



THE FISHER FLYER

Mon 16 Mar - Fri 20 Mar 2026

BLUE WEEK

DAY	Assembly	Activities
Monday 16	Y7— Pastoral	
Tuesday 17	Y8— Pastoral	
Wednesday 18	Y9—Mr C Hawthorne—Options	
Thursday 19	Y10 - Pastoral	Y9 Parents evening & Options evening
Friday 20	Y11 - Pastoral	

Dear Parents, Carers, Learners and Governors,



As we move further through the season of Lent, there continues to be a wonderful sense of purpose and pride across our Fisher community. This week has been another reminder of what makes our school so special: learners who are curious, committed and determined to use their talents well. It also reflects one of the characteristics of the St Gabriel the Archangel Trust, "We believe that with God, nothing is impossible." When our learners apply themselves with dedication and enthusiasm, remarkable things can happen.

On Tuesday, several of our teams took part in the Robotics Tournament held at the University of Staffordshire. The standard of competition was extremely high, with schools from across the region showcasing impressive engineering and programming skills. Our learners rose to the challenge brilliantly. One of our teams, Quantum Mechanix, achieved 3rd place in the Alliance Finals and were also awarded the Reach Award. Meanwhile, our team Cyberbyte had an extraordinary day, becoming Alliance Winners and also taking home the overall Inspire Award. This is particularly special as it marks the fifth year in a row that St John Fisher Catholic College has won the Inspire Award. As a result, Cyberbyte have secured a place at the National Championships in London, which is a fantastic achievement. I had the opportunity to visit during the day and was genuinely inspired by the commitment, enthusiasm and teamwork shown by our learners and the staff supporting them. At this rate, we may soon need a bigger trophy cabinet!

On Thursday, our Fishers Chaplaincy Team led two Stations of the Cross services at St Wulstan's Catholic Church. The services were a prayerful and moving re-enactment of the Stations, helping us to reflect on Christ's journey to the Cross during this important season of Lent. It was a powerful reminder of the faith that sits at the heart of our community. My sincere thanks go to all of the Fishers involved, to their families for their support, and to everyone who attended, particularly the many colleagues who joined us in prayer.

A huge well done must also go to our Year 13 learners, who completed their mock examinations this week. These are an important milestone in the final stages of Sixth Form study, and we are proud of the maturity, resilience and determination they have shown throughout the process. We look forward to supporting them as they continue their journey towards the summer examinations and the exciting opportunities that lie beyond.

Looking ahead, we are looking forward to welcoming our Year 9 learners and their families to our Year 9 Parents' Evening and Options Evening, which will begin at 3:45pm on Thursday 19th March. Our fantastic Subject Leaders will be on hand to share information about courses and to guide learners as they begin the important process of choosing their GCSE subjects. This is an exciting step as our learners move into Key Stage 4, and the evening is designed to support families in making informed decisions about future pathways.

Finally, as we approach Mothering Sunday, we take a moment to give thanks for the mothers in our lives, those with us today and those who have gone before us. We also give thanks for all those who provide care, love and support to others, whether within families or within our school community. Their kindness, patience and dedication help shape the lives of our young people in ways that are truly invaluable.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our wonderful Fisher family.

God bless,
Mr Murray
Headteacher





Human Dignity

Last Sunday's Gospel Message

3rd Sunday of Lent

John 4: 5:42

'A spring of water welling up to eternal life.'

The dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy and most theological found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.



Human Dignity

This Sunday's Gospel Message

4th Sunday of Lent

John 9: 1-41

'He went and washed and received his sight.'

In Sunday's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of this Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness, but instead Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.

The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.



How can we offer 'living water' - kindness, encouragement, truth, to someone this week?

13S:

Pray for people, don't be selfish, ask people how they are, listen to others, do something nice for someone who is struggling.

12S:

Listening to someone who needs support. Being kind and opening the door.

7T:

We can smile at people when we see them, opening the door for people. We can offer encouragement by inviting people to join in our activities, helping people, giving money to the homeless. We can offer truth by sharing our thoughts and listening to others, being a true friend.

7N:

Doing small things such as opening the door for someone, smiling at somebody, listening to people, showing kindness also at home with chores. Give someone a compliment, answer more questions in lessons and encourage others who are not sure.

7H:

Smile at someone who might look down. Be kind to someone in need of friendship, follow the golden rule, try and make someone laugh.

8J:

Holding the doors open, encourage others to join clubs. Lifting people up through our actions.

8O:

By supporting someone, helping when they are struggling. Treat people who are vulnerable as you would treat Jesus. Put others first, encourage others to do the right thing.

THIS WEEK'S WINNER!!!

8F:

Encourage others to push themselves, we can encourage honesty in situations, taking accountability for our actions. Promote growth mindset. Sometimes we cannot achieve something straight away, but we must be open to improving ourselves.

