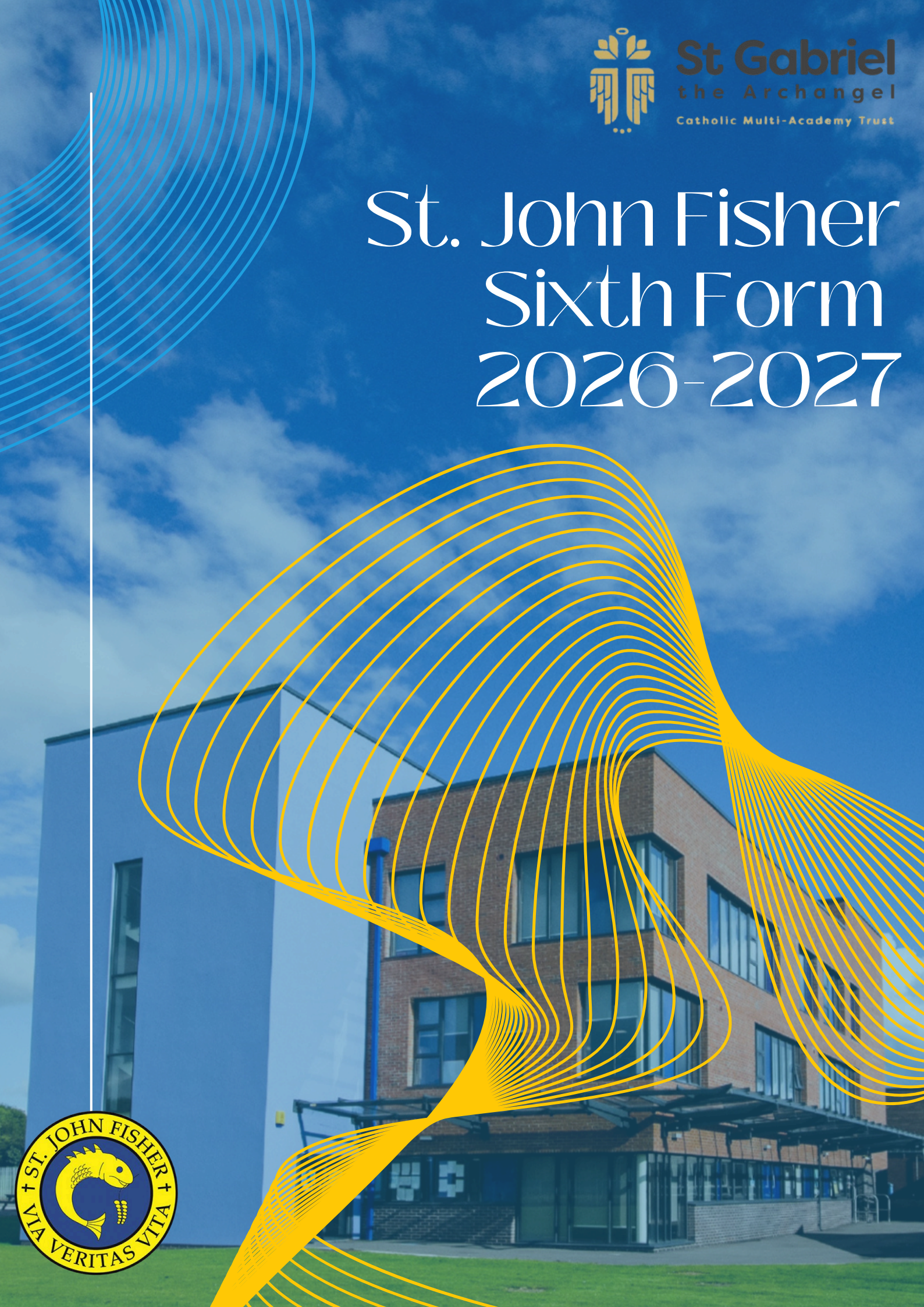
St Gabriel the Archangel
Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

St. John Fisher Sixth Form 2026-2027



Welcome to Sixth Form at SJF



Ms Hicks
Head of Sixth Form



Mr Myatt
Deputy Head of Sixth Form



Miss Carroll
Sixth Form Pastoral Leader

Year 12 Form Tutors



Mrs Ayre



Mrs Hawthorne



Mr Dunn

Year 13 Form Tutors



Miss Wilcox



Mr Hawthorne

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you to to St. John Fisher Catholic College Sixth Form. Life in the Sixth Form differs from that of a school and by being a Sixth Former you will enjoy unique experiences, opportunities and responsibilities. Our aim is for you to make the most of the opportunities on offer so that you develop strong foundations for success in your future life, through continued study and in the world of work and beyond.

You have much to gain from being part of the inclusive and enriching life of Sixth Form; you will however, need to have an open-mind as you will be provided with opportunities that will stretch and challenge you.

Central to your Sixth Form experience will be establishing a successful partnership with the Sixth Form team who include your form tutor and your subject teachers, as well as your Head of Sixth Form, Deputy Head of Sixth Form, and Pastoral Leader. We all want what is best for you, so if you do encounter problems at any stage during your time in the Sixth Form, talk to one of us.

The Sixth Form Day

Times of the Day

08:45 - 09:15	Form Time
09:15 - 10:15	Period 1
10:15 - 10:35	Break
10:35 - 11:35	Period 2
11:35 - 12:35	Period 3
12:35 - 13:15	Lunch
13:15 - 14:15	Period 4
14:15 - 15:15	Period 5

Form Schedule

Monday	1:1 Progress Checks
Tuesday	Future Programmes and UCAS
Wednesday	Celebration of the Word and Careers
Thursday	PSHE
Friday	Sixth Form Assembly

Attendance

Students need to attend everyday and be in school until 12:35pm.
Students are able to study at home if they have a study period in the afternoon, but this can be removed if there are concerns over attendance, progress and any other expectations.
Students are able to leave site at break, lunch or at any point where they have a free period but must sign out using the system in the Quiet Room.
PLease see the Attendance Policy on the next page for our expectations.

If you are unable to attend Sixth Form, it is your responsibility to contact Miss Carroll via text on **07539 366293**. Miss Carroll will confirm the absence by contacting home.

Form Tutors will contact home with any serious attendance concerns to support improvements. Persistent absenteeism could result in the removal from Sixth Form.

Punctuality

It is a matter of professionalism and respect that you attend all sessions in a prompt and timely manner. Punctuality will be monitored and addressed through meetings if it fails to meet the expected standards.

Uniform

We expect students to wear casual clothing that is sensible, appropriate and inoffensive.

Trinity Schools Travel

As part of the Trinity, we are able to offer a wider range of subjects to students at our partner schools, which gives us flexibility with subject combinations.

The minibus collects and drops off outside of the school library. Miss Carroll will be present to register students and provide support. Please be punctual as the minibus will not wait.

Minibus pick up times:
Morning - 08:25
Lunchtime - 12:45
After School - 15:20

Electronic Devices

Students are able to use personal laptops and tablets as part of their study, to make notes and access information. Mobile phones are not allowed in lessons and around the school but are free to use in the Sixth Form Centre.

Free WI-FI and printing is available for all students to access. A Microsoft Office 365 account will be provided to all students. Students will need to follow the IT Policy at all times. In addition, the use of devices to record any aspect of the school day is prohibited under our GDPR and Safeguarding policies.

