



**ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY-DEWSBURY**



**PART OF BLESSED PETER SNOW CATHOLIC ACADEMY
TRUST**

Headteacher Recruitment Information for Applicants November 2017



**Diocese of Leeds
Office for Education and Schools**

Chair's letter

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the post of Head Teacher for St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy-Dewsbury. I hope that you will be encouraged by what you read to pursue your application further.

The Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Academy Trust and the Governing Body of this Academy are keen to entrust the leadership of our school to a talented, visionary Catholic leader with a proven track record of achievement.

I would like to offer a brief background on both St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy and the Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Academy Trust.

2018 will be the 60th. Anniversary of the opening of the school. During these six decades it has offered good quality education for the pupils of the Heavy Woollen Deanery and more recently also the St. William of York parish in Morley. It is an oversubscribed school and well supported by our Catholic community.

The last three OFSTED inspections (last one in 2012) have judged the school as 'good' and the Section 48 inspections have consistently judged the school as 'outstanding'.

We are committed and driven to improve standards across all aspects of our school. The school has an effective and experienced leadership team who are committed in their vision towards providing a good Catholic education to all our pupils, supporting and working with our families and in partnerships with other schools and agencies.

The Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Academy Trust started on the 1st. October 2014 with three schools (one secondary and two primaries). It offers a solid platform for the remaining Catholic schools in Kirklees and Calderdale Local Authorities to join us. Although small the Trust has developed sound financial and auditing processes and policies. We are eager to expand because as our motto states there is great strength in unity.

Further information can be obtained through the following websites:

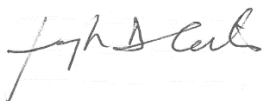
www.stjohnfisher.org.uk

www.dioceseofleedscmat3.org

The Trust and the Diocese acknowledge the importance of this post and will actively offer long term support, encouragement, affirmation and realistic challenge to the successful candidate.

I would encourage you to visit the school and find out more about us.

Yours Sincerely and In Christ,



Rev. Dr Joseph D. Cortis

Chair of the Academy Council

Chair of the Trust Board

St John Fisher Catholic High School was opened in 1958, under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Leeds. It was reorganised in 1974 and the Sixth Form was added in 1979.

In October 2014, the school became an academy and was renamed St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy. The academy is part of the Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Academy Trust which currently includes three Catholic schools (ourselves and two primaries) in the Kirklees and Calderdale metropolitan areas.

The academy's purpose is to serve Catholics living in Dewsbury, Batley and surrounding areas.

Our school is an 11-19 mixed Roman Catholic Academy with approximately 1,200 pupils on roll, including 200 in the Sixth Form. The school was founded to help parents provide a Catholic education for their children. The academy is over-subscribed. Currently 85% of students are Catholic.

We endeavour to create positive interaction between home, academy and parishes that will provide a basis for the pupils' future. We are committed to showing Christian care and concern for all staff, students and parents.

The academy exists therefore:

- to help pupils to know and love God and the wonders of creation
- to help pupils to understand and live the Catholic faith
- to enable pupils to grow in self-esteem
- to help pupils to become responsible and responsive adults
- to enable pupils to develop their physical potential
- to enable pupils to develop their intellectual potential
- to prepare pupils for life in a multi-cultural and technological society
- to create a community in which individuals respect each other regardless of:
- age, gender, ethnicity, ability, sexuality, religion or social status.

At all times the school is to serve as a witness to the Catholic Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ.



The Spiritual Life of Our Academy



The practice of our Catholic Christian faith is fundamental to the life of St John Fisher Catholic Academy. This is evidenced in the academy's worship, involvement in charitable events, periods of retreat and reflection and in-house displays. Prayer life is closely linked to the Church's year with services of reconciliation and meditation during Advent and Lent, prayers for the dead in November and the Rosary in October. Additionally, the academy gives a public witness to her faith by re-enacting the Nativity story and Passion of Christ to the people of Dewsbury.

