



12th April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Summer Term Week 1 Headteacher Update

Firstly, I hope that you have had a wonderful happy and Holy Easter. We had the relaxing of restrictions on the 29th of March and I hope you have used this opportunity to spend time with friends and family. Today we welcome all of our St James' family back to school and the normal routines and rhythms of school life will again commence. We continue to follow our broad, balanced and diverse curriculum in order to educate and develop our children to become global Catholic citizens.

We have numerous events taking place this half term but one in particular I would like to draw your attention to is the Year 7 Parents' Evening which will take place virtually on 29th April via Zoom. Dr Guscott will be sending out more information this week including how to access this event.

Following Mrs Doherty's letter which was sent on 24th of March I would like to encourage all parents to ensure that children continue to carry out routine asymptomatic testing using the lateral flow tests twice weekly. One test should be completed on, or as close to Monday morning, as possible and the second test should be completed on Wednesday after the school day. Please ensure that any positive cases are reported to school as well as to the NHS.

Our Year 11 students are completing their Easter assessments this week, these began in the final week of the Spring term and will provide further evidence towards final gradings. Ofqual released further information on March 24th around the awarding of Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). As our examinations lead, Dr Guscott will be writing to parents with further information on how TAGs will be awarded but I wanted to take this opportunity to reinforce two key messages. The awarding of TAGs will be:

1. Rooted in evidence based on work that has been completed over the two-year course taking into account any special consideration including SEND
2. Subject to robust quality assurance

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank parents in advance for not putting teachers under pressure to submit grades that are higher than the evidence supports. Ofqual have asked us to retain records of such cases and report this to the exam board who may treat such cases as potential malpractice.

We hear this week that Jesus continued to appear to his friends and followers after his resurrection. On one such appearance, he said to them, "Peace be with you". However, one of them was not there and he missed the experience that filled the disciples with joy. Thomas was not convinced, and he did not believe them. Eventually, Jesus did re-appear to the disciples and Thomas was with them this time. Just as Jesus was with Thomas, so too he is with us. He is with us when other people reach out to comfort and support us and when we reach out to help and care for others. We ask that Jesus remains with us as we begin our new school term.

Following on from my letter before Easter, St Ann's have now confirmed the date for confirmation will be Friday 3rd December at 7pm at Our Lady's Edgeley. If you are in Year 9 and would like to join this year's



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Confirmation Programme you need to email stannschadlehulme@gmail.com to confirm your place. There will be a course running from September to November with more details to follow.

At the start of the Summer term, I would like to thank all parents for their continued support and if you need anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch headteacherpa@stjameschadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher