



# Prospectus 2022

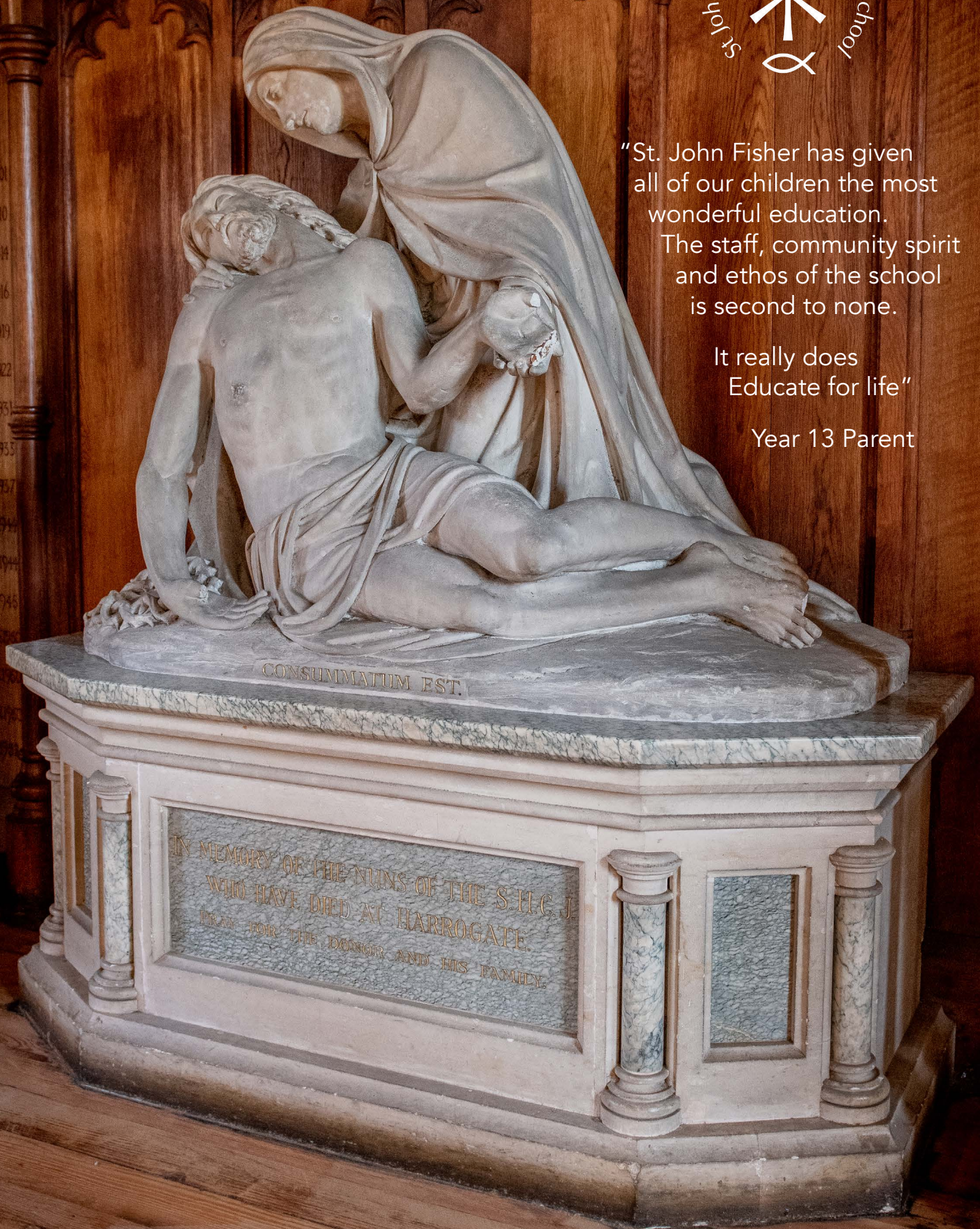
EDUCATING FOR LIFE



"St. John Fisher has given  
all of our children the most  
wonderful education.  
The staff, community spirit  
and ethos of the school  
is second to none.

It really does  
Educate for life"

Year 13 Parent



# WELCOME

## to St John Fisher Catholic High School

I would like to offer a personal welcome to the St John Fisher Catholic High School prospectus.

The school mission statement is 'Educating for Life' and this philosophy underpins every aspect of school life. Central to our educational philosophy is the education of the whole person and care for every student. We recognise and value each child's unique gifts and qualities, and we encourage them to develop spiritually, intellectually, physically, and socially to their full potential.

The school aims to create a Christ centred community of faith and a vibrant place of learning. As a Catholic school, we provide daily opportunities for reflection, prayer and worship. Each day begins with prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist is central to the life of the school.

School leaders, teachers and support staff walk alongside our students on their faith and academic journey to ensure that when they leave us, they have the qualifications, confidence, compassion and faith to make a significant contribution to society and be a force for good in the world.

We value the partnership of home, school, and parish. Indeed, the school regards itself as a large family, an extension of the families from which our students are drawn, and which is itself, part of Christ's larger family - the Church.

We are committed to serving our local community and supporting our partner Catholic primary schools and parishes. We work in close collaboration with other schools, colleges, and the wider community for our mutual good.

We were delighted that our recent Ofsted Inspection in May 2019 confirmed the "outstanding" status of the school. For those students who wish to continue their studies with us, St Aidan's and St John Fisher Associated Sixth Form provides a unique venture in ecumenical education. Created in 1973, its aim is to provide a Christian environment in which all students who wish to remain at school beyond the age of 16 are given the opportunity to fulfil their academic potential.