10F:

Open the door for somebody. If someone is sad then talk to them, smile at someone when they walk passed. If someone is hurt then help them. Don't criticise anyone, donate to charity and don't judge people.

7J:

Help people when they need it most. For those who feel alone, let them join in with us. Enrich people with the word to follow the right path. Help someone in class if they are struggling. Offer encouragement to people to share ideas. Just be nice, smile and treat others how you wish to be treated.

Wednesday Word Reflec-

tions: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4tckxYgN-ZIIM--KEoBYkYf4SNns1vf>

Fr John's thought for the weekend: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4tckxYgN-ZkYARWSIzhDT+W-TrPmnRW-&si=mG2suACqa5pdTYhP>

This is our new series about praying with families at home. A new video will drop every Friday during Lent.

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4tckxYgN-ZmL41oNXfySvlimJASGNw-tI&si=tRkFJeGVErp5b-Ha>

Please note the same links will work every week. Even if we forget to add the links in each week in the newsletter, please make a note of them if you want to watch regularly!



Part of the National Year of Reading 2026

GO ALL IN.

The Carnegies
Medal for Writing
2026 Shortlist

Follow the story
Carnegies.co.uk
#Carnegies2026

CILIP Sora YTF ALCS SCHOLASTIC

WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE? VOTE NOW!
Staffs Libraries YTF BOOK AWARD
Young Teen Fiction Awards Shortlist 2026
The Last Dragon on Mars
The Girl with the Red Boots
The Lovely and the Lost
Red Flags
Vote for the winner!
staffordshire.gov.uk/YTF YOUR LIBRARY

Staffs YTF have given us the final four books in the shortlist for this years award: and they are on the above poster. We currently have the two starred books, and the other two are on order. Hopefully with us very soon!

Vote here: (speak to Mrs Edwards if you need more info)

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=Td6sJLuS1kS7qO2z0DgTzZIr57UUL9hKnjIUWmkDF6RU1I1YMDJEWFK20U03QTJINzJaWFK30U1GOC4u&route=shorturl>

The Shortlisted books for the Carnegies award has been announced this week, and are shown on the poster above.

Again, the starred ones are the books we currently have, some of the others are on order. Most public libraries should have them all, so why not read as many as you can, and let Mrs Edwards know which book(s) you would like her to vote for you on your behalf.

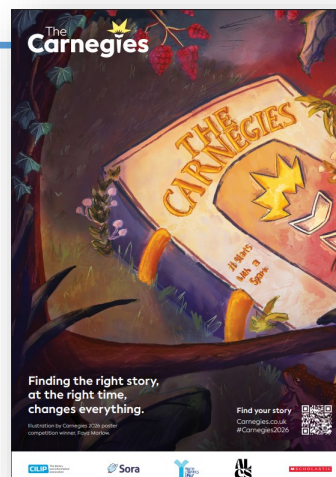
For more details please see Mrs Edwards.

The Carnegies is a very prestigious award—running for almost 90 years.

The Carnegie Medal for Writing has been awarded annually since 1937 (recognizing books from 1936), making it the UK's oldest children's book award. Established in 1936 to honour Scottish-born philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, it recognizes outstanding English-language books for children and young people

This Year's Award: from 125 nominated books in November 2025, it was whittled down to 19 longlist books in 02/26, and now down to the final 8 in the shortlist in 03/26, the winner will be announced on June 23rd 2026.

Anyone who reads from the shortlist, and votes (via the library Carnegie shadowing group) will have the chance to watch the live-streamed Award winners ceremony. See Mrs Edwards for more details.



Lunchtimes in the library—

Monday—Thursday—both lunchtimes

QUIET Games available

—Chess, Scrabble, Uno, Trivial Pursuit, Brain Box (please ask)

Fridays— both lunchtimes

- authors online on the screen

—each week is different—see poster in the library for advance details



Request a leave of absence

Please complete and return the absence request form on the SJFCC website <https://www.saintjohnfishercc.co.uk/>

Parent/carers—attendance

<https://www.saintjohnfishercc.co.uk/pdfs/Absence%20request%20Guidance%20and%20Form%202024.pdf>

CHANGE OF DETAILS

Please email any changes to your mobile, email or address to learnerdata.sjfcc@CTKCC.co.uk



Attendance update

- School opens at 8:15am - free toast and juice in the school hall
- Learners arrive to school for 8:40am - straight to Formation room
- Learner gates close at 8:43am - learners use pedestrian entrance
- 8:45 Formation time begins - Late Formation in the library for learners as the bell rings at 8:45am or after it.

Attendance line and email:

01782 307519

attendance.sjf@ctkcc.co.uk

Parents/carers asked to inform school every day that their child is unable to attend.

ATTENDANCE



Support for families

With times as challenging as they are currently, please take a moment to check whether your child is entitled to help with school meals at lunch time. Eligibility also affects the school budget allowing for further provision and support for learners who require it.