Attendance Policy

Impact on Attendance		Absence Procedure
Absent Days = 0 **Learning Hours Lost** = 0	100	**Actions Taken** Attendance Rewards
Absent Days = 4 **Learning Hours Lost** = 20	98	**Actions Taken** Form Tutor Discussion
Absent Days = 7.5 **Learning Hours Lost** = 37.5	96	**Actions Taken** Pastoral Lead Intervention
Absent Days = 11 **Learning Hours Lost** = 55	94	**Actions Taken** Warning Pastoral Lead Contact Home
Absent Days = 15 **Learning Hours Lost** = 75	92	**Actions Taken** Stage 1 VI Form Leads Meeting
Absent Days = 19 **Learning Hours Lost** = 95	90	**Actions Taken** Stage 2 Attendance Contract
Absent Days = 23 **Learning Hours Lost** = 115	88	**Actions Taken** Stage 3 Alternative Pathway

Attendance Policy

Formal Attendance Flow Chart

Stage 1

Formal meeting with the Sixth Form Team with students for attendance or attendance to lessons being 92% or below to discuss expectations and to place them on attendance monitoring.

Continued poor attendance or attendance to lessons, students move to Stage 2.

Stage 2

Sixth Form Team Formal Meeting with student and parent/guardian to discuss causes for absence, expectations and to place student on an attendance contract and written warning.

Continued poor attendance or attendance to lessons, students move to Stage 3.

Stage 3

Meeting with Principal and Sixth Form Team, student and parent/guardian if attendance or attendance to lessons below 88%.

Possible request to leave Sixth Form.

Alternative pathway interview.

Study at Sixth Form

Study Requirements

Typically, a student will study three subjects so will have 20 free periods over a fortnight. Below is an example of a typical timetable.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	Subject 1 Biology		Subject 2 Chemistry		Subject 3 Maths	Subject 1 Biology		Subject 2 Chemistry		Subject 3 Maths
2										
3										
4	Subject 2 Chemistry	Subject 3 Maths		Subject 1 Biology		Subject 2 Chemistry	Subject 3 Maths		Subject 1 Biology	
5										

Students are able to use their afternoon study sessions at home unless this is not used properly and affects attendance, effort or attainment. All students must spend a minimum of 3 hours per week in the silent study room completing independent study. The silent study room takes place in the purpose built study centre and there is access to computers and printers.

There is also an additional student space where students can collaborate and connect and gain access to the Sixth Form kitchen.

Independent Study

Independent study in Sixth Form refers to learning activities that students undertake outside of timetabled lessons, including homework, revision, and wider exploration of subjects.

It's crucial for academic success and preparing for higher education or future careers by developing essential skills like self-direction, time management, deep understanding and critical thinking.

To support you, the Sixth Form team and teachers can:

1. Provide access to resources such as online databases, library materials, and research tools.

2. Establish a clear framework that includes timelines, objectives, and milestones for independent study projects in order to stay organised.

3. Schedule regular meetings to discuss progress, challenges and adjustments to study plans.

4. Conduct workshops focussed on study skills, research techniques, and time management to equip students with essential tools for independent study.

5. Facilitate study groups or peer mentoring programmes, to share insights and support each other.

Please ask us for support.



The 7 Habits of Successful Learners

1 They have a plan

There is a consistent pattern between students who are successful in sixth form and those who have a clear and realistic plan for their short or medium term future.
Few people have a long-term goal. Most of us change what we want to do BUT, we still perform better academically if we have some idea about what we'd like to do next. A short, medium or long term goal - having an idea for at least one of these is important. We can help you formulate your plan!

2 They strike a work / life balance

It can be difficult to find the perfect balance. Some people fall into a trap of socialising too hard and at the wrong times and kid themselves that this is part of their downtime. Many others fill every spare moment with study. Whatever you are doing, try not to be distracted by other things - this means no socialising whilst working but also, provided that you have done the hard work, don't allow work to stop you from being happy - we always work better when we've got a healthy balance.

3 They learn how to manage their time

The school week is made up of 25 lessons. Of this, most sixth formers have 15 lessons of contact time, leaving 10 hours of non-contact time, not including lunch and break. It is vital that this time is used constructively for extra-curricular, super-curricular and study. Aside from it being the best opportunity to get work done and receive support from staff, utilising the 'school day' means you have less to do at home!

4 They regularly review

Sixth form qualifications, such as A-level and BTECs, often require you to apply your core understanding to different or unfamiliar contexts. This means that you must have a firm grasp of everything you are learning all the way through the course. Even spending ten to fifteen minutes per day reviewing the learning and making key points based on your learning from that day or week can help enormously in your understanding.

