10. We will leave valuable or dangerous items such as mobile telephones and large sums of money at home.

## **CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL**

Sister Virna is our School Chaplain. She is in school throughout the week and is available for spiritual guidance and conversation in the Chapel. Voluntary Mass is celebrated each Tuesday morning in the Chapel and everyone is welcome to join in the celebration. Those who would like to help with the preparation of mass by reading should speak to the Chaplain.

Students are offered the opportunity to go on retreat during the academic year.

All students are encouraged to take part in the planning and leading of liturgical celebrations and special masses in School. There is an act of worship every morning in form time or in assembly where students are encouraged to participate. The Chaplaincy team meets once a term to plan and evaluate the Spiritual Life of the School.

Cohesion is very important at our School and therefore Liturgy is inclusive at St John Fisher and all students, regardless of their faith background, take part and none are excluded.

## CURRICULUM 2010/2011

We operate a timetable of 40 periods of 75 minutes per fortnight.

### Key Stage 3

Religious Education	3
English	5
Mathematics	5
Science	5
Art	2
Classics and Latin (Year 9 only)	1
Drama	2
French (3 in Year 9)	4
Geography	2
History	2
ICT	2
Music	2
Physical Education	3
PSHE/Citizenship	1
Technology	2
	<u>40</u>

### Key Stage 4

Religious Education	4
English	5
Mathematics	5
Science (Core)	4
Physical Education	3
PSHE/Citizenship	1
ICT (Core)	2
	<u>24</u>

In addition to the core subjects listed above, students choose four other courses. In 2010 the subjects available were: Art & Design, Business, Child Development, Classical Civilisation, Drama, English as an additional Language, Food Technology, French, Geography, History, Home Language, ICT, Learning Support, Leisure and Tourism, Media Studies, Music, Science (Additional), Product Design, Sports Studies, Textiles.

Further Vocational Courses are available through the Practical Learning Opportunities provided by Peterborough Regional College.

Where appropriate, students are also able to take GCSE examinations in their home language.

### SIXTH FORM

The school works in Federation with other Peterborough Schools to offer a wide curriculum to Sixth Form Students, including the following subjects:

Art and Design	Information Communication
Biology	Technology
Business Studies	Law
Chemistry	Mathematics
Classical Civilisation	Media Studies
Dance	Music
Drama/Theatre Studies	Physics
Economics and Business	Product Design
Engineering	Psychology
English Language	Religious Studies
English Literature	Sociology
Finance	Spanish
French	Sports Studies
Geography	Textiles
German	Travel and Tourism
Health and Social Care	Urdu
History	

All students in Years 12 and 13 study Religious Education and Physical Education. As part of their enrichment programme students can choose between General Studies and Peer Mentoring.

### DIPLOMAS

Over the next few years new diploma courses will become available in Peterborough schools. These will further increase the opportunities in Years 10 – 13.

# SCHOOL UNIFORM

## Boys

Black blazer with badge  
 White shirt  
 School tie  
 V-neck plain black jumper  
 Black trousers\*  
 (Classic uniform style)  
 Sensible black shoes  
 Grey or black socks  
 Sikh boys may wear a plain black turban  
 Plain Dark Coat

## Outdoor PE

School rugby top  
 Black shorts  
 Red socks  
 Boots  
 Black tracksuit bottoms (optional)

## Indoor PE

School polo shirt  
 Black shorts  
 White socks  
 Indoor training shoes

## Girls

Black blazer with badge  
 White shirt  
 School tie  
 V-neck plain black jumper  
 Black skirt - knee length\*  
 or black trousers\*  
 Sensible black shoes  
 Black Socks or Black Tights  
 Muslim girls may wear a plain black headscarf  
 Plain Dark Coat

*\*Classic uniform style*

## Outdoor PE

School rugby top  
 Black shorts  
 Red socks  
 Boots  
 Black tracksuit bottoms (optional)

## Indoor PE

School polo shirt  
 Black shorts  
 White socks  
 Indoor training shoes

For safety reasons the wearing of jewellery other than a pair of small stud earrings is not allowed. Make-up should not be worn to school. Hairstyles should be appropriate and moderate for school.

