



Admissions for September 2010

Parents of children in Year 6 have until the end of October to apply for secondary school places for next September. If you have a child in Year 6 or know someone who does, a few points about the process are worth repeating here so that I can be sure that you have the correct information.

The first is that the Local Authority application process must be used if applying to St John Fisher: even though we are a Voluntary Aided church school and control our own admissions the process is part of the Local Authority process. The most important part of this is that the deadline of 31 October must be met: applications received after that date are not processed until after those received on time so late applicants are only considered for any places that remain once the main process is complete.

The second issue is that for a church school a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) must also be completed. These are available from the school and have been issued with our prospectus. It is important to note that this form must be filled in as well as the main application form and not instead of it.

Two further comments that are worth noting. Parents are encouraged to make their application online (over the Internet) if at all possible. There is no advantage as far as the allocation of places is concerned but it is a more secure system and notification of places in March is also done electronically for parents who have applied electronically. The second point is that it is advisable to put down three preferences of school on the application form. If the first preference is not successful the system will try and place the child in the second preference. If no second preference is given the application will only be considered after all the second preferences have been dealt with. The same is then true for third preferences.

If parents have any further questions about the application process please email admissions@stjohnfisherschool.org.uk

Chaplaincy News

This week we say farewell to our chaplain, Sister Cinzia, who is returning to Italy for six months. We wish her well and thank her for her work with us over the last year. She is not leaving us for good and will return in the Spring. In her place we welcome James Wilson who is a student priest on pastoral placement in Peterborough. James will act as our chaplain while Sister Cinzia is away and will be in school each Friday.

More Progress

We received some more good news last week. We have been one of the schools where 'persistent absence' was being monitored. Constant monitoring of attendance last year, coupled with follow-up procedures including fixed penalty notices where appropriate, working closely with the Local Authority attendance service and tightening up on students taking holidays in term time have all meant that our persistent absence rate has fallen below the national average. We have therefore been removed from the list of schools where absence is a cause of concern. I am particularly grateful to Mr Reilly for his hard work in making this happen and to the support staff and form tutors for playing their part in the process.

Open Evening

Parents are reminded that school will end at 2 pm next Thursday to enable us to prepare for our annual Open Evening. Any student who wishes to remain in school until 3.30 pm may do so but should inform their form tutor before Thursday.

Many students have volunteered to help with this evening and should have brought personal letters home explaining about this. If your child says they are helping at Open Evening and you have not received a letter please ask him or her to collect a letter from the teacher they are helping.

The annual admissions round is important for the future of the school. We work hard to present the school well and to give potential applicants the information that they need in order to decide which school to choose. This year we have added a new prospectus to our available information

There will be a separate evening later this term for applications for Sixth Form places for 2010. A new common application process is being introduced for places in Year 12: more details in a future newsletter.

Sean Hayes

Parent Champion

In his role as Parent Champion, Father David will be available to see parents on Thursday 8 October at 3.30 pm. Father David may be contacted by phoning him direct on 01733-562528 ext 5, or by email at frdavidallsouls@hotmail.com

News from Learning Support

Reading Buddies

A number of Year 7 students will once again be involved in the highly successful Reading Buddies Scheme, which began this week. Two mornings a week students will come to the library to meet their Sixth Form or Year 11 Reading Buddies in order to improve their skills.

Prizes will be given at the end of the academic year to the most improved Year 7 readers and the most supportive Buddies.

Literacy Support

Students in Years 7 to 10 are being given extra literacy support by being placed on the SRA Decoding Scheme. This is delivered by our Level 2 Teaching Assistants to small groups of students and the aim is to improve their literacy skills so they can access the whole curriculum with greater ease. Students are monitored throughout the course and formal assessments take place twice a year to measure progress. Year 7 parents will be notified if their child is allocated a place on the scheme. Feedback on progress will be available at Parents' Evenings.

Skills Groups

Key Stage 3 and 4 Skills groups have begun again this year. Run by Mrs Sennett (HLTA) and Mrs Siccardi (Level 2 TA) they seek to support students in their school life by improving social skills, working on topics such as communication, cyber-bullying and also providing support for older students to cope with managing their time and preparing for work or further education.

Sensory Circuit

Sensory circuits are a way of helping students develop their motor skills and also supporting them to organise themselves and prepare for the school day ahead. A small number of students have already been invited to join the circuit, which will run daily between 8.30 and 9.00 am in the Sports Hall.

News from the Music Department

Congratulations to Angela Dos Santos Simoes, William Healy and Sadie Hutchings for passing their Bronze Keyboard Medal.

Keep up the good work!

**Want a new Challenge?
Want to stand out from the crowd?**

**Have you ever thought of
.....Learning Latin?**

Then come along to
Gifted and Talented Latin
Room 108
Mondays: 3.45 - 4.30 pm



All welcome

This could lead to a GCSE qualification
which will look good on your CV

Please see Mr Boyle for further details.

Carpe diem

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Our Duke of Edinburgh candidates are participating in their final assessed expedition on 10 and 11 October. They will be walking in groups over undulating countryside near Sleaford. The candidates have covered a wide programme, including two practice sessions, to ensure they are ready for this final expedition. We wish them every success. The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme will soon be offered to other years - watch this space!

OPEN EVENING Thursday 8 October

Children in Year 6 and their parents
are invited to tour the school
following an introductory talk by the
Headteacher at 7.00 pm.

Tours of the school will also be
available each day week commencing
Monday 12 October at 9.30 am.
Please report to Reception if you
would like to join one.