

## **St John Fisher crowned Regional Champions in first student esports tournament**

**7 March 2018** Having battled it out at the regional qualifiers yesterday, St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy came out on top in Manchester. Now the team prepares to compete in the Grand Final of the Digital Schoolhouse Esports Tournament, which is both a competitive gaming and careers education event taking place during the London Games Festival.

Students from St John Fisher, based in Dewsbury, joined four other teams from schools across the UK in Manchester, using Blizzard's popular game, Overwatch, to compete for the coveted prize of Regional Champion. It was a close call between them and students from Liverpool Studio School, but ultimately it was St John Fisher's Team Veracity that was victorious.

Kris Vilcinkas, a Year 8 student from St John Fisher, was the first student shoutcaster of the day, using live streaming video platform, Twitch, to share his thoughts.

Kris said:

"I've been commentating on today's regional qualifiers event by shoutcasting on Twitch. It's been really fun and the platform has lots of people talking about how the game is going and how the teams have been playing. I'm really excited to be shoutcasting at the grand final too!"

This ran in parallel to three other regional qualifiers that took place this week across the country, and Team Veracity from St John Fisher now joins the winners from each to battle it out head-to-head at the Grand Final, taking place at Gfinity's London arena, 11 April 2018.

Bailey Barber-Scargill, Harrison Barber-Scargill and Josh Love, Year 12 students, said:

"We think today went really well and you can tell the team have been playing a lot and practicing. Esports isn't just a lot of fun to be involved with, it's also taught us a lot about strategizing and building our skills.

"Today could have gone either way and it was a close score, which has shown us that being prepared isn't always enough and you have to evolve and go above and beyond to succeed. If this is just the regional qualifiers, the final is going to be awesome!"

**PRESS RELEASE**

Organised by Digital Schoolhouse, the education programme run by the games industry trade body, Ukie, and powered by PlayStation, the tournament will allow students from St John Fisher to meet professionals in a variety of roles within the sector, promoting the importance of computing skills and the wealth of careers available in games.

With powerful sponsors behind the initiative and this event in particular, students and spectators will be given the chance to hear from PlayStation, SEGA, Blizzard, ESL Esports, Warwickshire County Council, XMA-Viglen and Creative Assembly, about why they are getting involved.

Mark Ward, the Digital Schoolhouse lead at St John Fisher said: "We've worked really hard during the regional qualifiers heats and have enjoyed competing with Overwatch. Our team won the tournament last year so we're excited to be heading to London for the Grand Final – hopefully Team Veracity will be reclaiming the title by bringing the trophy home again this year!"

Shahneila Saeed, programme director for Digital Schoolhouse, said: "St John Fisher has been a Digital Schoolhouse for two years and so this will be the second year they have entered. Team Veracity won last year and they've done well to get to the top of the regional qualifiers again, but there's more stiff competition to come at the Grand Final!

"It'll be a great chance for students to network, improve their teambuilding and problem-solving skills and learn more about the many careers available within the games industry. And we have some great sponsors behind us to share their expert knowledge!"

To register interest in becoming a Digital Schoolhouse, please complete the application: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6CBPBR7>

For more information about the next esports Tournament, visit [www.digitalschoolhouse.org.uk](http://www.digitalschoolhouse.org.uk)

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