The academy is fortunate to have its own Chapel where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved during term-time. The Chapel is open throughout the day providing peace and tranquillity amidst the bustle of academy life. Pupils are encouraged to use the Chapel for private prayer in their free time.

The academy also has a full-time Lay Chaplain whose responsibilities include being available to pupils, students and staff as a listening ear. The Chaplain organises days of reflection, retreats and pilgrimages for various year groups, and co-ordinates the masses. Our masses are real and genuine celebrations with many pupils and staff volunteering to take part in music, drama, readings and reflections.

All staff, especially those from the religious education and music faculties, support the work of the Chaplain therefore making a significant contribution to the mental, physical and spiritual well-being of the pupils. The Chaplain also liaises with the priests and teaching staff to ensure that all members of the community receive the spiritual guidance and pastoral help they need.

For further details, please refer to the academy's spiritual development policy on the school website.



The School Curriculum and Organisation

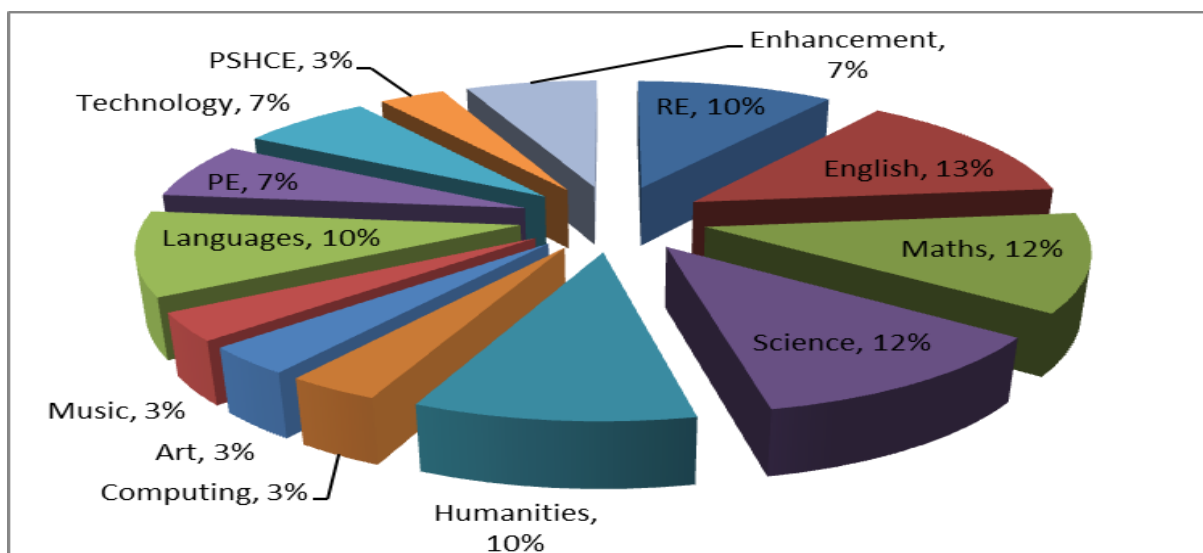


At St John Fisher Academy we seek to ensure that the whole curriculum has a spiritual dimension highlighting the aims, values and teachings of the Catholic faith. To assist the personal development of all pupils, whatever their backgrounds or individual needs, we seek to provide a curriculum which has breadth, balance, relevance, differentiation, progression, continuity and which provides opportunities for all pupils to experience success.

Content

A total of twenty-five hours is spent on timetabled lessons including Religious Education, PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health, and Citizenship Education) and Form Period but excluding registration time.

