



THE FISHER FLYER

Mon 2 March - Fri 6 March 2026

BLUE WEEK

DAY	Assembly	Activities
Monday 2	Y7-7H online	Y11 mocks week2
Tuesday 3	Y8-8H "	
Wednesday 4	Y9-9H "	
Thursday 5	Y10-10H "	
Friday 6	Y11-Mrs O'Brien	

Dear Parents, Carers, Learners and Governors,



As we move towards the end of February, there is a strong sense of ambition and aspiration across our Fisher family. The days may still be cold, but the energy in classrooms, rehearsals and enrichment activities certainly is not. This week has reminded us that education is about opening doors, and next week we open many more.

This week we were pleased to welcome Mr McGurran, our Diocesan Officer, for a visit to the College. He spent time in lessons and around the site, speaking with learners and staff. He was impressed by our learners both in and out of lessons, noting their behaviour, engagement and the calm, purposeful atmosphere across the school. He also complimented us on the hard work being undertaken to ensure our school becomes the very best version of itself. It was affirming to hear that the dedication of staff and learners is so clearly visible to those who visit us. This reflects another Trust characteristic, We stand in God's presence with confidence and humility. I am proud of our community, and I am also determined that we keep improving.

Next week is National Careers Week and we have an array of events planned to help learners think boldly about their futures. Throughout the week, learners will engage with visiting speakers from a range of professions, careers-focused formation activities, encounters with further education and apprenticeship providers and workshops designed to raise aspiration and confidence. This work sits beautifully alongside one of the St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi-Academy Trust characteristics, We believe that with God, nothing is impossible. Careers education is about showing young people that their starting point does not define their destination. With the right guidance, effort and belief, extraordinary futures are possible.

With this in mind, I was delighted to learn from the School Leaver Activity Survey for November 2025, we have no learners identified as NEET (not in education, employment or training). This means every single one of our leavers has successfully moved on to further education, training or employment. This achievement is better than district, local and national averages and reflects the excellent support, guidance and ambition provided by our staff, alongside the determination of our learners and the support of families. When we speak of serving a mission greater than ourselves, one of our Trust characteristics, this is what it looks like in practice- ensuring that every young person leaves us with a pathway and a purpose.

On Thursday, our talented cast of *Annie the Musical*, which will be performed in the summer, travelled to London for a truly memorable experience. Learners took part in a professional workshop, developing their performance skills, confidence and stagecraft, before enjoying a trip to the theatre to see *Mamma Mia*. Opportunities like this are transformative. They build not just technical skill, but courage- the courage to perform, to take creative risks and to believe in one's talent. We cannot wait to see that confidence shine through when the curtain rises in the summer.

Our fantastic learners involved in Robotics activities will also be out in the community this Saturday 28th February at Newcastle Library from 10:30am until 12:30pm showcasing their work. It would be wonderful to see lots of you there supporting them. Their innovation, teamwork and curiosity are remarkable. They demonstrate so clearly another Trust characteristic, We listen with love. In robotics, listening matters- to teammates, to ideas, to feedback and even to the problem in front of you. Great collaboration begins with great listening.

Across the College, there remains a strong focus on knowledge retention, deliberate practice and high expectations. Year 11 and Sixth Form learners continue their focused preparation for examinations, supported by structured intervention and clear guidance. Year 11 have been brilliant during their Final Mocks this week and I know that this will continue into next week. There is a calm determination growing, and that is exactly what we want to see at this stage of the year.

This week has been about aspiration, stepping onto a London stage, programming a robot, preparing for exams or planning a future career. As a Catholic school, we continue to form young people who stand in God's presence with confidence and humility, who speak with peace and courage, and who believe that with God, nothing is impossible.

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership and support. It makes an enormous difference. I wish you all a great weekend.

God bless,

Mr Murray - Headteacher



Last Sunday's Gospel Message

1st Sunday of Lent

Matthew 4: 1-11

'Jesus fasts for forty days and is tempted.'

In this Gospel the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger; he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test; and he offers Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship the devil. In each case, Jesus resists the temptation, rebuking the devil with words from Scripture.

The account of Jesus' temptation in the desert is filled with allusions and parallels to the Old Testament, including the story of the people of Israel. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert in Exodus, for example, and Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. As the Israelites were tempted during the Exodus, so too is Jesus tempted.

Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness.

As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is God.



This Sunday's Gospel Message

2nd Sunday of Lent

Matthew 17: 1-9

'His face shone like the sun.'

For the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert to his Transfiguration. A voice affirms that Jesus is God's Son in words reminiscent of the voice at Jesus' baptism. In addition, the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the mountain connects this story with God's relationship to the people of Israel. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, respectively. Together with Jesus, they represent God's complete Word.