We welcome applicants from people of all faiths who wish to benefit from, and can support, our Catholic ethos.



**Mr S. Mort**  
Headteacher



# ABOUT ST JOHN FISHER

## Catholic High School

St John Fisher Catholic High School is an 11-19 Catholic mixed comprehensive school. It is a Voluntary Aided Catholic School and, as such, is in a dual partnership with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds and North Yorkshire County Council, as established by the 1944 Education Act.

Situated on a magnificent greenfield site, close to the centre of the beautiful spa town of Harrogate, the school has grown to its current size of 1400 students on roll. A significant part of the school site is occupied by the 1903 stone buildings of the original Catholic convent school and now part of a conservation area. The new St John Fisher Catholic High School was founded in 1958 and, thanks to the vision of its founding fathers, moved on to the convent site in the early sixties. Reorganised as a comprehensive school in 1973, the school has gone from strength to strength.

Graded "outstanding" in its most recent Ofsted Report, the school was in the top 10% of schools nationally for its most recent validated GCSE outcomes. With a national reputation for the quality of its rich sporting and musical life, the school attracts students from Catholic communities from parishes throughout the Diocese of Leeds. The Associated Sixth Form of St Aidan's and St John Fisher celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2013. With almost 1200 students on roll, it is the largest school-based Sixth Form in the country.

There is a Christian ethos throughout the school, based on the school's Catholic foundation and history. These values also drive our community to be outward-looking, ever mindful of our responsibilities to those less privileged than ourselves. We warmly welcome your interest in our school and invite you to visit us and see for yourself.

Shared faith and understanding of Catholic values underpins all that the school does. The care and development of the pupil as an individual is at the heart of the school's practice and planning.

Ofsted







# A COMMUNITY OF FAITH



Our school is a community of faith centred on the teachings and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church and its significant role in the state education system.

We work in a partnership with our families and parishes, and have creative links with all our feeder primary schools along with others in the maintained sector. Our programmes in RE and PSHCE are based on the teachings of the Church and we seek to promote a spiritual dimension across the entire curriculum. Our goal is “to educate for life” in order to prepare our students for their lives as adult Christians in an increasingly secular world.

Our values ensure that we have a total commitment to support all our students, particularly those who may be vulnerable or most in need.

Our community regards collective and daily worship as a high status part of our school life, in which students take a leading role. The school promotes spirituality through worship and prayer and marks all the major Christian festivals in the church calendar. Mass as the source and summit of Christian life takes place weekly in our chapel and the community marks our Patron's Feast Day with a whole School Mass along with other celebrations. The school encourages pupils to live out their faith through good works. This is demonstrated in the various charity works, retreats and pilgrimages. Also available to the young people are various prayer groups as well as a programme to complete The Faith in Action Awards. The school has a long tradition of sending groups as part of the Diocese of Leeds Pilgrimage to Lourdes as well as Walsingham and Rome.

Fr. Wright, our Priest Chaplain and Mr Atkins, our Lay Chaplain, support and direct pupil chaplaincy groups in school, enriching the schools' spiritual life.

## Religious Studies

All school policies and programmes are based on Christian, Gospel values and reflect the teachings and tradition of the Catholic Church. All students will follow a core programme of Religious Studies up to GCSE level. Religious Studies is a vital part of the school curriculum promoting “religious literacy” within the context of this Catholic school.

Students are supportive of each other and are proud of their school and its values. They embrace the leadership roles offered to them and are alert to the needs of others

Students at St John Fisher understand the school's values and take an active part in projects in which they live out their faith.

There is a clear and tangible sense of community at St John Fisher.

Section 48 Inspection, May 2018



Mr Atkins, Lay Chaplain



Fr. Elliott Wright, Priest Chaplain



BBC Songs of Praise



A number of pupils are involved in a variety of ministries. There is a student chaplaincy team and a Young Vincentian group. The school supports a number of charities at home and globally.

Section 48 Inspection, May 2018

# CHARITABLE GIVING

“Those to whom much is given of them much will be required.”

St John Fisher Catholic High School recognises and takes seriously its responsibilities towards the wider world. From a standpoint of Christian Values, staff and students embark on a number of educational and charity activities every year. These activities draw the attention of our students to those less privileged than themselves.

As a Catholic School charitable fundraising is a very important aspect of our mission. Our students are encouraged to support a wide range of charities including CAFOD. The students work as individuals, as part of their form, as members of the school council and as a whole school to raise money. Recent projects include:



## CAFOD Soup and Roll Fundraiser

The school supports CAFOD, the Catholic International Development Charity every year through a number of events across the school community, namely the soup and roll day.



## Running for CHUF

Eight members of the school staff body took part in the Conistone Fell Marathon in the summer of 2021, raising money for the Children's Heart Unit Foundation in Leeds.

## Other fundraising events at St. John Fisher

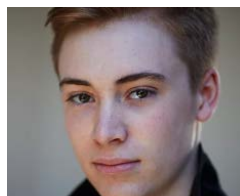
- Macmillan Coffee Morning and Cake Sale. A total of £632 was raised through the making and buying and selling of cakes for the national Macmillan appeal.
- Harvest Tin Tower. A record 2600 tins were brought in by school and donated to the St. Pio Priory soup kitchen in Bradford.
- Wellbeing Champions Cake Sale. Raising money for Mind UK.
- Wear Red Day for the Children's Heart Surgery Fund at Leeds General Infirmary.
- Jogging for Jordan – Through a number of events, the school raised money to support the purchase of a new prosthetic leg for Year 13 student Jordan Teodori-Faith, a Proteus syndrome sufferer in year 13.
- Children in Need - One of our main annual fundraising events which is organised by the 6th Form Congress. In a week of fun filled events including a staff v student football match, bake-off, sponge the Headteacher, auction of promises and 6th Form pantomime, we raised well over £4,000.
- Park Run Breakfast for Martin House - Staff and students raised £1350 for the wonderful Martin House in Boston Spa through a Park Run in wet and wild conditions! Claire Gorman's Catering Team at St John Fisher gave their time for free, Avenue Bakery donated bread rolls. Bidfood donated the bacon and Pain au Chocolat and Birchall's donated drinks and eggs.

# CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS



**Archie Hall**

Member of the Tewit Silver Band, winners of the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain



**Frankie Bounds**

Member of the Glyndebourne Academy and National Youth Choirs of National Youth Choir of Great Britain



**Jennifer Cartwright**

Winner of the Trinity College, Cambridge, Gould Prize for Essays in English Literature



**Rebecca Hugill**

Runner-up at the World Open Freestyle Football Championships in Prague



**Emily Pedersen**

Winner of the ORA singers Composer Competition



**Year 7 Girls Football Team**

Crowned the English National Champions



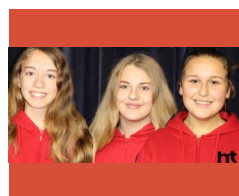
**Hazel Read**

Cast as Mary Hildebrand in the Opera North production of Street Scene in January



**Under 15 Girls Football Team**

Crowned Harrogate and District 5-a-side Champions



**Zuzanna Filarska, Phoebe Turnbull and Zsafia Ther**

Starred in the Harrogate Pantomime production of Snow White



**Leeds Rhinos and Bradford Bulls players**

Rian Rowley, Jack Mallinson, Oliver Field, Ben Mayhew and Sam Arundel.

## Oxbridge

Our sixth form is one of the most successful in the country in terms of the number of offers we receive from Oxbridge and in converting those offers to places. This is partly as a result of preparation done lower down the school and our excellent results at GCSE but also because of the guidance we provide in Sixth Form. Students are given advice in preparing their applications and interview practice is also provided. Our Oxbridge Area Representatives visit several times across the year and we welcome back former students studying at Oxbridge to answer questions in an informal setting. Students are encouraged to enter essay competitions to bolster their applications and we have had considerable success in recent years. In addition, we assist students in applications for summer schools and every year we have students attend schools run by Eton, Uniq and the Sutton Trust. Across the Association we achieved fifteen offers in 2019 with 11 students successfully taking up their places. In October 2020, 10 of our students will begin their studies at Oxbridge.



The Oxbridge support system at St John Fisher is incredibly high quality and provides students with a variety of opportunities and access points to build their confidence, analytical skills and knowledge of the universities' systems in order to become strong applicants.

# OFSTED

Following our inspection in May 2019 the Ofsted team reported....

Inspectors found pupils of different ages to be well-informed, articulate, respectful and tolerant of one another. Pupils told inspectors they felt confident to be individual and able to express their own identity in school. Inspectors found pupils' behaviour and conduct to be of a high order.

The school's carefully considered policies and curriculum are making a highly positive contribution to pupils' personal development and welfare and are ensuring pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain.

The school has continued to be high performing. In recent years pupils have continued to make significantly more progress across a broad range of subjects than seen nationally.

Last year, around 80% of pupils were entered for the suite of subjects that make up the English Baccalaureate, with success rates being well above those seen nationally.

In lessons, students were actively engaged in learning and participated fully. They were articulate, enthusiastic and keen to talk about their work.

The culture and climate for learning in the school support pupils effectively.

The well-considered strategies being employed by leaders are reducing or eliminating barriers caused by disadvantage.

The well-planned personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) curriculum ensures that pupils learn about the different risks they face.

# SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

Through a varied programme of Physical Education, St John Fisher Catholic High School aims to empower all students with the knowledge, skills, values and confidence to take part in sport and physical activities.

We firmly believe that competitive sport and 'opportunities for ALL' can co-exist in a busy school environment.

Our PE Department provides a wide range of sporting, recreational, health and fitness opportunities that everyone can enjoy, and our teams are successful in many sporting disciplines at local, county and national level.

At our school, we believe that PE is unique in its ability to develop the 'whole' child. We value the fact that PE lessons form an integral part of the core curriculum for all students and that PE is considered a serious GCSE option.

Through the PE Department, we are proud to offer extended curriculum opportunities that promote and enhance our students' relationships, social development, health and enjoyment of school life.

The vast majority of our students take advantage of one or more activities available to them during the school day, at lunchtime, after school and at weekends. We regularly engage with other schools within our local community to enhance experiences and learning opportunities.

