



St John Fisher News

13 September 2019

No. 414

Welcome back

Welcome to a new school year and I hope everybody had an enjoyable summer holiday. A special welcome to Year 7 and other students who are new to the school. It has been encouraging to see students returning to school ready and eager to learn over the past week and a half. Last week Year 7 enjoyed their induction day which gave them a chance to have the school to themselves for a day! Congratulations to Year 7 students in Rochester House who were the winners of the House competition last Wednesday.

Exam Results

We were very pleased with our GCSE results again this year especially as there has been an 8% increase in the percentage of students achieving a Level 5 in English and Maths and a 9% increase for achieving a Level 4. We also had a 7% increase in the overall average attainment of students across eight subjects, which is a great achievement for students and staff. In addition, according to our internal analysis and compared to a large number of schools nationally, the progress our students made at GCSE is looking very strong indeed. Unfortunately, the official Progress 8 measure is not published until October. At A' Level our pass rate dropped slightly this year to 96% but the results still show an average grade of a C with nearly 50% of results at grade B or above. The best news as always is that all students who applied to university managed to get there and we have a much bigger Sixth Form this year. I'd like to congratulate students on their exam results and to thank all staff for their hard work in supporting them.

A Bigger Sixth Form

Last year we increased our Post 16 admission number to 150 from 120 to cater for the increased demand for places. As a result, our Sixth Form is now the biggest year group in the school and we have had to adapt our Sixth Form study spaces to accommodate the numbers. We now have an airy open plan space which is our new Sixth Form centre. This allows students to study in peace and quiet when they have a study period in very pleasant surroundings.

Year 7 Applications

Our waiting list this year for Year 7 is very long indeed and we are heavily oversubscribed. If your child is currently in Year 6 and a Baptised Catholic and you are going to apply to St John Fisher for a school place for next September can I remind you of the need to include your child's Baptism Certificate with the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) at the point of application and before the deadline. This is very important. I also want to remind all prospective parents of the need to fill in the SIF on both sides **IN FULL** when you apply. If applications are incomplete they are unlikely to be accepted and you may not get a place. In the event of over subscription which we are expecting again we apply our over subscription criteria which is published in our admissions policy. I will be visiting our feeder Primary

schools over the next three weeks to speak to Year 6 students and to hand out our school prospectus. We also have our Open week which includes an open evening on 1 October 2019 starting at 7pm and a number of organised opportunities for tours during the school day in the latter half of the week. More details can be found on the website.

New Staff

This term we welcome some new staff to the school: Jacinta Barnicoat as Head of English, Claire Moore to teach English, John Clayton to teach Computing, Laura Bowden as a Teaching Assistant, Wilhemina Assiamah to teach French, Karen Wilson to teach Science, Lee Griffin to teach Drama and Ebony Welch to teach History.

Diocesan Formal Consultation is open for a new Catholic Primary school

As you know we only have three Catholic schools in Peterborough, two Primary schools and one Secondary. All three are excellent. A formal consultation has opened concerning our Diocese opening a new Voluntary Aided Catholic Primary school in Hampton East in 2022. The Government has already given its approval based on a needs analysis and approval is now needed from Peterborough City Council. The Diocese would like to hear from our wider community through this formal consultation process. If you would like to contribute to the consultation and show your support for our excellent Catholic schools in Peterborough, a link to the consultation document can be found here: www.rcdea.org.uk/vaschools We also have a few paper copies of the consultation form in reception.

In addition, there will be three opportunities to attend a consultation drop in session in person if you wish to do so: 18 September at 7pm at St Thomas More Primary School 1 October at 3.30pm at Sacred Heart Primary School 7 October at 7pm at Hampton Vale Community Centre All responses are needed by 20 October 2019

Term dates:

Autumn Term 2019:

21 – 25 October Half Term Holiday
Thu 19 December Term Ends

Spring Term 2020

Mon 6 January Term Begins
17 – 21 February Half Term Holiday
24 February Training day
Fri 3 April Term Ends

Summer Term 2020

Mon 20 April Term Begins
Fri 8 May Bank Holiday – school closed
25 May to 29 May Half Term Holiday
Fri 17 July Term Ends

Kate Pereira



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Schoolcomms

Please sign up for the Schoolgateway mobile phone app or visit their website to register:

<https://schoolcomms.com/>

Some of the many benefits of the app and the website are as follows:

- Easy to use
- Pay for trips, activities and catering
- Removes the need for students to bring cash into school
- A central source of information
- Make and view parent evening appointments on your pc or mobile
- View your child's school reports
- Notify us electronically of any changes to your personal details

Bagel Breakfast

Don't forget that we have our Bagel Breakfast club running every day between 8.00 and 8.30am. Students can come and get free cereal and bagels and start the day eating with friends. All students are welcome.



Year 7 Induction Day

Last week our Year 7s began school a day early in order to support them to settle into school. They began the day with their tutors and engaged in a Treasure Hunt organised by the Humanities faculty. After break they began a series of House Challenges organised by different faculties. The English department organised a Dragon's Den competition while the PE department got their pulses racing and Science challenged their brains. These challenges were the opportunity to win the first points of this year's Battle of the Houses and the final positions were as follows:

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| 1 | Rochester |
| 2 | Cambridge |
| 3 | Beverley |
| 4 | Westminster |

Well done to all our year 7 students on such a positive start to the year.

Year 11: Be Daring, Be First, Be Different

It has been good to welcome back a new Year 11 this September and they are already working hard and have begun the year in a very business-like manner. Last year we started a theme-based initiative with Year 11 which provided a focus for each block of 3 to 4 weeks. This year our theme is "Be daring, be first, be different". It is increasingly important for students to set their own goals, articulate their ambitions and forge their own paths to success and that is what we will be encouraging them to do this year. Tuesday 17th September will be the launch assembly for this and they will learn more about what the year has in store for them. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for regular updates and tips on how you can provide support during this time.

Academic Tutoring
Year 7
9 – 20 September

Year 7 Welcome Liturgy

Our annual Year 7 welcome liturgy took place this week. All year 7s attended and took part in a beautiful liturgy led by our Chaplain, Mrs Goodfellow. A candle symbolised our school community and each student brought up their own candle to symbolise that they are now a valued member of our school community and part of one family.