5 They communicate

Once a learner is comfortable in asking for help, they find that they make progress much more quickly and are less stressed in doing so - what you might call a 'win-win'.
Don't be embarrassed about seeking help – it is essential that you do!

6 They challenge themselves

You often hear about the 'step-up' from GCSE to sixth form studies.
To be successful ALL students need to challenge themselves to come out of their comfort zone and push for the top grades.

7 Understand that learning can be a struggle and it's OK to fail

Your sixth form studies are the 'Gold Standard' of learning as they prepare you for employment, learning and life in a much more independent environment. They are supposed to be hard. BUT, if you put the effort in and take advantage of the support YOU CAN DO IT. When you have to work hard for something the reward feels greater!

Enrichment at SJF

We seek to develop the whole student and, as such, provide a whole host of opportunities for Sixth Form students to discover and develop new skills and talents outside the classroom. Our wide-ranging and exciting programme of enrichment activities gives all students the chance to widen their experience, broaden their aspirations and gain valuable evidence to demonstrate why they are one step ahead of the rest.

Our activities include:

- Duke of Edinburgh
- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- Aim Higher Programme
- Super-Curricular support
- University taster days
- Interview technique
- University finance
- Fitness
- Business enterprise
- Debating and other oracy focussed programmes
- Trips and residentials locally and abroad
- Mental Health and Online Counselling Support
- MOOCs, Future Learn online accredited courses
- Money Management
- Work Experience
- Leadership Development Programme
- Mentoring
- Mental Health Ambassador
- Steps to Medicine
- Sutton Trust Programme
- HE+
- VedMed
- Isaac Physics



Sixth Form students are also able to take on voluntary work within the school, supporting individual departments where students feel they have particular strengths, mentoring lower school students and providing support to our younger learners.

If students would like to set up a new club or activity, the Sixth Form Team will be happy to help.

EPQ

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is an advanced stand alone qualification which allows students to research a topic of their choice, develop their skills in independent study, and create a project that showcases their understanding and abilities.

Every student at our Sixth Form has 1 lesson per week to support the development and completion of this enrichment qualification and additional support is provided from the team. It is expected that you will use some of your independent study time to complete you rEPQ.

Importance of the EPQ:

1. ***Development of Research Skills***: The EPQ encourages students to engage in in-depth research, teaching them how to gather, analyse, and synthesise information from various sources.
2. ***Enhancing Critical Thinking***: Students are required to critically evaluate their findings and formulate arguments, fostering higher levels of critical thinking and analytical skills.
3. ***Improved University Applications***: Completing an EPQ can give students a competitive edge in university applications, demonstrating their ability to undertake independent study and manage a long-term project.
4. ***University Preparation***: The EPQ mirrors the level of research and writing expected in higher education, providing students with a taste of the academic rigour they will encounter.
5. ***Personal Interest Exploration***: It offers the chance to explore a subject of personal interest, making learning more engaging and relevant.
6. ***Skill Development***: Students enhance various transferable skills, such as project management, communication, and time management, which are valuable in both academic and professional contexts.
7. ***Opportunity for Creativity***: The EPQ allows a degree of freedom in how students present their findings, whether through a written report, presentation, or a creative project, promoting creative thinking.
8. ***Boosting Confidence***: Successfully completing a self-directed project helps build confidence in students' abilities to tackle challenges independently.



PSHE

Our PSHE Curriculum has been specifically designed to cover the key topics pertinent to 16-18 year olds and their journey into further education and employment. Attendance to this is mandatory.

During form time there is one designated session to PSHE per week. Additional sessions will also be delivered through enrichment, assemblies by guest speakers and outside agencies and by our staff at SJF, when necessary.