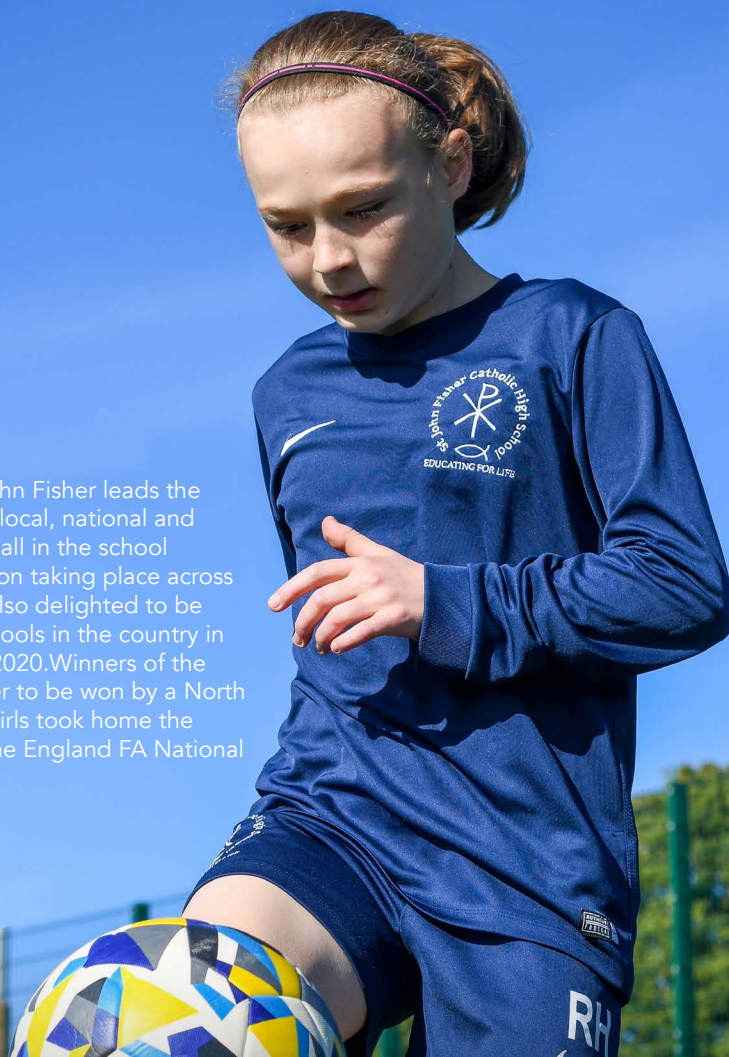
The timetable below illustrates all the amazing opportunities for sporting activities in our school.



## PE EXTRA CURRICULAR TIMETABLE

DAY OF THE WEEK	LUNCHTIME: 12.30-1.20PM	AFTERSCHOOL: 3.35-5PM
	SPORT/WHERE/TEACHER(S)	SPORT/WHERE/TEACHER(S)
MONDAY	Year 11 Boys Football (Mr Owen) Year 9/10 Boys Rugby (Mr Pass) Fitness suite (Year 9-13 only – boys and girls) (Mr Rowlands)	Year 8 Netball (Mrs Nightingale/Miss Richardson) Year 9 Netball (Mrs Barker-Field) Year 8 Boys Football (Mr Brennan/Mr Lydon)
TUESDAY	Year 10 Boys Football (Mr Hussey) Fitness suite (Year 9-13 only – boys and girls) (Mr Pass) Badminton (Year 9 and 10 only – boys/ girls) (Mr Bulcock)	Badminton (Year 7, 8, 11 and 6 <sup>th</sup> form – boys/girls) (Mr Thorpe)
WEDNESDAY	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Boys Football (Mr Flanagan) Running club (All Years – boys/ girls) (Mr Davis/Mrs Thomas) 6 <sup>th</sup> form recreational sport (Mr Nightingale)	Year 7 Netball (Mrs Thomas) Year 11/ 6 <sup>th</sup> form boys rugby (Mr Nightingale) Year 9 Boys Football (Mr Gibson/ Mr Hollett) Year 9/10 Girls Football (Mr Pass/ Miss Surridge) Fitness suite (Year 9-13 only) (Mr Tanner-Smith)
THURSDAY	Year 7 Boys Rugby (Mr Nightingale) Fitness suite (Year 9-13 only – boys and girls) (Mr Pass)	Year 11/6 <sup>th</sup> Form Netball (Mrs Crichton) Year 7/8 Girls Football (Mr Pass) Year 7 Boys Football (Mr Rowlands/ Mr Nightingale) Year 10 Netball (Mrs Palma)
FRIDAY	Year 11 Boys and Girls Basketball – Sportshall (Mr Barton) Year 8 Boys Rugby (Mr Howgate/ Mr Atkin) Table Tennis (All Years – boys/ girls) (Mr Rowlands) Year 11/ 6 <sup>th</sup> form Girls Football (Mr Pass) Fitness suite (Year 9-13 only)/ Indoor Rowing (All Years – boys/ girls) (Mr Nightingale)	

Beyond the curriculum, St. John Fisher leads the way in supporting athletes at local, national and international level. Girls football in the school continues to lead the revolution taking place across the country. The school was also delighted to be placed in the top 50 state schools in the country in the School Sports Magazine 2020. Winners of the first National Schools title ever to be won by a North Yorkshire School, the Year 7 girls took home the trophy at St George's Park, The England FA National Centre in 2018.



Year 12 student Therese Tolan has continued to compete for England in the Hurdles and recently claimed titles in the 300 metre event at the English School Championships and the Yorkshire County Championships.



Year 11 student Archie Gray continues to excel as a footballer and recently became the youngest ever player to play for Leeds United under 23's. Attracting a significant amount of attention from the footballing press, a future career beckons, following in the footsteps of his Father and ex-Scotland international Andy who was also a student here at St. John Fisher. Younger brother Harry (Year 8) also signed for Leeds United aged only 9!

# THE CURRICULUM

## Key Stage 3 & 4

The guiding intent of our curriculum is that it is broad, balanced, relevant and where necessary, personalised. Our School Mission statement of "Educating for Life" is applied to our curriculum and we are proud of the breadth of subjects we are able to offer our students. Throughout their time with us, students follow a core programme of English, Mathematics, Religious Studies, Physical Education and PSHCE and make their options' choices in Year 8, beginning Key Stage 4 in Year 9. Religious Education and the Catholic Life of the school will always be at the heart of our school's curriculum.