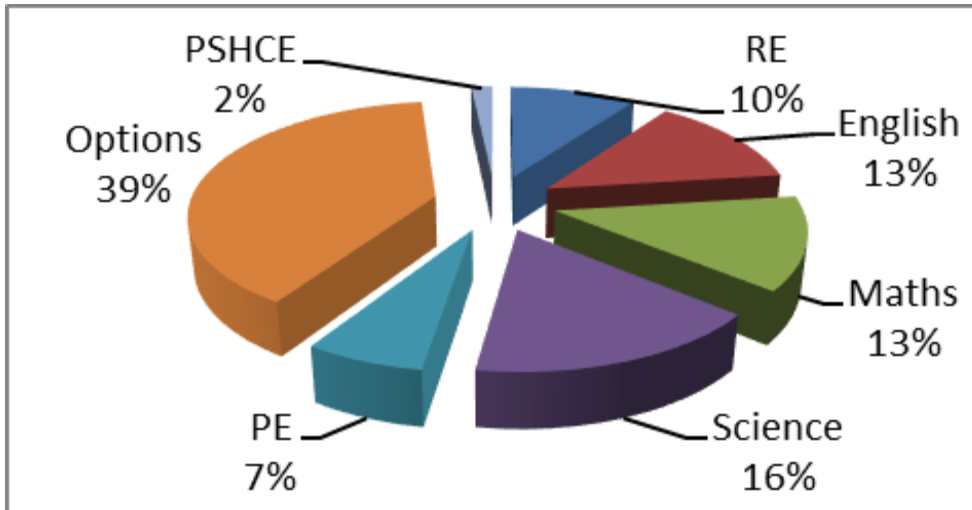
Years 7 to 9 (Key Stage 3)



All pupils study Religious Education, Art, Design Technology (including Food/Textiles), English, French or Spanish, Geography, History, ICT, Mathematics, Music, PE, PSHCE and Science.



Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4)



All pupils take Religious Education, English, Mathematics and Science to GCSE or equivalent level. PE and PSHCE are also compulsory subjects.

In addition, pupils can select subjects from the following:

Art, Business Studies, Computer Science, French, Geography, Health and Social Care, History, ICT, Computer Science, Media Studies, Music, PE/Sport, Spanish and Technology (four options available). ICT is also a part of all subjects.

All students are able to follow the DfE guidelines, and access qualifications in more traditional subjects. All students are asked to make either one or two selections from French, Spanish, History, Geography or Computer Science. Success in these traditional subjects is increasingly necessary as students compete for jobs and places in Higher Education.

OCR National or BTEC courses are available in a limited number of the subject areas. Some pupils follow a modified curriculum to suit individual needs e.g. work based learning programmes.

It is possible for some young people to attend neighbouring schools/colleges for the equivalent of 2 hours per week to study additional subjects. This offer is available through the Kirklees Collegiate programme and Dewsbury Learning Partnership which involves educational institutions working together to provide the best possible opportunities for our young people. Recent courses studied have been Photography, Hair and Beauty, Dance, Drama and Construction.

Religious Education

Religious Education lies at the core of the curriculum for all pupils and is in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church. No alternative provision is made. The courses taught have the approval of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Years 10 and 11 follow either the GCSE course or a Religious Education Certificate course. Sixth Form students follow an approved General Religious Education course, except where they opt to study for the Advanced (or Advanced Subsidiary) Level course in Religious Studies.

Sixth Form

Most students choose to remain at St John Fisher to follow courses for one, two or three years. One-year Vocational Courses are available in Business, Health and Social Care, Finance, Product Design and Photography. These can be combined with GCSE courses eg Maths and English.



Students who have done well in their GCSE examinations, or after a one year Sixth Form course, may commence Advanced level courses in traditional AS/A-levels, vocational AS/A-levels or a BTEC National Diploma in Applied Science (Sports Studies) or ICT.

The following Advanced level courses are available: Art, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, English Language, English Literature, Financial Studies, French, General Studies, Geography, Health & Social Care, History, ICT, Law, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Media Studies, Music, PE, Physics, Product Design, Psychology, Spanish, Sports Science, Science, Textiles, Theology, Travel & Tourism. In addition all sixth form students follow a certificated course in Religious Education.