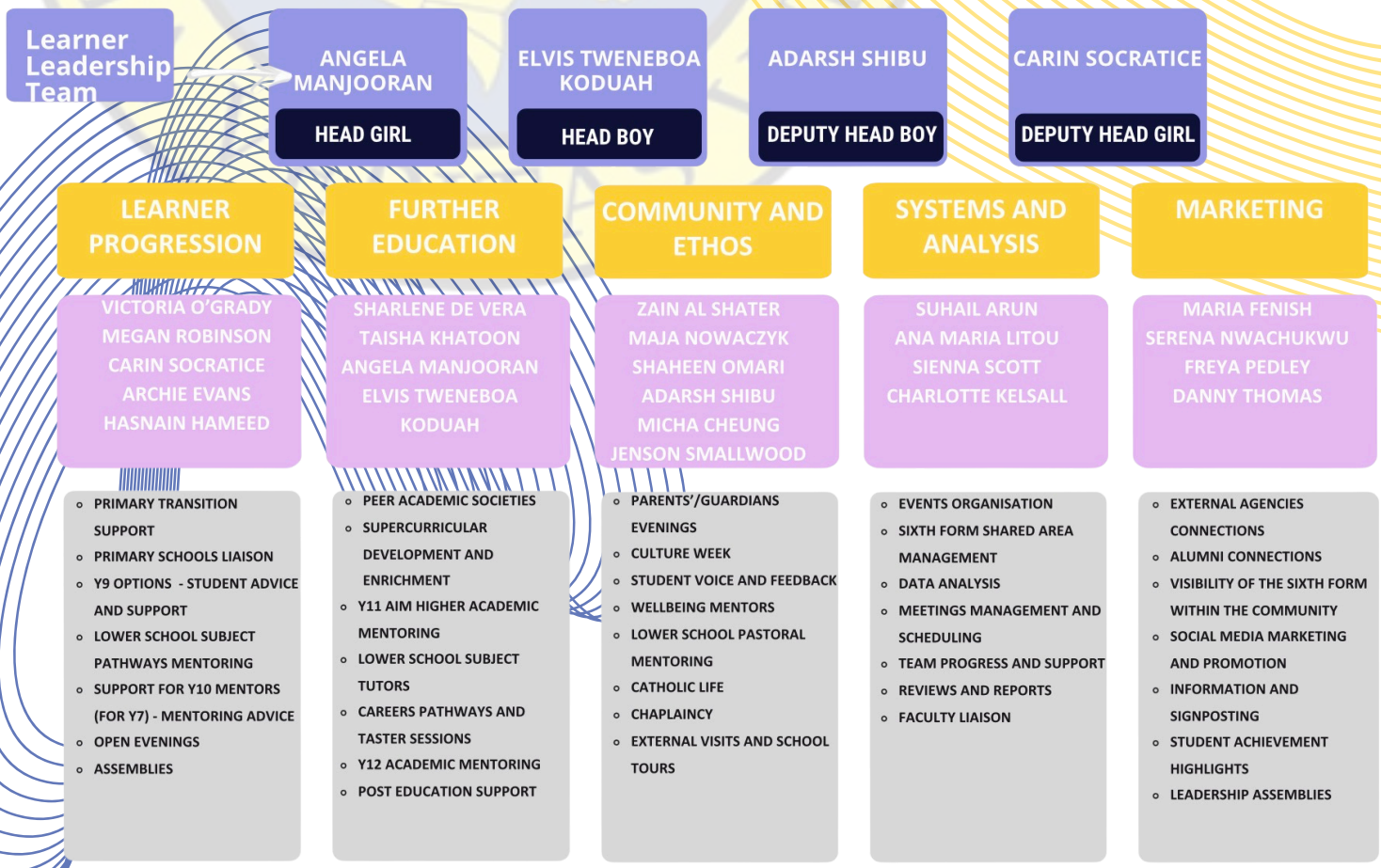
We utilise student voice and respond to the changes in the world around us to influence content and activities covered in PSHE so that it remains relevant to all students.

Student Leadership

Student leadership is an incredible opportunity to develop your skills, influence your peers, and make a meaningful impact within our school community. As a member of the student leadership team, you will have the chance to represent your fellow students, collaborate on initiatives, and organise events that foster school spirit and inclusiveness. Being part of student leadership not only enriches your post-18 applications but also develops essential qualities like teamwork, communication, and responsibility.