The majority of our students are entered for History or Geography and a Modern Foreign Language alongside English, Maths and Science. Together these subjects make up the English Baccalaureate Qualification. In addition to this the school offers a wide range of options, not least in Performing Arts, Sports and Technology.



## Associated Sixth Form

As one of the largest school based Sixth Forms in the country, the curriculum offers the widest choice of subjects in the area.

Ancient History	English Language	Physical Education
Applied Science	English Literature	Physics
Art	English Language & Literature	Psychology
Art Graphics	Food Science	Religious Studies
Art Photography	French	Sociology
Biology	Geography	Spanish
Business	German	Sport
Business Applied	Government & Politics	Travel & Tourism
Chemistry	Health and Social Care	Core Maths
Computer Science	History	Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
Dance	IT	AS Mathematics
Design Technology: Product Design 3D	Mathematics	GCSE Maths and English
Design Technology: Product Design Textiles	Media Studies	Languages
Drama & Theatre	Music	
Economics	Music Technology	
	Performing Arts	

*"I am new to the school for Sixth Form and everyone has been really friendly and helpful in making me feel settled and to get to know my way around"*

*Year 12 Student*

*"My post GCSE results interview was helpful in helping me to choose A Level courses that are appropriate for the course I want to study at university"*

*Year 12 Student*

Students choose three A Level or Level 3 Applied courses for their core programme in the Associated Sixth Form, although students with a particularly strong GCSE profile may wish to pursue a fourth subject, especially if this is Further Mathematics. This core programme can be supplemented by another option, for example, Core Mathematics, AS Mathematics or an Extended Project Qualification.

In selecting their courses, students are encouraged to consider the eight 'facilitating' subjects for entry to Russell Group universities.

We endeavour to give students aiming for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry the extra preparation they will need for interview. As a comprehensive school, we also aim to support students who wish to apply to Oxbridge. In 2019, 68% of our students secured a place at university. 186 of our students obtained places at a Russell Group university and 17 students secured places to study Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry. 5 students in 2019 secured places to study Music and Musical Theatre at prestigious Conservatoire universities.

# GCSE EXAMINATION HIGHLIGHTS 2018-2021:

## GCSE Level

- 91% of students achieved English and Maths at 4 or above
- 68.5% of students achieved English and Maths at 5 or above
- EBacc average point score of 5.29

Our most recent validated Progress 8 scores have placed us in the top 10% of schools nationally, as did our outcomes in English and Mathematics. The success of our GCSE outcomes received national recognition from the Government in 2019 and contributed to St John Fisher Catholic High School being rated the best non-selective school in North Yorkshire (and the best school in Harrogate) in the 2020 Real Schools Guide.

## Advanced Level

- 41% of grades were achieved at A\*-A
- 66% of grades were achieved at A\*-B
- 99.7% of grades were achieved at A\*-E
- 9 students gained places at Oxford or Cambridge
- 82% of students obtain their first choice university

Our curriculum is specifically designed towards our students gaining the knowledge and skills they need for future learning or successful employment.

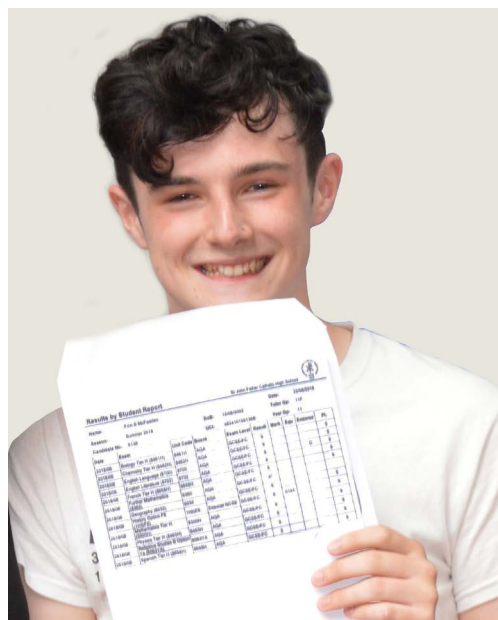
Their destinations include apprenticeships with:

Stephensons Control Systems  
Jaguar Landrover  
Rudding Park  
Mazars  
Skinny Design

Deloitte  
KPMG  
Allsop LLP  
Petheridge Bassra Solicitors  
DSEC Rail Projects

*"I have found it to be a really smooth transition from Y11 into Sixth Form. The Y11 induction day in the June was helpful to find out more about the Associated Sixth Form and the taster lesson at St Aidan's let us experience what lessons at the other school are like"*

