



St John Fisher News

22 January 2021

No. 451 (Lockdown Edition)

One School

Thank you for all the support given by parents/carers, students, staff and governors over the past three weeks. Remembering that we are one community and one school particularly at this time is very important even though most people are working from home. You will have noticed that careers interviews are still taking place remotely which is organised by Mrs Maudsley and all transition activities such as our Year 9 options processes and parents evening. Continuing with these aspects of school reminds us all that we must remember to look towards the future at what we can become rather than only focussing on what we might have lost. Our whole school community is still working hard to live our values and our mission in supporting everybody to reach their potential and live life to the full. If you need some help, please get in touch with us.

Summer Exams Consultation

Mr Young has provided information below about the consultation that opened on Friday. Please click on the links and take part in the consultation. It is very important to have your say whether you are a student in Year 11 or 13, or their parent/carer. Staff and governors are also encouraged to take part in the consultation. The Government and Ofqual will not make any final decisions about how the final grades will be awarded until the consultation has ended.

Remote Learning

Most students are engaging well in remote learning even though it can be hard to focus for the whole day and it is important to note that remote learning is not optional and all students are expected to take part unless they are ill. If there are still any issues around accessing learning, please contact school. Students are keeping to their normal timetables as far as possible and taking part in a blended approach of learning which includes pre – recorded lesson segments, live lessons and independent work. Please look at our website for more information about remote learning and learning from home. Please remember that it is important to take breaks away from a screen and to get some exercise during the day too and my thanks to Miss James and the Wellbeing Team who have been providing some useful tips and challenges for wellbeing, on Teams.

Thank you for all you are doing and please keep yourselves safe.

Kate Pereira

Cancellation of Exams in the Summer

We now have an update from the DfE and OFQUAL (Regulator for exams and Assessments) on proposals for the summer exams and how grades are to be awarded. You can find these documents using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/>

There is also a helpful video which summarises some of the main points which can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/wCmUOOxShxl>

These proposals are not final yet and are subject to change, which is why it is important for you to have your say. The consultation is open to all staff, students, parents and anybody involved within education. The consultation window is now open and you have until the 29 January to make your views known. You can respond once you have read the documents using the links below:

GCSE and A Level:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/8BY14T/>

Vocational Qualifications:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ACIHL2/>

Once the consultation closes a final decision will be made on how grades are to be awarded this summer and we can update you further. In the meantime students should continue to engage in online lessons and complete any work set by their class teachers

Mr Young, Assistant Head Teacher

Year 9 Options – Key Stage 4

You should have received all the information regarding Year 9 options. Please do watch the student, parent and subject presentations which can be found on Year 9 options/Careers Teams page which will support the booklet and instruction sheet. We are aware of some technical issues at the start of the week with Sims-Options but we believe we have resolved these now. The deadline to complete the options process is Friday, 12 February.

Year 9 Parents Evening

This takes place on Tuesday, 26 January from 4.30pm to 6.30pm and will involve remote video calls using our existing parents evening system. Please look carefully at the instructions which were sent to parents earlier this month.

Juliet Stevenson – Q & A

On Wednesday 16 December, a group of Sixth Formers and Year 10s were given the opportunity to interview the actress Juliet Stevenson CBE. It was a wonderful experience for both myself and the students as we gained an insight into her life. It was especially great to hear about how she handles both nerves and criticism but also to find out about her interests outside of her theatre work. From a young age, I was very inspired by her after watching *Truly Madly Deeply*, in which she starred alongside the late great actor Alan Rickman. What was even more inspiring for me and the students, is her admirable charity work and the amount of time she gives to young people. Juliet gave our students great words of encouragement, which supported our wellbeing message of 'BEE U'. It was an honour for us to have had this opportunity and I was proud of our students for how they conducted themselves in the Q and A. I am also excited to announce that Juliet has spoken fondly about visiting the school in the coming year. We thank her for her time, generosity and continuing kindness.



Miss James

Below are a few students describing their experience:

The interview with Juliet Stevenson was a remarkable opportunity. We spoke about our school, acting and ours and her hobbies. We really liked finding out how she started her acting career and the people she has met and worked with. Overall, the experience was exciting and we look forward to meeting her again once the pandemic ends!

Rasika Monteiro and Patrycja Psiuk (Year 10)

Concisely put into words, it was just remarkable! Juliet is genuinely one of the most heartwarming and welcoming individuals I've ever met, no doubt at all. Her willingness and determination to get in touch with us during what is such a difficult year goes to show her genuine love and care as a person. Juliet's advice and perspective of her career and life more specifically leaves a special place within. No complaints or regrets, just happiness and joy taken away from this experience. Thank you to everybody involved and especially to Miss James for taking her time to give the wellbeing group such a great opportunity. #BEEU

Tonyo Yordanov (Year 12)



Virtual Apprenticeship Careers Fair

On Wednesday 27 January, Years 11, 12 and 13 are invited to take part in a Virtual Apprenticeship Careers Fair. Employers including Marks and Spencer, Astra Zeneca, HSBC and Nestle will host live talks about their businesses and working for them as an apprentice.

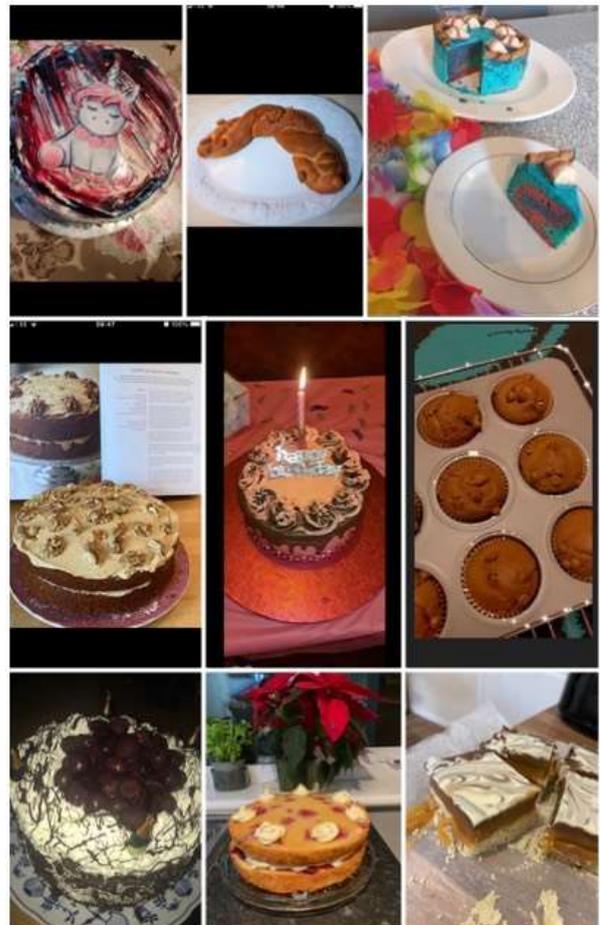
Book your place now at:

<https://apprenticeships.springpod.co.uk/>

Student Wellbeing

As we end another week of home-learning, our Student Wellbeing team 'BEEU', wanted students to get involved in something that took them away from their screens. This week we held a Bake-off, encouraging students to show off their baking skills, and try something different. The results and involvement of both staff and students was so inspiring. A winner of the Bake off will be announced next week and look out for the new challenge on the Student W drive on Teams. Thank you to all those who have taken part! You are amazing!

Miss James



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