Academy Student Council

The Academy Student Council is a very important part of the school. This body represents the pupils and students and is made up of pupils elected from each year group. In addition, each year group has its own council. These bodies are consulted by management about new policies etc. and thereby all students can sample citizenship education in a real context.

Pastoral Care

Directors of Study are in charge of pupil welfare, responsible to a Senior Director and an Assistant Headteacher.



Priorities for Academy Improvement



Mission

Ensure that St John Fisher Academy contributes to the enlargement of the Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Academy Trust by further developing partnership working within the Trust area whilst also developing partnership working across the Catholic schools within Kirklees, Calderdale and further afield.

Develop opportunities for the spiritual, moral and cultural formation of students and staff in line with the school Spiritual Development Policy.

To further raise standards in RE by further improving teaching and learning so that students in all year groups make at least their expected progress and a greater proportion make better than expected progress.

Improve the provision for and outcomes achieved by students with Special Needs and the more able.

Learning and Success

Ensure that the standard of teaching and learning in key curriculum areas is consistently good or better thereby promoting strong outcomes.

To ensure that key groups of students make better progress at Key Stage and significantly better progress at Key Stage 4.

To lead and manage further improvements in the quality of teaching in all subjects, by ensuring a focus on challenge and differentiation.

To lead and manage further improvements in the quality of teaching in all subjects by ensuring a focus on literacy and marking.

Pursue improvements in student progress through the further development of a learning culture.

Improve attendance

Ensure that the curriculum at KS3 and KS4 both develops further our commitment to the personalization of learning, including vocational pathways, and is a coherent response to Department for Education initiatives.

Embed the new systems for assessment and tracking and ensure that throughout the school there is rigorous analysis of data that effectively identifies under-achievement.

Ensure appropriate responses to improve student progress towards their targets.

Ensure strong outcomes for the Sixth Form.

Leadership

Ensure that leadership structures at all levels allow well-planned strategic and operational change to be implemented effectively and efficiently.

Support transformational change in learning by focusing on Improving the buildings and environment.

Ensuring the highest possible take up of places at 11 years and 16 years of age.

Working in Leeds Diocese

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for taking the time to find out more about the Headteacher role at St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy, Dewsbury, in the Diocese of Leeds.

The Governors are looking for someone who has the vision to lead the school and support their partners through the opportunities and challenges over the next few years. St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy is a member of the Communion of Leeds Diocesan Secondary schools (CoLDS). This and other existing partnerships are ambitious to see all schools achieve well, be judged good or better and become examples of best practice in serving the needs of their families and communities. The successful candidate is assured of a warm welcome from colleagues and will have every assistance in getting to know the local community of schools as well as the immediate schools and parish communities.

The Diocese of Leeds covers a wide geographic area encompassing eight local authorities mainly in West and North Yorkshire well served by a network of rail and motorway links. We have 80 primary schools, 13 high schools, a sixth form-college in Leeds and a residential non-maintained school for the deaf. Our smallest school is 20 students whilst the largest is 2,300 students serving both rural and urban areas. There are good partnerships between schools across the Diocese as well as within local deaneries and further networks with local authority schools. Also within the Diocesan educational provision is our Catholic University of Leeds Trinity that is also the higher education partner to the teaching school alliance. The secondary Principals from across the Diocese meet regularly offering opportunities for joint working bringing the leadership of the schools together.

The Diocese offers a comprehensive programme of continuing professional development every academic year which is available on the website and open free of charge to all schools giving to the Diocesan school contribution scheme. In future years it is hoped that the teaching schools in the Diocese will also take a role in delivering the programme.

I hope that you will take this opportunity to apply to be the new Headteacher at St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy.

Kind regards

Angela Cox OBE

Principal Officer for Education
Diocese of Leeds