Year 12 Student



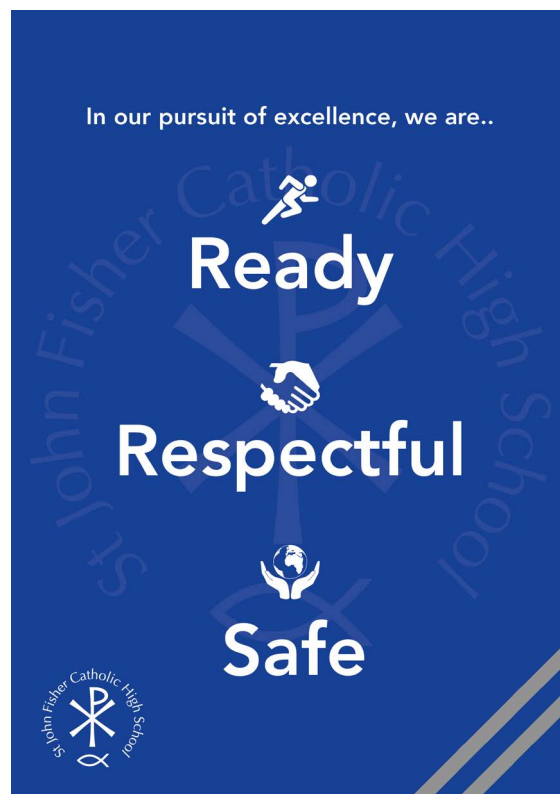
# TRANSITION PROCESS

At St John Fisher Catholic High School, our transition programme starts in Year 5. Our feeder Catholic primary schools visit us for a fun filled taster day of lessons in the summer term. This is then followed by our popular and ever growing Masterclasses, which are offered to any Year 5 or 6 child wishing to experience St John Fisher Catholic High School. The school offers a wide choice of subjects, ranging from Musical Theatre, Science, Technology, Mathematics, Sport, Art and Languages. Last year we had over 160 children participating in these classes. Not to let the parents feel left out, we have offered parent classes which run alongside the pupil classes, so parents can experience Mathematics and Literacy lessons, learn about the outstanding pastoral care offered at St John Fisher Catholic High School and meet the PTA.

In the summer term, after the SATs the staff from St John Fisher Catholic High School will meet all the Year 6 teachers and the children allocated places at the school, so we can get to know your child further, learn about their talents, individual needs, and teaching styles. Where necessary, extra visits may be arranged with our SENCO.

Transition days take place in early July when our new Year 7 students get to meet their subject teachers and begin to find their way around school. At the end of the day the children leave with a geometry set, a new reading book and a Year 7 information booklet containing everything they need to know about their new school.

In the September the school has a staggered start for its students, allowing for a smooth and purposeful transition into Year 7. All students entering year 7 are also given a transition booklet which outlines the key parts of the school day and important information about starting at St. John Fisher.



# What does a St John Fisher student look like?



# THE PERFORMING ARTS

St John Fisher Catholic High School maintains that the Arts are central to the development of confident, enquiring and imaginative young people who are aware of their cultural heritage and value the world in which they live.

In 2013, we were awarded Arts Mark Gold by Trinity College given the opportunities we offer in a range of disciplines. The school remains a lead school in the development of the Arts since its designation as a specialist Arts College in 1999 and has benefited from enhanced funding and facilities.

## Dance

Dance is offered throughout years 7 to 13, contributing to both the artistic and physical education of our students. Dance clubs are on offer for all students in Year 7 and 8. Such clubs culminate in school performances as well as numerous opportunities to perform within the local community. The senior dance clubs have participated in numerous showcases within North Yorkshire. The Dance Department works closely with local dance organisations and professionals in the industry. Many of our past students have gone on to study at dance conservatoires and now, as professionals, regularly return to deliver workshops for our students.

## Drama

The Drama Department aims to help all students of all abilities to be creative and confident. From Year 7 through to Year 13 students are encouraged to be inquisitive, bold and original as they develop their understanding of drama. We place a great emphasis on performance and look to give all an opportunity to perform. In the past, students have had the chance to perform in our whole school musicals, take part in the Schools Shakespeare Festival as well as be involved in Drama club performances. We produce large scale senior musicals every year. Billy Elliot in 2016, Grease in 2017, Legally Blonde in 2018 and our 2019 production was a musical extravaganza "Magic of the Musicals".

## Music

The Music Department is a vital and vibrant part of school life, providing many opportunities for pupils in both curriculum lessons and extra curricular activities. Music also plays an important part in the schools' liturgical life and supports mass and worship throughout the year.

All pupils study Music in Years 7 and 8 with lessons integrating the activities of composing, performing, listening and appraising. Music is a popular option at GCSE level and further study can include A Level Music and Music Technology in our specialist computer suites and recording studio or Performing Arts.

The extra curricular opportunities in the school are extensive, offering a variety of ensembles with something for everyone. These include: 2 different choirs, a jazz ensemble, a concert band, junior band, string, flute, saxophone, guitar, brass and percussion ensembles.

We also offer instrumental lessons on all instruments and employ all of our own private peripatetic teachers, meaning a more streamlined, cheaper and effective system. Current teachers include session musicians, professional performers and ABRSM and Rock School examiners.





# SCHOOL TRIPS

Our school offers a variety of trips and school visits; these range from day and field trips and numerous theatre performances to residential trips that are local, national or overseas. The school believes that a residential visit with other children can be an invaluable learning experience and we provide a wide range of opportunities during their time at school.