The Transfiguration occurs in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples: Peter, James, and John. In Matthew's Gospel, those disciples are among the first whom Jesus calls. The three men are identified as an "inner circle" among Jesus' disciples when Jesus asks them to accompany him to the Garden of Gethsemane just before his arrest.



How would we want people to value us more?

8T:
We would like to be heard! We want our concerns, opinions to be listened to and be heard. We know we are heard when action is taken. Saying good morning - to be noticed and spoken to instead of ignored.

10S:
Focus on my strengths and be grateful for other people. Respect me for my strengths and support me with my weaknesses.

7T:
Be kind to others, be respectful to all members of our school community. Follow the golden rule of treating others how you wish to be treated. Show people they are important and they are valued. Check in with people and make sure they are ok. Do good deeds for others. Smile at others and make them welcome.

THIS WEEK'S WINNER!!!
11H:
Look at us as a human and not a number or object. we are all individual and not the same as somebody else.

10J:
Letting us be the captain of our own ship

11O: Mutual respect, love your self, so that others appreciate your value

8F:
Being smiled at by others, respecting the boundaries that we have and receiving compliments.

12S & T:
Be courageous, smile more, show respect to others as we want it shown to us

7N:
We would want others to show us respect, and we would want them to be kind and respect our boundaries. We want people to listen and understand us. We don't want to be asked to do things we are not comfortable with

13S:
Treat us with respect and dignity. Listen to our opinions.

8N:
Getting praise, not being yelled at, having other people take care of us, opinions being heard, being trusted, others feeling as though they can talk to us and knowing we will listen.

7J:
We can to be valued as someone trustworthy, to be someone who treats others as we want to be treated ourselves. To care for one another. Our value comes from what we say, do and believe.

SJF Bake Off

Competition for WBD 1

The Great SJF Bake Off

Bake a cake or fairy cakes, and decorate with your favourite book characters, or bake a cake in the shape of a book and decorate, etc. As long as your cake / bake has a bookish theme, it is up to you.

Bring into the library on Thursday 5th March—WBD and judging will take place at break time by Mr Murray and a mystery judge. You can collect your cakes at the end of the day.

There are some fantastic gift books to be won as prizes.

WBD competition 2

Write a short story or poem for World Book Day

It can be on any theme, but this short story / poem should mention World Book Day at some point during the story / poem.

Prizes to win...

Entries to be handed in to Mrs Edwards by Friday 13th March.

WBD competition 3

Decorate some WBD bunting to help decorate the library

Come and collect a piece of bunting template from the library and you can decorate however you like!

Entries close Friday 13th March - Prizes to be won :)

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

WORLD BOOK DAY vouchers have been handed out via Form Tutors and vouchers are valid in all good book shops and supermarkets from Feb 12th - March 15th 2026

Don't forget to use them!

If you would like an extra voucher—please ask Mrs Edwards in the library.

If you prefer to use a digital book token, you can download one here: it is valid in exactly the same way. Simply scan it at the shop checkout to claim your free book, or £1 off another book. Again, you can use only use one scan per book, but if you are buying more than one book, you should be able to scan against each book bought. Probably on different transactions though!

<https://www.worldbookday.com/wp-content/>

WORLD BOOK DAY
5 March 2026

£1 Book Token

Valid from 12 February - 15 March 2026

Win Yoto's ultimate reading bundle!

Discover the incredible world of audiobooks with Yoto. Win a Yoto Player and up to £200 worth of Yoto cards from the large library selection in Yoto's card store.

To enter and for full terms and conditions go to [worldbookday.com/yoto-competition](https://www.worldbookday.com/yoto-competition).

One entry per person. Winners will be notified shortly after 15 March 2026.

Prize promotion runs from 12 February to 15 March 2026.

Choose your £1 book for free!

Children, families & subscribers: This token is for single-use only and entitles children (under 18) to ONE FREE World Book Day 2026 book or £1 off a book or audiobook costing £2.00 or more in participating bookshops only, subject to stock availability.

Find your nearest participating bookshop at [worldbookday.com/bookshops-and-tokens/participating-retailers/](https://www.worldbookday.com/bookshops-and-tokens/participating-retailers/)

Full terms and conditions: [worldbookday.com/terms-conditions/](https://www.worldbookday.com/terms-conditions/)

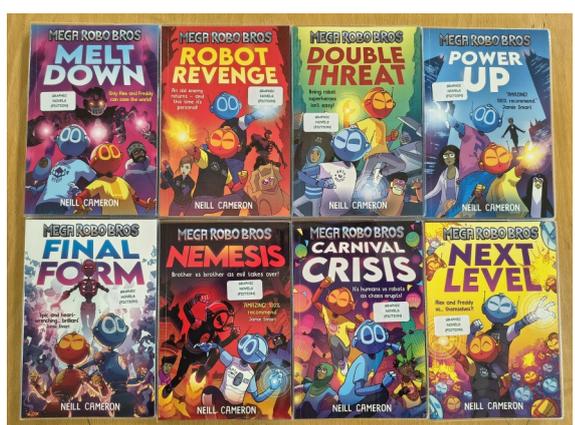
Bookshelves: Full terms and conditions: [worldbookday.com/bookshelves/](https://www.worldbookday.com/bookshelves/)

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Sponsored by NATIONAL BOOK tokens

Two new sets of books being catalogued next week: both from fundraising money.
F1 series
And Mega Robo Bros



SHORT STORY COMPETITION

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG WRITERS!

