



Holocaust Memorial Day and remembering those who have died

It was Holocaust Memorial Day on Wednesday when we remembered those who died in the Holocaust. A virtual service took place this year in Peterborough due to the restrictions in place but as a school, we were still able to take part. Thank you to Ms Stevens and the students who spoke and took part in the service on Wednesday.

This week we also remember those who have died because of the pandemic. The death toll across the UK went above 100,000 this week and there has been a call to prayer for the whole nation at 6pm every day starting on 1 February. Below is a prayer that can be used daily:

Almighty God,

We pray for our nation and our school community at this difficult time. Give strength to all of us but particularly those who are still suffering, those who have lost loved ones, those who are sick and those who are experiencing difficulties.

We pray for families everywhere. Show your love to all who have been badly affected, give them hope and show us any ways in which we can help. Help us to remember those who have died with love and tenderness.

Give strength to our country as we meet the challenges ahead so we can recover. Guide us in our daily lives to work together as a community, to rebuild and move into the future with hope.

Amen

Prayer intentions can also be sent into school for our School Prayer intentions book.

Year 9 Parents Evening and Options

Thank you to everyone involved in the Year 9 virtual parents evening on Tuesday, particularly under the current circumstances. Teachers have worked hard to make sure that parents and students had an opportunity to hear about the progress they were making and to ask questions about option choices. If there are any further queries about options please contact the school.

A Gentle Reminder

As we are in a national lockdown it is very important to stay at home unless leaving your house is for an essential reason. There should be no mixing of households at all, which means that students must not meet up with their friends in person by going to each other's houses. As you are aware people can carry the virus without knowing they have got it and then pass it on to somebody else who might become very ill.

Reopening of Schools

On Wednesday, the Prime Minister said that the earliest that schools might reopen would be 8 March but he said that this was not definite and he gave no indication of which year groups might return or when. For now we need to continue as we have been with remote learning. What was clear is that schools will not reopen straight after half term and that we have to wait until the situation is better with the virus. As soon as we hear anything else, we will let you know.

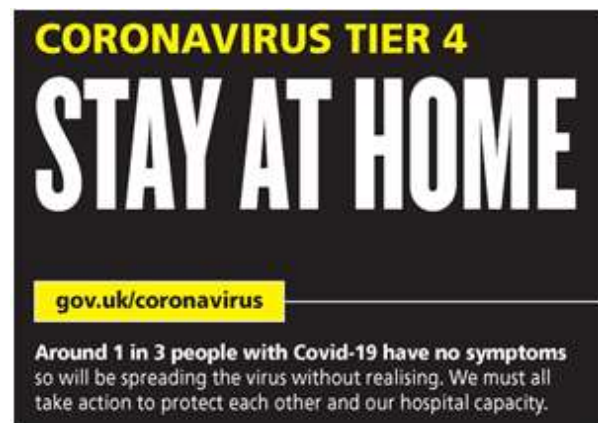
Exams Consultation

The consultation about the summer exams finishes today. Thank you to all who have managed to complete it online and we hope that a decision will be made soon by the government about how Years 11 and 13 will be assessed. As soon as we have any information that we can share with you we will let you know what this is.

Remote Learning

Finally, a huge thank you and well done to all of our students who are working so hard at the moment. Your efforts are being recognised and we know how hard learning from home can be for you. Keep going and remember that this situation is not permanent, it will end and we will get back to school soon. I have also been very impressed by the way students have been getting involved in virtual extra-curricular activities such as baking and drawing and taking part in the School Council and Chaplaincy which are all so important for wellbeing. A big thank you to parents and carers too for providing support when it is needed.

Kate Pereira



Chaplaincy

Our Chaplaincy Team support remains strong throughout lockdown and our daily thought reflections are a positive and prayerful way to start each day. Thank you to all those who read them and if you have not seen them, please take a look on TEAMS, especially during Form Time. This coming Tuesday, 2 February is Candlemas, where traditionally candles are blessed and lit in church, however this year, there will be a Diocesan PowerPoint available instead on Teams ready for Tuesday morning. Following on from the first lockdown we continue to write intentions in our School Prayer Book to pray for all those who have died or been affected in any way by the impact of the pandemic. If you would like anyone remembered in the book, please ask students to get in touch with me or contact me via the school enquiries email. God bless and stay safe.

Mrs Goodfellow, Lay Chaplain



Year 10 Heroes

The Year 10 Heroes have begun their peer mentoring with students in Year 7. This current cohort of Heroes have been given all the relevant training to fulfil their roles as 'Heroes' or peer mentors. This is a brilliant opportunity for Heroes to help other students around the school, as well as developing life skills that we hope they can use in the future. The Heroes have been paired up with their 'Buddy' and would normally mentor them during their school time. Unfortunately, due to the current lockdown, meetings between heroes and their buddies cannot take place in school but are now happening as a conversation by online message via Teams. A Teams page has been set up for each hero and their buddy for this to happen at least once a fortnight. We hope this exciting programme becomes an integral part of school life and it helps to develop confidence amongst many who find secondary school a bit daunting.

Mrs Udejaja

Calling all Former Students

If you're a former student of St John Fisher Catholic High School, we want to hear from you!

Your experiences since leaving could help to motivate and inspire our current students to feel more confident in making decisions about their future. We'd love you to join our alumni network and stay connected with the school.

We've partnered with the national education charity Future First, who specialise in helping schools like ours to stay connected with their former students.



You can choose how and when you help – perhaps you can act as a career and education role model, provide virtual work experience, become a mentor in person or online, or help with donations and fundraising.

It doesn't matter when you left us, whether you're in further education or employment, whether you still live nearby or have moved further away, there are still ways you can help. We see it as a wonderful way of extending our community and adding to our 'one family' ethos.

In order to sign up, just follow this link and fill in the online form – we promise it will only take a couple of minutes.

<https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/signup/sjfchigh>

Wellbeing

Lockdown has been a challenging time for many. I'm sure that there were many opportunities, activities and events we may have missed out on. However, I believe it is important that we also reflect on the times we have been resilient, and moments where we achieved something. It is important to look back on these times and feel proud, that we overcame and are still overcoming some hardships. This week's wellbeing challenge was to reflect on those moments and share 'What has made us feel proud'. From pieces of work, to helping one another, our students have done some great things that they should feel proud of!

I am extremely proud of how well students took part in the baking challenge, and proud of our winner Joseph Cole for his amazing chocolate cake!



Well done to everyone who took part!

Miss James