Your voice matters, and by stepping into this role, you can inspire others, create positive change, and help shape the future of our school. Applications will open in Half Term Two..

Leadership Team 2026-27



At our Sixth Form we want to provide all students with as many opportunities to grow and develop, equipping them with the tools to compete with others in further education and employment.

Our Leadership Teams are designed to provide students with real opportunities to develop and lead on whole school and community projects and gain experience of strategic management, project planning, professional communication, collaborative decision making. This experience is essential for gaining the edge on UCAS personal statements, interviews and job applications and defining new skills.

Student identify the premise of their projects, create short term action plans and long term goals and are held accountable through meetings. In addition, students are provided with professional training to support their leadership development.

Mentoring and Wellbeing

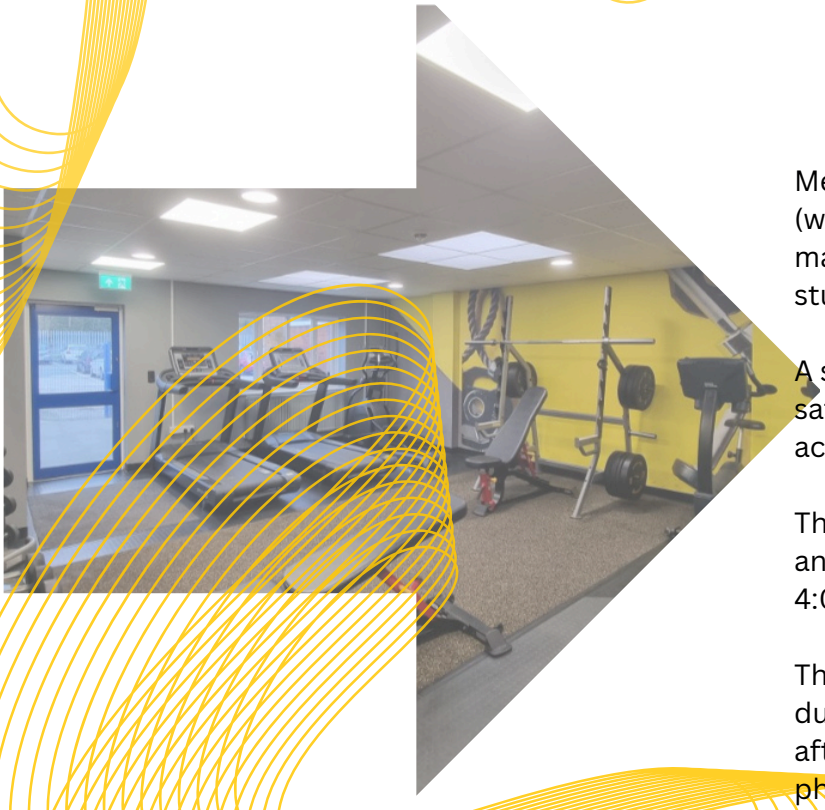
All students have full access to pastoral and academic mentoring at the Sixth Form. There are four tiers of mentoring available:

1. **Weekly Mentoring:** Form Tutors will form the first level of mentoring. Monday morning registrations are dedicated to weekly planning and review of progress. Form Tutors have access to regular data checks, engagement scores and attendance information and will routinely discuss these things with students in the form. As time progresses they will also be the first point of contact to write references for university and apprenticeship applications.

2. **Progress Concern:** Where data suggests that current attainment or progress is causing concern, students will be moved onto the next level of mentoring and will meet with one of the Sixth Form team. Barriers to progress will be discussed and an action plan put in place aimed at supporting students to increase the rate of progress. Weekly or fortnightly check ups will take place through scheduled meetings for a set period of time.