We are asking **7-11-year-olds** to write a story about **GOLD** using no more than **500-words**. The winner will receive a **gold coin, £5,000** for their school or local library, and their **story illustrated** by an artist.

Stories can be submitted between **16 February - 17 April 2026**.



www.royalmintmuseum.org.uk
storycompetition@royalmintmuseum.org.uk

I found this competition and it looks rather interesting!

Sadly, only open for younger children, aged 7–11, but if you have children in primary school they may be interested.

Mary's Meals opportunities :

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/pages/faqs/category/jobs>



Calling all Y7/8 parents...

We have some spaces come available for our May residential to Alton Castle.

If you would like further details, please email Liv on olittlejohn@ctkcc.co.uk or Ms Rogers on jrogers@ctkcc.co.uk

For parents who have already secured places, the trip is live on Arbor to make necessary payments.





STEAM OUT

FAMILY STEAM DAYS

Join the St John Fisher Catholic College Robotics Team, CyberByte, for a morning of free, family friendly, hands on STEAM activities.

Each session will include:

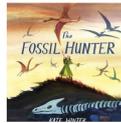
- A range of family friendly activities
- A chance to enter our design a robot competition
- A chance to learn more about our robot

Each activity takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and adult support may be needed.

Attend all 4/6 sessions to receive a prize and a certificate.

@ Newcastle Under Lyme Library from 10:30-12:30

Read it • Think it • Make it



Dinosaurs and Fossils

28th February 2026



Castles and Sieges

28th March 2026



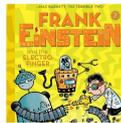
Space and Aliens

25th April 2026



Robots and Mechanisms

23rd May 2026



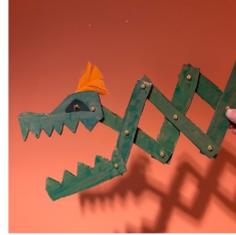
Electricity and Power

27th June 2026



Animals and Nature

25th July 2026



DINOSAURS AND FOSSILS FAMILY STEAM DAY

Join the St John Fisher Catholic College Robotics Team, CyberByte, for a morning of **free, family friendly, hands on** STEAM activities.

Make your own fossils, build a dinosaur snapper, create wax rubbings of model fossils and take part in our design a robot competition.

There will also be a chance to see our robot in action and learn more about how Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths impact us all.

28th February 2026

10:30-12:30

Newcastle Under Lyme Library

Children must be accompanied by an adult

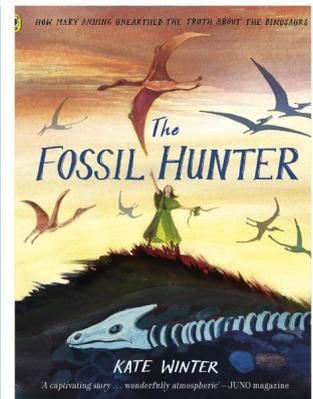
Supported by:



28th February 2026
10:30-12:30
Children must be accompanied by an adult

You Think You've Got It Bad? A Kid's Life in a Medieval Castle by Chae Strathie

This funny, easy-to-read book shows what life was really like for kids in a medieval castle, proving that no toilets, cold rooms, and hard work made the past much tougher than today!



Read it • Think it • Make it



Free, hands on, family STEAM activities

28th February 2026

10:30-12:30

Read it • Think it • Make it



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.

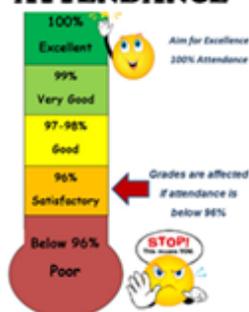
Attendance line and email:

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)

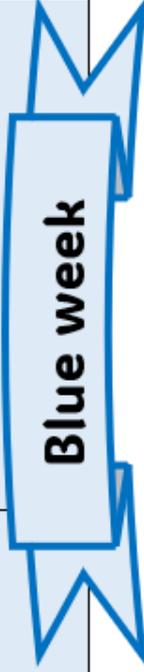
Please consider completing the online application if you feel you may be entitled as it can both support your child but also the school

<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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 <p>Gold Week</p>					