



Half Term

Thank you to all students and staff for the way we have been able to get on with the core business of learning since returning in September. The planning that we undertook in the months leading up to reopening was challenging but meant that we had a very smooth reintegration into school life. During this half term, both students and staff have tried to ensure that learning is prioritised and well-being is nurtured. Times are uncertain as you are fully aware and we continue to work together as a community.

Next Thursday is the last day of the half term for students because Friday is a staff training day so students do not need to come into school from Friday 23 October. Students and staff will return to school on Monday, 2 November as usual. Our COVID safety systems will still be in place as they have been during this half term.

Kate Pereira

Covid 19

What you need to tell us!

If you are self-isolating or quarantining please contact the school and give us the following information:

- Your child's Name and Tutor Group
- Reason for isolation/ quarantine
- Date of expected return to school

Phone on 01733 343646
or use the
Gateway app

Cambridge House Liturgy

Every year each of our Houses has a celebration Mass, however this year, to keep our year group bubbles separate, we have had a Liturgy in their form rooms. This has been a lovely experience, as more students have had the opportunity to read the prayers and readings. The theme this year is Keeping Safe, reminding us of our responsibility to keep ourselves and each other safe and the assurance that God is our shelter and always with us. The atmosphere was special with the new Cambridge House candles and a gentle sung psalm. Each form was presented with the Cambridge House cross to display in their rooms.



We would like to thank the Head of House, Mrs Helcoop, who has also led the celebrations and the Form Tutors for all their help and all the students for their respectful involvement, especially for the brilliant readers.
Mrs Goodfellow, Lay Chaplain

Covid-19 Related Absence from School

A Quick Guide for Parents can be found on the school website

<https://www.stjohnfisherschool.org.uk/september-opening/>

Post – 16 Choices

Year 11s will have assemblies during form time next week to support them to begin thinking about their post-16 pathways and subject choices. The assembly powerpoint will be put on the website at the end of next week for parents to view and all students will also be given a school sixth form prospectus. We will be encouraging our students to think about the right decision for them and helping them to research options at college if appropriate. Year 11s have a Citizenship programme which includes opportunities for independent advice and guidance, as well as research about careers. Parents can support their children by talking to them and helping them identify their strengths and aspirations.

Miss Wilson will be running a virtual post-16 Q and A session for parents via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, 3 November between 3.30 and 4.30pm. This is for Year 11 parents only and will start with a brief summary of post – 16 pathways and then be open to parents to submit questions. Parents wishing to be part of this need to email:

catherine.wilson@stjohnfisherschool.org.uk

It will be possible to submit questions beforehand via email or use the chat feature during the meeting if you don't wish to speak. This will be a public forum and therefore staff will not be discussing individual students' needs.

Parents may also want to look at our school video, which features aspects of our Sixth form and is a timely reminder of why St John Fisher School is a good choice for students. The deadline for applications to our 6th form is Friday, 18 December 2020.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAx6_gDDdJA

Peterborough College (formerly known as PRC) will be holding an information and advice session on Wednesday, 21 October between 4.30 and 6.30pm. This is for students who are considering applying to college but are not sure about the sorts of courses offered and the choices they need to make. Contact will be by telephone 0345 8728722, or via live chat on the Peterborough College website.

Breakfast

As you are aware breakfast is an important meal as it sets students up for the day! As we are currently unable to offer our free bagel and cereal Breakfast Club before school, we have been lucky enough to secure breakfast packs to give to students to take home. If you would like a pack, please ask your child to speak to their Student Support Officer.



However, please be aware that they are on a first come first served basis and this week's stock went quickly!

Key Stage 3 Curriculum Booklets

If your child is in Year 7, 8 or 9 they will have been handed a curriculum booklet to bring home to you today. These booklets aim to support parents by giving information about the curriculum and suggesting how families can support with learning at home. There are PDF versions available to download on the school website.



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Completion of Data Check Forms

As mentioned last week, data check forms have been issued to parents via students, so they can be reviewed and updated by parents. It is vitally important that we have accurate data on our system. Please ensure the completed forms are returned to us by Friday, 23 October 2020.

Academic Tutoring
Year 7
19 October -
6 November 2020

Enrichment

After half term, we will begin to offer a limited range of extra-curricular activities, most of which will be virtual to begin with. A programme will be published in next week's newsletter and we would encourage students to embrace any opportunities they are given.

Handwriting Support

There will be packs sent home before half term to support students with their handwriting skills, as handwriting club is no longer possible in the mornings. We have asked staff to identify any students whom they feel would benefit. If any parent would like to request a pack, please contact Mrs Sennett, Assistant SENCO.