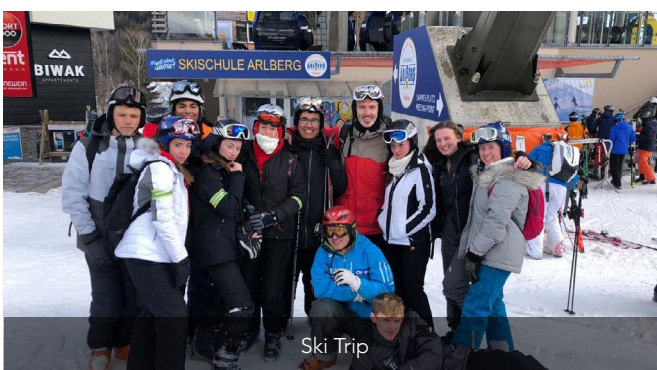
Year 10 Salamanca



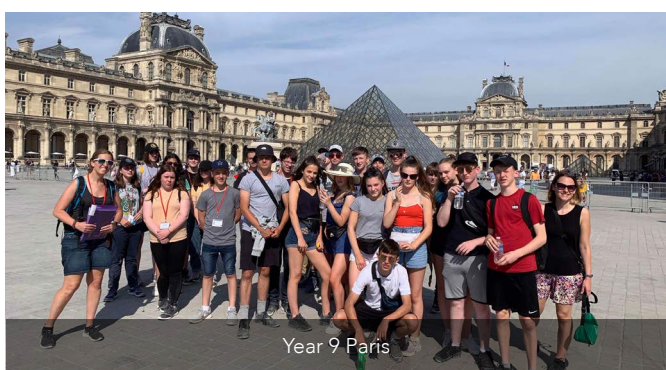
Senior Music Tour, Niagara falls



Year 8 Beamish Trip



Ski Trip



Year 9 Paris



Year 9 Rome

## Key Stage 3

Junior Musicians Residential  
Geography Residential  
Northumbrian Outward Bound Residential  
Multi Faith Visit  
History Trip to Normandy  
Beamish  
Sports Tour to Italy

## Key Stage 4

Ardèche Water Sports Tour  
History Berlin Trip  
Geography Sorrento Trip  
Dance and Drama to London Theatres  
Language Trip to Spain  
Lourdes Pilgrimage  
Camino Pilgrimage  
Music Trip to Toronto  
RE Trip to Rome

## Sixth Form

European Work Experience  
Cambridge and Oxford Open Days  
Ski Trip  
Walsingham Pilgrimage  
Overseas Art Trip  
Salamanca  
Politics Trip to USA



Year 12 Iceland

Ardèche Water Sports Tour

Senior Musicians Tour to Toronto

# ASSOCIATED SIXTH FORM

## Unique...

The Associated Sixth Form was created in 1973 as a unique venture in ecumenical education. Its aim is to provide a Christian environment in which all students who wish to remain at school beyond the age of 16 are given the opportunity to fulfil their academic potential. This is achieved by pooling the resources, staff expertise and experience of two outstanding schools for the benefit of all Sixth Form students.

## Varied...

Courses are offered at GCE Advanced, Level 3 Applied and BTEC Diploma and GCSE Levels. Last year 358 students advanced to Higher Education. With so many students between St. Aidan's and St John Fisher, the Associated Sixth Form can offer a rich diversity of choice. The Association can also offer opportunities for students to work on extended projects and to be involved in a wide range of enrichment activities.

Students enter not only from St. Aidan's and St John Fisher, but also from more than 30 other schools in any one year. We believe that such a wide and varied intake helps to enrich the life of all students. It certainly provides all entrants with a challenge and the impetus of a fresh start. The evidence suggests that this experience is of great benefit when students make the transition from school to university.

## Successful and popular...

Ofsted have reported that the Sixth Form provides an outstanding all-round education with exceptionally high-quality teaching for students whose attitudes to learning are superb.

## Representative...

Staff and students at each site elect representatives from whom the Head Boy, Head Girl and student leaders are chosen. These committees have become essential to the successful leadership of both the Sixth Form and the two schools; their members gain invaluable understanding of management and provide a welcome influence at school events.

Year 12 students are ambassadors for the school. They promote and support the school community in a variety of ways; Peer Listeners, Prefects, School Council. This service to the community is a cornerstone of the Catholic Life of the school.

Section 48 Inspection, May 2018

## Creative...

Students manage their own facilities and organise sports, musical and dramatic events. They also participate in service to the community, in fund raising for local, national and international charities, in helping staff in the running of school activities and in assisting within lessons, particularly in relation to pupils with special educational needs.



Study Programmes are broad, with strong emphasis on personal development. The quality and breath of study programmes help students to progress onto appropriate destinations after sixth form.



Sixth Form Congress 2021-2022

## STUDENT SUCCESS

Emily Pederson, a St John Fisher Year 13 student won a prestigious national award for music composition earlier this year. Already a Grade 8 pianist and trumpeter and well known musician in the local area, Emily was one of the ten finalists for the National Ora Youth Composer competition. She was commissioned to write her own reflection on a piece of Renaissance Choral music. After performances by all the finalists, Emily was named overall national winner of the Youth Award, presented to her by Stephen Fry and John Rutter. Emily was delighted to start studying composition at the Royal Northern College of Music in September 2020.

*"In the first week in September I changed an A Level course from my original choice and my Senior Tutor was really helpful in helping me make my choices"*

*Year 12 Student*



# CARE AND ACHIEVEMENT

Although St John Fisher Catholic High School regularly takes its place in the top 30 non-selective schools in the country on the grounds of its outstanding academic performance, the school never loses sight of its duty of care towards students of ALL abilities. It is a comprehensive school.

Fundamentally, the school strives to:

- encourage and cultivate an ethos of lifelong learning
- enable students to develop as rounded individuals
- to develop further the school's outstanding reputation for Special Educational Needs.

To give our students the best chance of success in life and to enable them to make the right choices when faced with difficult situations, we take care to guide them and instil in them Christian values that lie at the heart of our community.

Our extensive pastoral team extends to form tutors, attainment coordinators, learning mentors, pupil welfare officer and Wellspring counsellor.

However, one of the key strengths of our school is that every member of staff, teaching or non-teaching, recognises the part they have to play in the care of all our young people, on a daily basis. We are proud of our ethos that every child really does matter and we value and support each and every member of our school community, particularly when they are most in need.