There is a link below to check eligibility for free school meals and to apply. Please apply, even if you intend to send your child with a packed lunch as further benefits do support us as a school.

We can also help you to check and apply - please phone the school office.

Please let school know as soon as your entitlement has been confirmed.

Parents of new starters: if your child has moved from a school in a different Local Authority, including Stoke-on-Trent, their free school meal entitlement doesn't automatically transfer. Please use the link to apply through Staffordshire.

There are no changes and no need to do anything if a child already receives free school meals at St John Fisher

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx>

Apply for Free School Meals

The number of children who are registered for free school meals affects our school in a very important way. Our school receives extra money in our budget for every child registered for free school meals entitlement, not just for the meals, but also for pupil premium funding.

We use pupil premium funding in school in a variety of ways: subsidising school visits, music lessons, uniform, bus passes, textbooks at KS4 or subject consumables. This is not an exhaustive list, but an indication of how we can further support your child financially if pupil premium funding is allocated.

The greater the number of children registered the more extra money our budget receives. There is no stigma attached to receiving free school meals, and even if you qualify, your child does not have to have school meals if you prefer alternative lunch arrangements. If you think you may qualify for free school meals, please use the link below to apply online. You may be entitled if you are in receipt of:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - provided you have an annual net income of no more than £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to 3 of the most recent assessment periods (not including any benefits you get)

Please consider completing the online application if you feel you may be entitled as it can both support your child but also the school

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx>



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES 25/26

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before school	Library (Private study / reading etc)	Library (Private study / reading etc)	Library (Private study / reading etc)	Library (Private study / reading etc) Bible Study: In the Chapel 8:45-9:15	Library (Private study / reading etc) Fishers Meeting: In the Chapel 8:45-9:15
Lunch	Library – Pass needed. (Private study / reading) Choir - MR1 Y7-13 Chapel Open Break and Lunch Y7 Y8 Chess S12 Learning Express Art Club Invite only	Library – Pass needed. (Private study / reading) Choir - MR1 Y7-13 Chapel Open Break and Lunch	Library – Pass needed. (Private study / reading) Chapel Open Break and Lunch Learning Express Computer Games Invite Only	Library – Pass needed. (Private study / reading) Y7 History club (assisted by sixth form) Chapel Open Break and Lunch	Library – Pass needed. (Private study / reading) Chapel Open Break and Lunch History Club F1 12:45-13:00 Learning express Board games and lego Invite only
After School	Library (private study / reading) 15:15 - 16:00 KS4 ART Club T3 15:15-16:15 BAND (all instruments, all levels) 15:15-16:15 HALL. English Y11 15:15-16:15 R8 Engl Lit Y11 R10 15:15-16:15 Football (Y7 & Y8 – Astro Blue) (Y9 & Y10 – Astro Gold) DG 15:15-16:15 Netball (Y7 - 13 – Courts EL) 15:15-16:15 Dance Y7-Y13 S1 15:15-16:30 Business Y11 S2 15:15-16:15 Learning express Y7/Y8 homework Club Lego League Robot Challenge (Y7-8, Y9 invite only) J4 Limited places. 15:15-16:30	Library (private study / reading) 15:15 - 16:00 Origami - Learning Express 15:15 - 15:50 Basketball (Y7, Y8 & Y9) – Gym HF 15:15-16:15 Fishers meeting: In the Chapel 15:15-16:00 Learning express Y7/Y8 homework Club	Library (private study / reading) 15:15 - 16:00 Dance Hall 15:15-16:30 Art Y11 T3 15.15-16.15 Maths Y11 Foundation S4 15:15 –16:00 Rugby (Y7 – 11 Boys – Field DF) 15:15-16:15 Volleyball (Y7 – 13 – Gym) ML 15:15-16:15 Learning express Y7/Y8 homework Club Lego League Robot Challenge (Y7-8, Y9 invite only) J4 Limited places. 15:15-16:30	Library (private study / reading) 15:15 - 16:00 6th Form Debate Club F1 15:25-16:25 KS3 Science Club 15:15 - 16:00 Lab 7 Maths 6th Form Y13 15:15-16:00 S6 Basketball (Y10/11 – Gym) Coach 15:15-16:15 Football (Y11 – Astro DS Blue & LH Gold) 15:15-16:15 Drama Y7-Y11 S15 15:15-16:30 Learning express Y7/Y8 homework Club Engl Lit Y11 R10 15:15-16:15	Library (private study / reading) 15:15 - 16:00 6th Form Debate Club F1 15:25-16:25 KS3 Science Club 15:15 - 16:00 Lab 7 Maths 6th Form Y13 15:15-16:00 S6 Basketball (Y10/11 – Gym) Coach 15:15-16:15 Football (Y11 – Astro DS Blue & LH Gold) 15:15-16:15 Drama Y7-Y11 S15 15:15-16:30 Learning express Y7/Y8 homework Club Engl Lit Y11 R10 15:15-16:15





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