3. **Aim High**: Any student whose GCSE APS is 7.0 or above will automatically be put into this group. Students who have requested to be added based on a desire to access particular courses, can also be added. Mentoring from this group comes from the Sixth FormTeam and external agencies. Agencies such as Keele Medprep, Cambridge Liaison will, over the course of Y12 and Y13, routinely connect with this group to discuss how to successfully apply and gain a place in some of the more challenging and limited fields including Medicine and Dentistry, Law, Oxford and Cambridge and other Russell Group Universities.

4. **Wellbeing/Attendance:** Students who have been referred (by self or others) for pastoral issues that are affecting attendance and progress, will have additional support and mentoring from Miss Carroll, our Sixth Form Pastoral Leader. Where attendance is the main area of concern, an action plan aimed at improving attendance will be followed and closely monitored. Where concerns are outside of attendance, Miss Carroll will work with the student and, where necessary, home, to access outside agencies that can provide specialist support.



Sixth Form Gym

Membership to the sixth form gym costs £2 per year (which is used to purchase cleaning wipes for the machines) and is available to all Sixth Form students at St. John Fisher.

A short induction session, covering basic health and safety, must be complete before the Gym is accessible.

The Gym is only accessible to Sixth Form students and teachers and is open between 8:00am and 4:00pm.

The Gym is a great resource to use before school, during break and lunchtime, study sessions and after school, helping contribute to students' physical and mental wellbeing.

Future Steps

What is unifrog?

Unifrog is an online platform that allows students to explore different careers, post-16 and post-18 options, courses and apprenticeships.

Unifrog brings all the available information into one single, impartial, user-friendly platform that helps students to make the best choices and submit the strongest applications.

Fortnightly sessions on Unifrog during form time allows students to familiarise themselves with the information and tools available during Year 12, culminating in them making their decisions early in Year 13 and beginning the application process.

Resources such as webinars and MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) are available on Unifrog and give students access to experiences that can help better familiarise themselves with the finer details of certain careers. Participation in a MOOC is a fantastic way to enhance future applications to universities and ignite your passion and commitment in a specific pathway. It could be the difference between being accepted on a course above other applicants or not receiving your place.



Life Skills

During the two years at Sixth Form, students will have access to a range of extra-curricular activities that develop skills and knowledge outside of traditional academic pursuits. These can include sessions on finance (opening a bank account, being aware of financial scams), as well as opportunities to develop cooking skills, ready for life away from home.

These sessions are delivered to all students as part of the extended curriculum.



Future Steps

Preparing for university, apprenticeships or employment begins from the day students start in Year 12 and continues into their next stage of education or employment.

Preparation involves a range of activities including:

- Fortnightly timetabled registration sessions in the IT room to use UCAS and Unifrog to research degree courses, career pathways and Apprenticeships.
- A range of career visits throughout the two years, covering a diverse range of sectors.
- Attendance at a University Fayre where students will be able to discuss life at specific institutions and the courses on offer.
- Visits to different types of universities, including a campus, city and Russell Group institute and sharing information about all open days, supporting students to attend.
- Talks from local universities regards personal statement writing, student finance, accommodation.
- Work experience week at the end of Year 12.
- Life skills such as student finance and cooking skills.

Next Steps Days

Support with applications and next steps is ongoing throughout Year 12 and 13.

There are two days dedicated to looking at how the online application process for universities and apprenticeships works. During these two days, students will be supported in registering with the UCAS platform, navigating the wide range of information available and beginning to structure their personal statement and applications.

The days are supported by our links with Keele and Staffordshire who are on hand to help students look at what they need to do in their applications to stand out from the crowd.
These days take place at the end of Year 12, just before work experience.

Work Experience

We work alongside a variety of companies and contacts from our Careers Adviser to ensure that our students get support in accessing work experience placements which provide relevant opportunities to gain key links, experience and value from their week long placement.
As you go through the year, consider the subject that you enjoy, type of career that interests you and talk to us about arranging work experience as soon as possible.

The Quality in Careers Standard

St John Fisher holds the Quality in Careers Standard for its work with students on work related learning and experiences.


ST. JOHN FISHER
VIA VERITAS VITA