In this school, pastoral care and academic achievement go hand in hand. We see the value in all our students' achievements and encourage positive attitudes in all at St John Fisher Catholic High School. We aim to give all our young people equal opportunities to succeed within a positive and caring environment to enable them to fulfil their individual potential. The team work very closely with other specialist agencies in North and West Yorkshire and are able to refer students to these services where necessary.

## Pastoral Support Team

Our Pastoral Team is based in The Attic which is a quiet, calm and confidential area of the main school which students can access during the school day. The team provide comprehensive pastoral, behaviour and learning support to students across all year groups including Sixth Form. They aim to understand student's behaviour patterns and triggers and use these to develop bespoke interventions for each individual student.

The team work with students on a one to one basis and in small groups to make realistic, meaningful and sustainable changes. Support can relate to all sorts of issues which affect learning and achievement in school. These include anxiety, low mood, bereavement, emotional wellbeing, anger management, stress control as well as more traditional issues such as organisation skills, effective transition and exam preparation skills.

We aim to support all students in a caring and positive environment so that each one of them is able to fulfil their potential.

## Head Students and Student Leaders

Students in Year 11 have the opportunity to put themselves forwards for the role of Student Leader where they can take responsibility in a number of areas and support the school in its onward development. After applying, students are interviewed by their Head of Year, Head of Upper School and the Headteacher. In 2021, we have 4 Head Students, supported by a team of Deputy Head Students and Student Leaders. They will be involved in meetings, student feedback and strategic decisions with Mr Mort and the other members of the Senior Leadership team during 2021-2022.



## SEND

The school has a highly regarded Learning Support Department. Our school policy for Inclusion and SEND ensures the appropriate steps are taken to provide all students with equality of opportunity and access.

The department works with teaching staff, the Heads of Departments, Heads of Years and the Pastoral Support Team to identify, assess, plan and review the special educational needs of students at our school.

All the pupils identified with SEND have a Key Worker who provides additional support and is a valuable link between school and home.

## High Starters

Students entering the school displaying an exceptional level of achievement in relation to their peers at KS2 (based on SATs) are identified as High Starters. We identify these students early to ensure they are appropriately stretched from the moment they enter KS3. Provision is in three areas: stretch and challenge opportunities in the classroom; in-school enrichment including the super-curriculum programme, discussion groups and visiting speakers, and out of school enrichment, trips and visits.

Relationships with local universities are strong and academics are invited into school to address pupils. Work related opportunities are also provided. Students are given the opportunity to visit Oxford and Cambridge universities and encouraged to participate in essay competitions and summer schools.

## Pupil Premium

At our school we promote an ethos of high expectations for all students and do not stereotype students in receipt of the Pupil Premium as being a group with less potential to succeed. 7% of students at the school are in receipt of Pupil Premium and we have an individualised approach to supporting these students throughout all key stages.

Our main focus is first and foremost on high-quality teaching within the classroom. We also support students both within and outside the classroom through the allocation of teaching assistants, pupil progress champions and mentors. The funding also ensures that all essential school trips (such as theatre trips, field work trips) are funded and there is a generous subsidy for residential trips. We also fund equipment for students to ensure equity in education.

All students spoke highly of the pastoral provision in school.

Ofsted



In a recent Ofsted Inspection (May 2019) it was commented that St John Fisher Catholic High School 'has ensured that provision for pupil's personal development and welfare is strong' and 'pupils told inspectors that they felt confident to be individual and able to express their identity in school'

# GENERAL INFORMATION AND ADMISSIONS

## Sex and Relationships Education (SRE)

The school's programmes for sex and relationship education (SRE) and personal, health, social and citizenship education (PSHCE) are firmly rooted in the Catholic ethos of the school and closely linked to the school's programme for religious education. While the school follows National Curriculum and GCSE specifications, its programmes for SRE and PSHCE are in full accordance with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, having due regard to guidance from the Diocese of Leeds. The programme emphasises the sacred nature of Christian marriage and its centrality to family life and is also linked to the school's active promotion of a healthy lifestyle. Students are encouraged to develop positive values within a Christian, moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgments and behaviour.

Although parents retain the statutory right to withdraw their child from the school's SRE programme, the governors expect that families who seek admission to the school are fully aware of the aim to implement the teachings and doctrines of the Catholic Church in this area.

## School Admissions

The governors are responsible for admission to this Catholic voluntary school. They review and publish their admission's policy on an annual basis, to ensure compliance with the relevant statutory requirements and the latest Code of Practice. The current policy and admission criteria are available directly from the school or on the school website and are included in the papers issued with this prospectus. The admission policy does give priority to baptised Catholic children, although the governors welcome applications from other families. Places are always offered in strict accordance with the published criteria. There is an opportunity to visit school on our Open Day which is held in the Autumn terms prior to the closing date for the normal admission cycle. Families who are moving into the area and require places outside the normal cycle for admission should contact the school directly.

## Reports

Three progress and behaviour reports are issued each year.

## Homework

Homework is recognised as an essential part of the process of education, helping to develop good study habits, self-discipline and responsibility for personalised learning. It is the school's policy that homework is set for all pupils, and that tasks are appropriate to individual abilities. Homework can take various forms: written work, reading, rote learning, enquiry, research among other tasks.

St John Fisher Catholic High School enjoys a close partnership with many Catholic Primary Schools within the Diocese of Leeds, namely:

Barkston Ash Catholic School  
St Edward's, Boston Spa  
St Joseph's, Harrogate  
St Joseph's, Tadcaster  
St Joseph's, Wetherby  
St Mary's, Knaresborough  
St Robert's, Harrogate  
St Wilfrid's, Ripon





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