Fashion items and training shoes are not appropriate schoolwear. School tie and badge can be purchased direct from school. All PE kit may be purchased from Chromasport, 10 Wulfric Square, Bretton, Peterborough, PE3 8RF, Telephone (01733) 262526.

# STATISTICS

## **ATTENDANCE DATA FOR 2009/2010**

Total number of students on roll of compulsory school age: 647  
 Percentage of sessions missed through authorised absence: 6.2%  
 Percentage of sessions missed through unauthorised absence: 1.5%

It is the Governors policy that absence for the purpose of holidays should not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.

## **DESTINATIONS OF STUDENTS**

### **Year 11**

Further Education	121
Employment	2
Apprenticeship	1
Seeking Employment	
Unknown	

### **Year 13**

University/Degree Courses	12
Further Education	3
Employment	3
Seeking Employment	
Unknown	1

## PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS 2010

### 'A' Level

Students achieving grades: A – E: 100%

Average point score for 'A' Level candidates: 256

<b>GCSE</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>5 A* - C</b>	49%	51%
<b>5 A* - G</b>	91%	91%
<b>Average point score</b>	360	348

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Pass Rate A* - C</b>	<b>Pass Rate A* - G</b>
Art	44%	100%
Business Studies (Btec)	100%	100%
Child Development	19%	92%
Classical Civilisation	76%	98%
Drama	95%	100%
English	48%	100%
English Literature	78%	99%
French	71%	100%
Geography	78%	98%
History	41%	100%
ICT (Btec)	100%	100%
Mathematics	44%	97%
Music	23%	100%
Religious Studies	55%	97%
Single Science	31%	100%
Double Science	46%	99%
Sport & PE	59%	100%
Textiles	65%	100%

### Key Stage 3 SATs – Level 5 or above

		<b>English</b>	<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>Science</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>48</b>

### Key Stage 3 SATs – 2 Levels Progress

		<b>English</b>	<b>Mathematics</b>
<b>2010</b>	Target	23	39
<b>2010</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>

## THE 10 QUESTIONS YOUR CHILD MAY ASK

### 1. What do I do if I get bullied?

We take all bullying very seriously. You should go straight to your form tutor or student support officer and tell them what has happened. We always take action when bullying is reported.

### 2. I need to take medicine every day – will I be allowed to?

Yes, we have staff that will look after it for you, and make sure you take it at the right time.

### 3. Can I go home for lunch?

No. No student from the main school goes home for lunch. Sometimes arrangements are made in special cases with the headteacher's permission. This means that we can be sure you are safe all day.

### 4. What happens if I don't wear the proper uniform?

All students are expected to wear full uniform (including a tie). If you do not have the proper uniform you will be offered the choice to borrow some and will be told to attend the lunchtime detention.

### 5. What rewards will I have?

We reward students for good attendance, for doing well in lessons and for many other things. Reward assemblies are held throughout the year. Teachers give you merits which you keep a record of in your student diary.

### 6. What happens to people who behave badly?

We have a very clear process when things go wrong. Students may have to carry a report card, attend after school detention, or in extreme cases be internally isolated or excluded. We always inform your parents by phone and

by letter, if we need to deal with poor behaviour. The aim is to ensure that your lessons are not disrupted.

### 7. Can I have a locker?

No. The lockers which we did have in school were not being used by students and further to consultation with the School Council the decision was made to remove student lockers. There are however still a very limited number of lockers which may be allocated by the SEN department or by Student Support Officers to individual students.

### 8. Am I allowed to bring in my mobile phone?

No. We do not allow mobile phones in school and will confiscate them if they are seen. When this happens your parents will usually be asked to come and collect the phone. Neither should you bring MP3 players or other expensive equipment as it is not insured.

### 9. I would like to do work on the computers. Can I stay after school?

Yes: the Learning Resource Centre is open every day after school. It is also available at lunchtime as are some of the ICT rooms. We have over 400 computers and intend that you use them!

### 10. What other things can I do?

There is a wide range of clubs and activities that run throughout the year. These include sports, music and drama and others that depend on student demand. You can also offer your services on the school council, help in the library, become part of the Chaplaincy team and much more. The list is not fixed and changes each year. We hope that there is something to suit everyone. If you have an idea for something that is not already running please tell us.